Usenet Newsgroup Archive: rec.radio.amateur.moderated

2008

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Date span: 2008-01-01 through 2008-12-31

Source text: rec.radio.amateur.moderated.txt

Source item: https://archive.org/details/usenet-rec

Messages included in this PDF: 1,139

Message records with no readable body available in the source text: 1

Messages are presented chronologically by archived date.

Binary or encoded payloads are not printed as blocks of encoded text; a placeholder appears where such material was detected. The original source text is unchanged.

1. Happy New Year...

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-01 01:50:07 UTC
From: brianburke@juno.com
Message-ID: <9ce871e6-dcd1-4c59-b8f7-50f8577d04b4@d4g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3372

May 2008 see the return of the sunspots.

Brian/N0iMD

2. Re: Happy New Year...

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-01 02:16:13 UTC
From: an old freind <konstans@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <e695d096-e08d-4f9c-b4d6-3084d8ad2ce6@u10g2000prn.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3373

On Dec 31, 8:50 pm, brianbu...@juno.com wrote:
> May 2008 see the return of the sunspots.
>
> Brian/N0iMD

same to you I know my cats the three indors cats and the 3 visiting
cats do their very best to hold sunspot here for me to use (although i
have not the heart to tell they are holding the wrong kind of
Sunpots)

Shonatva (happy new year)
Mark Morgan

KB9RQZ

3. Re: New Lithium Battery Rules by TSA

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-01 06:30:26 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <jsmjn310mfo3kdpmp8rh2oic6bi9c6p6l8@4ax.com>
Source record: 3374

On Mon, 31 Dec 2007 10:43:07 EST, "xpyttl" <xpyttl_NOSPAM@earthling.net> wrote:

>
>"Jerseyj" <jerseyj69@comcast.net> wrote in message
>news:jerseyj69-826273.19445430122007@newsgroups.comcast.net...
>> In article <fl88520rn1@news3.newsguy.com>, me@privacy.net wrote:
>>
>>> http://www.thestreet.com/s/us-tackles-lithium-batteries/newsanalysis/hardware/
>>> 10396317.html?puc=_googlen?cm_ven=GOOGLEN&cm_cat=FREE&cm_ite=NA
>>>
>>> Important info for hams flying with Lithium batteries.
>>
>> I don't get it. Either they are safe or they are unsafe. Why would any
>> number of batteries (say 2) be ok, but not 3. Once more it appears some
>> rules are being made to have people "feel protected" rather than dealing
>> with the actual problem....
>
>Lithium batteries are like little bombs. They are pretty dangerous,
>although unlikely to cause trouble if left alone. A few years ago, the
>Material Safety Data Sheets from all the manufacturers included detailed
>warnings about the flammability, specialized equipment needed to extinguish
>these things, and the toxicity of the vapors. About two years ago all of
>the MSDSs changed to say something like "safe for transportation" and not
>much else. I assume some industry pressure was brought to bear, perhaps
>some carriers were reluctant to transport the things.
>
>Nevertheless, they are not completely safe. I suspect the rules are an
>attempt to balance the risks between the risk of the things and the reality
>that they need to be transported.

In September 2006, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued recalls on
many lithium computer batteries due to overheating, including instances of smoke
and fire. Go to www.cpsc.gov and search for "lithium computers" (without the
quotes) and you will find many such recalls. One recall notice
http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/prhtml06/06270.html said:

>Incidents/Injuries: Lenovo has received one confirmed report of a battery
>overheating and causing a fire that damaged the notebook computer. The incident,
>which occurred within an airport terminal as the user was boarding an airplane,
>caused enough smoking and sparking that a fire extinguisher was used to put
>it out. There was minor property damage and no injuries were reported.
73 de Dick, AC7EL

4. Re: New Lithium Battery Rules by TSA

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-01 11:37:24 UTC
From: News Admin <news@news.demon.net>
Message-ID: <fld63d$74c$1$830fa7a5@news.demon.co.uk>
Source record: 3375

<me@privacy.net> wrote in message news:fl88520rn1@news3.newsguy.com...
> http://www.thestreet.com/s/us-tackles-lithium-batteries/newsanalysis/hardware/10396317.html?puc=_googlen?cm_ven=GOOGLEN&cm_cat=FREE&cm_ite=NA
>
> Important info for hams flying with Lithium batteries.
>

Hi folks.

>From the look of the article cited above, the noteworthy part for us hams is

"the TSA is worried about loose, spare batteries. These are batteries with
uncovered electrical contacts, which, if touched by other metal objects
could cause an explosion and fire during a flight"

Now, non-technical folk may well leave battery terminals exposed but I would
bet that (hopefully) every ham is wise enough to cover battery terminals so
they cannot be shorted together. Lithium batteries may be a (relatively) new
hazard but NiCd batteries have been around for a long time and they are also
a hazard if their terminals are shorted.

Happy travelling.

Ian,
Nottingham, UK

5. Re: Happy New Year...

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-01 13:14:02 UTC
From: Jerseyj <jerseyj69@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <jerseyj69-A511AE.07390601012008@newsgroups.comcast.net>
Source record: 3376

In article
<e695d096-e08d-4f9c-b4d6-3084d8ad2ce6@u10g2000prn.googlegroups.com>,
an old freind <konstans@hotmail.com> wrote:

> On Dec 31, 8:50 pm, brianbu...@juno.com wrote:
> > May 2008 see the return of the sunspots.
> >
> > Brian/N0iMD
>
> same to you I know my cats the three indors cats and the 3 visiting
> cats do their very best to hold sunspot here for me to use (although i
> have not the heart to tell they are holding the wrong kind of
> Sunpots)
>
> Shonatva (happy new year)
> Mark Morgan
>
> KB9RQZ

A happy New Year to all, and Chag Sameyach to Mark.

6. Re: New Lithium Battery Rules by TSA

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-01 14:19:13 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <5tun47F1fghg8U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 3377

"News Admin" <news@news.demon.net> wrote in message
news:fld63d$74c$1$830fa7a5@news.demon.co.uk
: : <me@privacy.net> wrote in message
: : news:fl88520rn1@news3.newsguy.com...
: : :
http://www.thestreet.com/s/us-tackles-lithium-batteries/newsanalysis/hardware/10396317.html?puc=_googlen?cm_ven=GOOGLEN&cm_cat=FREE&cm_ite=NA

[snip]

: : Now, non-technical folk may well leave battery
: : terminals exposed but I would bet that (hopefully)
: : every ham is wise enough to cover battery terminals so
: : they cannot be shorted together. Lithium batteries may
: : be a (relatively) new hazard but NiCd batteries have
: : been around for a long time and they are also a hazard
: : if their terminals are shorted.
: :
: : Happy travelling.
: :
: : Ian,
: : Nottingham, UK

Hmm, is that the Ian in Nottingham I know, I wonder..?!

If it is, give me a call sometime :-)

If it isn't hello anyway and Happy New Year..!

73 Ivor G6URP

7. Re: Happy New Year...

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-01 14:19:27 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <5tuledF1f0d43U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 3378

"an old freind" <konstans@hotmail.com> wrote in message
news:e695d096-e08d-4f9c-b4d6-3084d8ad2ce6@u10g2000prn.googlegroups.com
: On Dec 31, 8:50 pm, brianbu...@juno.com wrote:
: : May 2008 see the return of the sunspots.
: :
: : Brian/N0iMD
:
: same to you I know my cats the three indors cats and the
: 3 visiting cats do their very best to hold sunspot here
: for me to use (although i have not the heart to tell they
: are holding the wrong kind of
: Sunpots)
:
: Shonatva (happy new year)
: Mark Morgan
:
: KB9RQZ

Ah a man after my own heart, go to www.birmingham.cats.org.uk to see where
I spend my weekends :-)

73 Ivor G6URP

8. Re: New Lithium Battery Rules by TSA

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-01 18:18:14 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <kj0ln35jval78g2qt2ej6hgcba4ss99r3c@4ax.com>
Source record: 3379

On Tue, 1 Jan 2008 06:37:24 EST, "News Admin" <news@news.demon.net>
wrote:

>Now, non-technical folk may well leave battery terminals exposed but I would
>bet that (hopefully) every ham is wise enough to cover battery terminals so
>they cannot be shorted together. Lithium batteries may be a (relatively) new
>hazard but NiCd batteries have been around for a long time and they are also
>a hazard if their terminals are shorted.

My only "loose" Lithium-Ion batteries are my backup camera batteries
which are shipped in a snap-in plastic case that by design covers the
exposed terminals, and in those cases they stay until put into
service. I use similar cases from a kitchen-ware store for spare
Ni-Cad batteries as well.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

9. ARS License Numbers for December 2007

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-05 21:17:07 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <72b4f2fc-21d6-4179-8d2d-a9505dbd7641@m77g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3380

These are the number of current,
unexpired FCC-issued amateur
radio licenses held by individuals
on the stated dates, and the
percentage of the total number
of active licenses that class contains.

Percentages may not add up to exactly
100.0% due to rounding.

These totals do not include licenses
that have expired but are in the grace
period, nor do they include club, military
and other station-only licenses.

Effective April 15, 2000, FCC no longer issued
new Novice, Technician Plus and Advanced
class licenses, so the numbers of those license
classes have declined steadily since then.

Also since April 15, 2000, FCC has renewed all
existing Technician Plus licenses as Technician.
It is therefore informative to consider the totals of
the two classes, since the Technician class
includes a significant number of Technician Plus
licenses renewed as Technician.

On February 23, 2007, the last Morse Code
test element, the 5 wpm receiving test, was
eliminated as a requirement.

The ARS License Numbers:

As of May 14, 2000:

Novice- 49,329 (7.3%)
Technician - 205,394 (30.4%)
Technician Plus - 128,860 (19.1%)
General - 112,677 (16.7%)
Advanced - 99,782 (14.8%)
Extra - 78,750 (11.7%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 334,254 (49.5%)

Total all classes - 674,792

As of February 22, 2007:

Novice - 22,896 (3.5%)
Technician - 293,508 (44.8%)
Technician Plus - 30,818 (4.7%)
General - 130,138 (19.9%)
Advanced - 69,050 (10.5%)
Extra - 108,270 (16.5%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 324,326 (49.5%)

Total all classes - 654,680

As of December 2, 2007:

Novice - 20,634 (3.1%)
Technician - 293,165 (44.7%)
Technician Plus - 21,586 (3.3%)
General - 142,579 (21.8%)
Advanced - 65,629 (10.0%)
Extra - 111,806 (17.1%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 314,751 (48.0%)

Total all classes - 655,399

As of December 9, 2007:

Novice - 20,587 (3.1%)
Technician - 293,520 (44.8%)
Technician Plus - 21,390 (3.3%)
General - 142,608 (21.8%)
Advanced - 65,553 (10.0%)
Extra - 111,852 (17.1%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 314,910 (48.0%)

Total all classes - 655,510

As of December 22, 2007:

Novice - 20,507 (3.1%)
Technician - 294,270 (44.9%)
Technician Plus - 21,019 (3.2%)
General - 142,713 (21.8%)
Advanced - 65,424 (10.0%)
Extra - 111,991 (17.1%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 315,289 (48.1%)

Total all classes - 655,924

Changes:

>From May 14, 2000, to February 22, 2007:

Novice - decrease of 26,433
Technician - increase of 88,114
Technician Plus - decrease of 98,042

General - increase of 17,461
Advanced - decrease of 30,732
Extra - increase of 29,520

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 9,928

Total all classes - decrease of 20,112

>From May 14, 2000, to December 2, 2007:

Novice - decrease of 28,695
Technician - increase of 87,771
Technician Plus - decrease of 107,274
General - increase of 29,902
Advanced - decrease of 34,153
Extra - increase of 33,056

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 19,503

Total all classes - decrease of 19,393

>From May 14, 2000, to December 9, 2007:

Novice - decrease of 28,742
Technician - increase of 88,126
Technician Plus - decrease of 107,470
General - increase of 29,931
Advanced - decrease of 34,229
Extra - increase of 33,102

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 19,334

Total all classes - decrease of 19,282

>From May 14, 2000, to December 22, 2007:

Novice - decrease of 28,822
Technician - increase of 88,876
Technician Plus - decrease of 107,841
General - increase of 30,036
Advanced - decrease of 34,358
Extra - increase of 33,241

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 18,965

Total all classes - decrease of 18,868

>From February 22, 2007, to December 2, 2007:

Novice - decrease of 2,262
Technician - decrease of 343
Technician Plus - decrease of 9,232
General - increase of 12,441
Advanced - decrease of 3,421
Extra - increase of 3,536

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 9,575

Total all classes - increase of 719

>From February 22, 2007, to December 9, 2007:

Novice - decrease of 2,309
Technician - increase of 12
Technician Plus - decrease of 9,428
General - increase of 12,470
Advanced - decrease of 3,497
Extra - increase of 3,582

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 9,416

Total all classes - increase of 830

>From February 22, 2007, to December 22, 2007:

Novice - decrease of 2,389
Technician - increase of 762
Technician Plus - decrease of 9,799
General - increase of 12,575
Advanced - decrease of 3,626
Extra - increase of 3,721

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 9,037

Total all classes - increase of 1244

73 de Jim, N2EY

10. Re: Grounding my HF radio equipment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-07 04:43:35 UTC
From: Tom Horne <horntd@spamtrap.org>
Message-ID: <t%hgj.45772$8Z1.44712@trnddc05>
Source record: 3381

1918kelly@dvol.com wrote:
> On Nov 27, 8:46 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>> James Barrett wrote:
>>> Does it really matter if my equipment is ground to the house ground or
>>> should it really be connected to its own external ground? And if/when
>>> I ground to guard against lightning strikes, would I use that same
>>> external ground or go with yet another external ground?
>>> I'm still doing my research, but figured it couldn't hurt to ask.
>> Jim,
>>
>> You'll see numerous references on the web to "single point ground." It
>> is very, very important stuff. I got nailed on this stuff back in
>> August, 2003. Here's how it played out:
>>
>> We had a violent thunderstorm early one morning about 7 A.M. Suddenly
>> there were three near strikes (simultaneous lightning and thunder)
>> within a ten second time frame. In addition to telephones, computers
>> and home entertainment equipment, my four month old Ten-Tec Orion and
>> numberous shack accessories were zapped. My house ground is a single 8
>> foot copper plated ground rod. The lightning ground for the shack was
>> an identical ground rod driven about thirty feet away from the house ground.
>>
>> When the strikes conducted a surge into my home via the power lines, all
>> three wires had very high voltage on them. The shack ground was still
>> at its usual potential (0). The house ground was elevated to high
>> voltage. There was a potential difference between the shack ground the
>> the house ground. That potential quickly equalized inside my equipment.
>>
>> Ten-Tec reported that six boards inside the Orion had their ground
>> traces evaporated.
>>
>> For a shack ground, you want the shortest possible distance between your
>> rig and earth. The house ground will be as close as possible to your
>> electrical service entrance. If, like me, you have to use two ground
>> rods, you need to bond the two of them together with a big, fat wire so
>> that the two can never be at different potentials.
>> If you have a tower, I'll assume that you have at least one 8 foot
>> ground rod driven at its base. Bond your coaxial cable sheaths to the
>> rod at the tower. The sheaths should also be bonded to your shack ground.
>>
>> Dave Heil K8MN
>
> This whole topic area seems to be eternally confused and confusing and
> I'm in the parade of the confused. On a common sense basis I

> absolutely agree with your connecting the station grounds to the
> 'lectric service entrance ground for the reasons you've stated.
>
> But somewhere along the line somebody in the ham groups stated that
> the National Electrical Code states that there shall be one and *only
> one* grounding point per power drop and the neighborhood code cops and
> the insurance companies reportedly get stiff about it.
>
> So is it legal to connect a phalanx of ham station ground rods to the
> service entrance ground?? Or not.
>
>
> w3rv
>

What the code enforcement types get vexed about is were you have two different Grounding Electrode Systems (GES) that are not bonded together into a single system. So if you have one concrete encased electrode in your tower base, another concrete encased electrode in your homes footer, and a driven rod array electrode just outside the radio room wall and you do not bond them together into a single GES that is a code violation. It is also a code violation to connect any conductor that carries power and light current to ground at any point in the wiring system that is not at the Service Disconnecting Means (SDM). The SDM is the first switch, breaker, or fused pull out that can be used to disconnect the ungrounded current carrying conductors of the wiring system from the service entry conductors. In most homes this is the main breaker or the main fuse pull out. The code name for the white wire in North American wiring practice is the "Grounded Current Carrying Conductor." In many cases it is also the neutral conductor but that is not always the case. It is that white wire that most of us call the neutral; albeit sometimes mistakenly; that must be connected to the GES at one and only one point. That point is the portion of the service entrance grounded conductor that is between the splices that connect it to the utility company's conductors and the SDM.

A practice that was very popular in the computer industry was to ground the computer equipment power supplies of main frame computers to a new and separate grounding electrode at the computers location. Connecting that ground back to the power service ground was carefully avoided on the belief that doing so would cause ground loops on the signal circuits between the main frame and the associated terminal equipment. Some self qualifying authorities recommended the same approach for radio equipment. That left the earth between the two electrode systems as the only return path for current faulting to ground at the improperly isolated ground equipment. With the resistance to earth of most driven rod electrodes being over fifty ohms the series resistance of such a fault current pathway was often over a hundred ohms. Such a high impedance would limit the fault current flowing back to the utility transformer from whence it came to a flow too small to trip the Over Current Protective Device (OCPD) protecting the faulted circuit. You

then have a situation in which all of the exposed conductive parts of the radio or computer equipment is energized at 120 volts relative to earth or any body that will behave as the earth does electrically. Since it only takes about a third of an ampere to kill a human being the user could be electrocuted without ever tripping the OCPD. Because the danger to life was of a greater concern to code authorities then the difficulties caused by ground loops on signal lines the electronic engineers lost that war with the electrical engineers and the rule forbidding separate grounding electrode systems survived the attempts to remove it from the nations electrical codes.

The good news for us as amateur radio practitioners is that what is safe is also good operating practice. By bonding all of our grounding electrode systems together into a single system we get a better ground for most purposes and we greatly decrease the likelihood of equipment damage or operator injury / death.
--
Tom Horne

"This alternating current stuff is just a fad. It is much too dangerous for general use." Thomas Alva Edison

11. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-15 07:00:07 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1200380401@panix.com>
Source record: 3382
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

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Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.3 2007/07/28 14:56:26
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
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promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. Crossposts of regular discussion articles between rec.radio.amateur.moderated and other discussion newsgroups are not permitted.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/ announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers, and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header, containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the moderators if one is not already provided.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

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2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns, are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true."

"That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/about/whatis/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation | decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in | our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical | feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this | article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of | moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators | that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide | independent oversight of moderation decisions. |

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our | newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The | moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such | incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit | feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, | but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have | already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please | resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents | occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles. |

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

12. LOOKING FOR SOME INPUT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-17 05:23:45 UTC
From: Howard W3CQH <hsgorden@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <9JydncdOvK9fSxPanZ2dnUVZ_gSdnZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 3383

I belong to a fire dept and I am looking for some good suggestions that I might be able to
incorporate in a letter to the board to be able to start a "HAM" club at the fire house and train all of the members that wish to be trained.

TIA

73's de Howard W3CQH

13. Re: LOOKING FOR SOME INPUT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-17 14:20:24 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fmnnns$fm6$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3384

Howard W3CQH wrote:
> I belong to a fire dept and I am looking for some good suggestions that I
> might be able to
> incorporate in a letter to the board to be able to start a "HAM" club at the
> fire house and train all of the members that wish to be trained.

Not a bad idea at all, but some caveats are in order.

The ARS would be a communications avenue that you and your fellow firefighters could use if your normal assigned communications fail. That would be how I would approach it to your board of directors. It's not a bad idea, but here come the caveats.

There has been a misconception among a lot of emergency service providers that the ARS is going to be another tool in their belt. IOW, all the employees are going to get their Technician license, and will use the local repeater in their work.

We'd seen a this in our area, where some folks who have no interest in Amateur radio, or any kind of radio for that matter, have come in and started telling us what we have to do.

We've been working hard at trying to get everyone on the same page here. It hasn't been easy though. We run into a lot of "Everything we do is a matter of life and death, so by definition, we can priority use your system at any time we wish." That is one of those things that is true on a very broad scale, but not true in the details.

In other words, don't try to sell them the idea that Ham radio is going to be a back channel for the department, or that this is new communications channels that are opening up for them. It's for emergency use only, (when operating as you are working) and used in its proper place.

Note this isn't to say that the new hams can't get on the repeater and chat like the rest of us do!

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

14. Re: LOOKING FOR SOME INPUT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-17 18:01:50 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <ro5vo31423d01l4hotrpttju2qequ9p7bu@4ax.com>
Source record: 3385

On Thu, 17 Jan 2008 09:20:24 EST, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

> In other words, don't try to sell them the idea that Ham radio is
>going to be a back channel for the department, or that this is new
>communications channels that are opening up for them. It's for emergency
>use only, (when operating as you are working) and used in its proper place.

And the other half of the equation is "when there are no other means
of communication available". That includes other radio channels,
cellphones, landlines, and (figuratively) smoke signals. Very few
instances of claiming the exemption turn out to be justified.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

15. Seeking advice about crossposted Amateur Radio bulletins

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-19 05:42:34 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <fms2gr$5no$1@reader2.panix.com>
Source record: 3386
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,uk.radio.amateur,aus.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

The rec.radio.info newsgroup, first established in 1993, has been recently revived by an active moderation team. We are currently seeking suitable information, FAQ, and bulletin articles from the entire rec.radio.* newsgroup hierarchy for simultaneous cross-posting to our newsgroup.

Consistent with rec.radio.info's past usage and message traffic, we had resumed collecting and aggregating many popular weekly amateur radio bulletins and crossposting them to the newsgroups. We selected bulletins that were available via E-mail or Web page, had reprint/relay permission, were in the English language, and could be automatically gatewayed to the newsgroups in plain text. These included:

AMSAT Weekly Satellite Report (Amateur Satellite Corporation)
AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins (Amateur Satellite Corporation)
WIANews (Wireless Institute of Australia)
DXNL (Deutscher Amateur Radio Club)
IRTS Radio Bulletin (Irish Radio Transmitters Society)
GB2RS News (Radio Society of Great Britain)
SARL News in English (South African Radio League)
The ARRL Letter (American Radio Relay League)
Amateur Radio Newsline (Newsline, Bill Pasternak)
RAC Bulletin (Radio Amateurs of Canada)

(The Ohio/Penn DX Bulletin had continued to be directly posted, via prior arrangement and authorization, during the absence of an active moderation team.)

The original charter of rec.radio.info:

http://www.faqs.org/ftp/usenet/news.announce.newgroups/rec/rec.radio.info

was to serve as a crossposting target for information bulletins, newsgroup charter announcements, and newsgroup Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQ) lists. Implicitly, that rec.radio.info should not "steal" articles from other newsgroups, or require readers to know that rec.radio.info exists and that all bulletins/FAQ's/etc. have been redirected to it. It was also potentially awkward (possibly rude) for us to redirect followup discussion from the FAQ's/bulletins to a newsgroup where the original root article of the thread wasn't posted in the first place. Also, as indicated by its place on the namespace hierarchy (rec.radio.*, not rec.radio.amateur.*), rec.radio.info was not intended to be just an amateur radio newsgroup. Other newsgroups' bulletins that were intended to be crossposted included rec.radio.broadcasting, rec.radio.shortwave, and rec.radio.scanner.

When an article is simultaneously crossposted, only one article is propagated over the networks, and most newsreaders should show it only once. In this way, the rec.radio.info newsgroup becomes an information concentrator of articles that already exist in the news spool, not contributing extra bandwidth or duplication, much like rec.music.info or news.answers. It was also felt that a good test of whether a bulletin was worthwhile to post to the newsgroups was whether or not it was tolerated in a subject-specific "home" newsgroup. When we took over the newsgroup in February of 2007:

http://www.big-8.org/dokuwiki/doku.php?id=nan:2007-02-23-rec.radio.info-announce

we originally sought to continue both the letter and intent of the original charter.

In cooperation with the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup and moderation team, we chose that newsgroup as the principal crossposting target for general amateur-radio related bulletins. Some members of that moderation team felt that crossposting the bulletins, and allowing followup discussion, could serve as useful discussion starters for their new newsgroup. Due to their size, frequency, and special interest topic, the AMSAT bulletins continued to be crossposted to rec.radio.amateur.space only. The DXNL bulletin was also crossposted to rec.radio.amateur.dx. The country-specific bulletins that had their own country-specific newsgroups were also crossposted to those newsgroups (aus.radio.amateur.misc for WIANews and uk.radio.amateur for GB2RS News).

We commenced a 90-day test of relaying the bulletins, from March to May of 2007, and considered both internal and external feedback. There were no internal objections, though about half of the moderation team wanted a disclaimer at the bottom of each bulletin (to supplement the disclaimers already in the headers of each approved message for the moderated newsgroups). We only received one external objection, from an individual who felt that the ARRL Letter was more of a public-relations and advertising message than a true news bulletin.

Concluding that we had readership support for relaying these bulletins, we then continued to post these bulletins, and as simultaneous crossposts. Starting around October of 2007, the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team started to have internal discussion about whether crossposting bulletins to rec.radio.amateur.moderated was worthwhile. Some felt strongly that if posted, they should be posted to rec.radio.info only, and not any other newsgroup, with followups directed either to poster, or possibly even to a newsgroup for which the bulletin was not originally posted. This would be a change of charter for rec.radio.info. Because of this, we decided to have a 90-day test and moratorium, from October 2007 to January 2008, where we would not relay the bulletins and see if anyone noticed or complained. We received no external feedback regarding these bulletins during that time, nor did anyone complain about their absence.

Since our two 90-day tests, one with the bulletins, and one without, were inconclusive with respect to reader feedback, we would like to now explicitly solicit reader feedback at this time in order to make an appropriate decision about the format and target newsgroups of any relayed bulletins. Examples of feedback that would be useful to us would include answers to the following questions:

- Do you read the bulletins?

- Which bulletins do you read?

- Which bulletins, if any, do you feel have inappropriate advertising or public relations content for posting to the newsgroups?

- In what newsgroup do your prefer to read the bulletins first, or read them at all (subject-specific, rec.radio.info, or none)?

- Would you read the bulletins if they were posted to rec.radio.info only?

- Would you be interested in initiating followup discussion based on the contents of the bulletins? To which newsgroups? Via E-mail to the originators?

- Would you be able to follow any followup discussion that was directed to newsgroups other than to which the original bulletins were posted?

We would be most interested in hearing about how *you* personally have read, or intend to read, the bulletins on the Usenet newsgroups, and intend to submit followup discussion (or not). Speculation or demands concerning how others "should" or "should not" read or react to the bulletins would be much less helpful to us. In particular, we wish to avoid expending a lot of ongoing effort to relay bulletins that will be substantially ignored, or shunted off to newsgroups that are not widely read.

Please respect the "Followup-To: poster" line and direct all feedback via E-mail to the Reply-To: address of rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

Consistent with their newsgroup charters, followup discussion posts on this subject made to rec.radio.amateur.moderated or rec.radio.info will be rejected.

Thanks in advance for any thoughtful feedback on this subject. Such feedback will weigh strongly on our decision how to proceed in the future.

--
The rec.radio.info Moderation Team
rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

16. Moonbounce: HAARP / 40M

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-22 06:21:45 UTC
From: PN2222A <pn2222a@sbcglobal.net>
Message-ID: <HKdlj.41158$Pv2.16717@newssvr23.news.prodigy.net>
Source record: 3387

So I listened for the moonbounce echoes on 6792.5 kHz this weekend.

With a Kenwood R-2000 and a random wire, with a significant (s3-s5)
local
noise level, I was able (barely) to hear the reflected signals.

There was much fading. I note this in others reports as well.

I understand the mechanism (I think...) for fading with normal sky-wave.
How is the QSB explained on a direct signal from/to the moon?

Does the effective path length through the upper atmosphere actually
vary
by as much as 1/2 wavelength? When moving directly up through the
atmosphere?

What's the story?

Regards
PN2222A

NPN (Is = 14.34f Xti = 3 Eg = 1.11 Vaf = 74.03 Bf = 255.9 Ne = 1.307 Ise
= 14.34 Ikf = .2847 Xtb = 1.5 Br = 6.092 Isc = 0

Ikr = 0 Rc = 1 Cjc = 7.306p Mjc = .3416 Vjc = .75 Fc = .5 Cje = 22.01p
Mje = .377 Vje = .75 Tr = 46.91n Tf = 411.1p Itf = .6

Vtf = 1.7 Xtf = 3 Rb = 10)

17. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-22 07:00:09 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1200985201@panix.com>
Source record: 3388
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.scanner,rec.radio.shortwave,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.3 2007/09/29 19:13:17
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet |
newsgroups is the RadioBanter site: |

http://www.radiobanter.com |

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project: |

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com |

It, too, supports both reading and posting. |

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere? |

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above. |

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

18. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-22 07:05:01 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1200985500@panix.com>
Source record: 3389
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.scanner,rec.radio.shortwave,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

19. Re: New Lithium Battery Rules by TSA

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-26 03:48:08 UTC
From: Richard Knoppow <dickburk@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <13plahp9rnu9q58@corp.supernews.com>
Source record: 3390

"News Admin" <news@news.demon.net> wrote in message
news:fld63d$74c$1$830fa7a5@news.demon.co.uk...
> <me@privacy.net> wrote in message
> news:fl88520rn1@news3.newsguy.com...
>> http://www.thestreet.com/s/us-tackles-lithium-batteries/newsanalysis/hardware/10396317.
html?puc=_googlen?cm_ven=GOOGLEN&cm_cat=FREE&cm_ite=NA
>>
>> Important info for hams flying with Lithium batteries.
>>
>
> Hi folks.
>
>>From the look of the article cited above, the noteworthy
>>part for us hams is
>
> "the TSA is worried about loose, spare batteries. These
> are batteries with uncovered electrical contacts, which,
> if touched by other metal objects could cause an explosion
> and fire during a flight"
>
> Now, non-technical folk may well leave battery terminals
> exposed but I would bet that (hopefully) every ham is wise
> enough to cover battery terminals so they cannot be
> shorted together. Lithium batteries may be a (relatively)
> new hazard but NiCd batteries have been around for a long
> time and they are also a hazard if their terminals are
> shorted.
>
> Happy travelling.
>
> Ian,
> Nottingham, UK
>
>
For that matter so are plain old 9volt transistor
batteries. Since both terminals are at one end there is some
danger of their shorting if you carry a battery in your
pocked with change or keys and no protection over the
terminals. I don't think a 9V alkaline battery would explode
but they get hot enough to hurt you.

--

Richard Knoppow

Los Angeles, CA, USA
dickburk@ix.netcom.com

20. Re: New Lithium Battery Rules by TSA

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-26 17:58:25 UTC
From: xpyttl <xpyttl_NOSPAM@earthling.net>
Message-ID: <iLJmj.30$jw7.17@newsfe02.lga>
Source record: 3391

"Richard Knoppow" <dickburk@ix.netcom.com> wrote in message
news:13plahp9rnu9q58@corp.supernews.com...

> For that matter so are plain old 9volt transistor batteries. Since
> both terminals are at one end there is some danger of their shorting if
> you carry a battery in your pocked with change or keys and no protection
> over the terminals. I don't think a 9V alkaline battery would explode but
> they get hot enough to hurt you.

Hot enough to hurt is a few orders of magnitude below the danger posed by
lithium batteries. Lithium batteries burn with an extraordinarily hot fire
which cannot be extinguished by normal fire extinguishers. In addition, the
combustion products are highly toxic.

..

21. Re: New Lithium Battery Rules by TSA

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-28 15:32:28 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fnkps3$18e2$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3392

xpyttl wrote:
> "Richard Knoppow" <dickburk@ix.netcom.com> wrote in message
> news:13plahp9rnu9q58@corp.supernews.com...
>
>> For that matter so are plain old 9volt transistor batteries. Since
>> both terminals are at one end there is some danger of their shorting if
>> you carry a battery in your pocked with change or keys and no protection
>> over the terminals. I don't think a 9V alkaline battery would explode but
>> they get hot enough to hurt you.
>
> Hot enough to hurt is a few orders of magnitude below the danger posed by
> lithium batteries. Lithium batteries burn with an extraordinarily hot fire
> which cannot be extinguished by normal fire extinguishers. In addition, the
> combustion products are highly toxic.

Lithium ion batteries are a lot safer than the original lithium batteries.

The problem of exploding batteries is one that we have inadvertently
brought upon ourselves. A good example is laptops, as we clamor for ever
smaller laptops, (Darn, that new Apple "Air is cool) and batteries that
last longer and longer, the manufacturers are kind of forced to go to
higher and higher energy densities to pack power into less and less volume.

As energy density increases, so does the excitement of any related failure.

And yet I think that the typical customer thinks that since it is
smaller, it must use less power. Kind of like how a lot of people think
that since highway driving nets better gas milage than in-town, that
traveling 80 miles per hour must give you better gas milage than
traveling 55. Logic, but bad logic nonetheless.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

22. Re: New Lithium Battery Rules by TSA

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-28 15:32:44 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fnkq99$165a$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3393

Richard Knoppow wrote:

> For that matter so are plain old 9volt transistor
> batteries. Since both terminals are at one end there is some
> danger of their shorting if you carry a battery in your
> pocked with change or keys and no protection over the
> terminals.

The battery rules are actually very good ones. See below.

I don't think a 9V alkaline battery would explode
> but they get hot enough to hurt you.

I have felt that warm and fuzzy feeling from carrying a 9 volt battery
in my pocket with some loose change. You can bet I don't do that any more.

Along similar lines, a few years ago, I bought one of the early lithium
(not LI ion) batteries in 9 volt form. There is a battery that should
never have been made!

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

23. Re: New Lithium Battery Rules by TSA

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-28 19:29:54 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <9n7sp3pgrl004f3h2oiv1lq2rt1jruc8g4@4ax.com>
Source record: 3394

On Mon, 28 Jan 2008 10:32:28 EST, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

>Lithium ion batteries are a lot safer than the original lithium batteries.

As if the average TSA screener knows (or cares about) the
difference. Another version of examining the innards of everyone's
shoes because some idiot thought that he could conceal explosives in
his.

Maybe I'm lucky but I've never had overheat problems with any of my
Li-Ion batteries.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

24. Statistics on other types of licenses

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-29 18:01:32 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-C1AEE1.10193629012008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3395

Does anyone know of a source for statistics on other types of FCC licenses, such as Marine Radio Operator Permits, Restricted Radio Operator Permits, General Radiotelephone Operators License, GMDSS Operator, etc.?

--
Klystron

25. Re: Statistics on other types of licenses

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-29 20:22:02 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <0k2vp312i6rc0cptk2ahdkh7qgm3s86tq2@4ax.com>
Source record: 3396

On Tue, 29 Jan 2008 13:01:32 EST, Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> Does anyone know of a source for statistics on other types of FCC
>licenses, such as Marine Radio Operator Permits, Restricted Radio
>Operator Permits, General Radiotelephone Operators License, GMDSS
>Operator, etc.?

When in doubt, check the FCC/WTB site. No guarantee of accuracy or
even of being there.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

26. Re: New Lithium Battery Rules by TSA

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-30 16:34:15 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fnq8j1$107g$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3397

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Mon, 28 Jan 2008 10:32:28 EST, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>> Lithium ion batteries are a lot safer than the original lithium batteries.
>
> As if the average TSA screener knows (or cares about) the
> difference. Another version of examining the innards of everyone's
> shoes because some idiot thought that he could conceal explosives in
> his.

And don't forget that "safer" doesn't mean they are safe. Loose batteries are just not acceptable among polite company! Or anywhere else for that matter. I supposedly know about these things, and yet I once put that 9 volt battery in my pocket.

For all the grief screeners take, this is a good ruling. It should have been around a long time ago.

- 73 d eMike N3LI -

27. Re: Statistics on other types of licenses

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-30 19:19:01 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-5D5114.13540530012008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3398

Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
>
> When in doubt, check the FCC/WTB site. No guarantee of accuracy or
> even of being there.

I checked that before I posted. Can you be more specific?

--
Klystron

28. Re: Statistics on other types of licenses

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-01-31 02:47:44 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <7tb2q35tn6bq08nme48sncu482tph7dsmr@4ax.com>
Source record: 3399

On Wed, 30 Jan 2008 14:19:01 EST, Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
>>
>> When in doubt, check the FCC/WTB site. No guarantee of accuracy or
>> even of being there.

> I checked that before I posted. Can you be more specific?

I'm sorry - I did find out that it's no longer available on the public
ULS lookup site but the WTB does keep those statistics. You may want
to call the FCC/ULS Customer Support Hotline - 1-877-480-3201 - and
ask. them.

If you want information about a specific license, it is available for
public lookup on the ULS.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

29. Looking for ICOM F/O cable P/N's: OPC-172, OPC-172A or OPC-189

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-07 04:32:07 UTC
From: Gary Waldeck <gary.waldeck@att.net>
Message-ID: <xpvqj.6336$0w.1925@newssvr27.news.prodigy.net>
Source record: 3400

Hello all -

I am looking for a replacement fiber optic cable that was used in the ICOM IC-901A/E multi-band radio system.

The ICOM Fiber Optic Cable part numbers that will work are: OPC-172, OPC-172A or OPC-189.

I have looked at the manufacturer's site and talked to their support staff, they are no longer stocking or supporting these parts. I have also looked on e-Bay and several other sites without success

If someone knows where I might find any of these part numbers, either new or used, I'd be grateful.

Thanks for any help.

Gary Waldeck, K6AIR

Gwaldeck (at) ix (dot) Netcom (dot) com

Looking for ICOM F/O cable P/N's: OPC-172, OPC-172A or OPC-189

30. CW Skimmer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-14 20:46:41 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fp226t$1hje$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3251

Has anyone tried out CW Skimmer?

This looks like a product that could really change the way contesting and DX is done.

http://www.dxatlas.com/CwSkimmer/

This software can be used with a wideband SDR radio such as one of the "SoftRock kits to read a band. It can also be used with your own radio if you care to do a little surgery.

It will "read" the CW signals on a band, and sift through them to find the call signs, and display the same.

It probably will not appeal at all to the purists out there, but at least for myself, I find it an intriguing bit of software.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

31. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-15 07:00:07 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1203058800@panix.com>
Source record: 3252
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.3 2007/07/28 14:56:26
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
```

promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. Crossposts of regular discussion articles between rec.radio.amateur.moderated and other discussion newsgroups are not permitted.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/ announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers, and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header, containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the moderators if one is not already provided.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

---

2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns, are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true."

"That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/about/whatis/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation | decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in | our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical | feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this | article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of | moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators | that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide | independent oversight of moderation decisions. |

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our | newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The | moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such | incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit | feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, | but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have | already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please | resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents | occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles. |

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

32. Re: CW Skimmer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-15 14:39:13 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <13rb9041j6ac558@news.supernews.com>
Source record: 3253

Michael Coslo wrote:
> Has anyone tried out CW Skimmer?

I have to admit that I checked the calendar to be sure it wasn't April after reading about this.

I did a little searching on the web and found the same sales pitch repeated several times. I did find an article by Pete Smith N4ZR at http://www.pvrc.org/~n4zr/Articles/Skimmer.pdf that had some real-world data.

My question, based on limited experience with the ability of computers to copy CW in less-than-ideal conditions, is how many of the signals on a crowded contest band it would actually be able to successfully decode. Maybe this technology has made great leaps forward since I last tried to use it, but I just can't see it being effective enough to dig the signals out of the QRM and parse out the callsign.

I didn't find any actual use in a contest, so such real-world experience would be most interesting.

73, Steve KB9X

33. Re: CW Skimmer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-15 18:28:37 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fp4kqd$1csg$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3254

Steve Bonine wrote:
> Michael Coslo wrote:
>> Has anyone tried out CW Skimmer?
>
> I have to admit that I checked the calendar to be sure it wasn't April
> after reading about this.
>
> I did a little searching on the web and found the same sales pitch
> repeated several times. I did find an article by Pete Smith N4ZR at
> http://www.pvrc.org/~n4zr/Articles/Skimmer.pdf that had some real-world
> data.
>
> My question, based on limited experience with the ability of computers
> to copy CW in less-than-ideal conditions, is how many of the signals on
> a crowded contest band it would actually be able to successfully decode.
> Maybe this technology has made great leaps forward since I last tried
> to use it, but I just can't see it being effective enough to dig the
> signals out of the QRM and parse out the callsign.
>
> I didn't find any actual use in a contest, so such real-world experience
> would be most interesting.

Hi Steve,

I've been experimenting with some of the CW reading and sending
software. due to my hearing issues. Background is that I have profound
tinnitus, don't hear much of anything over 2KHz, and weirdly enough, my
brain processes all sounds with equal weight. Noise is given equal
importance to what I actually want to listen to. So I can work CW if
condx are perfect, but most of the time I don't do very well.

Enough of my whining...

There is a new engine out there, of which I think Skimmer is using. I
have another program called MRP (something)that looks very similar. It
works very well indeed. It has that visual dot/dash display on a
horizontal waterfall, (also a big help) and the interesting thing is
that it seems to be doing something where it "looks behind" and will
sometimes correct itself as it goes along. I think that the software is
operating more akin to how humans decipher Morse.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

34. Re: CW Skimmer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-16 21:55:48 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <342a2a2e-7bec-46f8-8b48-83889695090a@i7g2000prf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3255

Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> posted on Fri, 15 Feb 2008 13:28:37 EST:

>>Steve Bonine wrote:

>> I didn't find any actual use in a contest, so such real-world experience
>> would be most interesting.

>There is a new engine out there, of which I think Skimmer is using. I
>have another program called MRP (something)that looks very similar. It
>works very well indeed. It has that visual dot/dash display on a
>horizontal waterfall, (also a big help) and the interesting thing is
>that it seems to be doing something where it "looks behind" and will
>sometimes correct itself as it goes along. I think that the software is
>operating more akin to how humans decipher Morse.

Well, I'm not going to re-interpret how the
human brain works, but I think the operative
phrase is "adaptive re-programming" (more or
less). Some of that "adaptive" stuff has
been operating in sonar electronics for over
two decades. Sonar apparently used the first
"waterfall" displays to interpret sounds
under water...in order to separate 'fish
from foul' (so to speak) of all those low
frequency sounds.

I look at this new product as a very nice
peripheral to interpret on-off keying for
those of us who don't really care to bother
with audible on-off keying communications.
Since my human brain is highly adaptive to
visual input, I think of it as a good
adjunct to 'see' what PARTS of the [HF]
ham bands are doing. Also, radio contesting
has no personal interest to me so my
interest would only be in 'reading the mail'
to find out what is going on in the low
ends of the HF ham bands.

I have a fondness for electronics aids to
human senses and appreciate my Icom 746's
audio filtering. The old BFO in superhets
might be the very first 'aid' to hearing
on-off keying signals...compared to the
hiss and noise from old crystal sets!

The 746Pro also includes a little 5-level ('Baudot') teleprinter reader, apparently included as an afterthought in Icom's control system. A single line tiny display, it isn't much, but their internal control micros probably had enough program code space to include it. Too bad (for me) that Icom didn't also add the 8-bit ASCII TTY decoder. :-)

Personally, I LIKE to see these new aids to anything. About 35 years ago I got to use the equivalent of VNAs for RF measurement (HP Network Analyzer using an ancient HP 16-bit minicomputer) at work and thought it a FANTASTIC improvement over the grunge-work manual measurement on RF. Now I can get (if I want) reasonably-low-priced VNAs (with precise frequency control) from two amateur radio companies and Antenna Analyzers (with internal VNA) from at least six others. Antenna Analyzers beat the heck out of using a Noise Bridge and a scientific calculator to interpret the Bridge reads into meaningful complex quantities. :-)

73, Len AF6AY

35. Re: CW Skimmer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-17 03:17:12 UTC
From: an old freind <konstans@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <7941ff5b-4295-4944-b7ae-20737a549f04@j28g2000hsj.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3256

On Feb 16, 4:55 pm, AF6AY <LenAnder...@ieee.org> wrote:
>

> The 746Pro also includes a little 5-level
> ('Baudot') teleprinter reader, apparently
> included as an afterthought in Icom's
> control system. A single line tiny display,
> it isn't much, but their internal control
> micros probably had enough program code
> space to include it. Too bad (for me) that
> Icom didn't also add the 8-bit ASCII TTY
> decoder. :-)

at the risk of an OT digression who does this work, that is do you
have an opion on how well the machine does as this sounds neat to me

36. Re: CW Skimmer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-17 16:53:12 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.02.17.14.08.22.926213@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 3257

On Fri, 15 Feb 2008 09:39:13 -0500, Steve Bonine wrote:
> My question, based on limited experience with the ability of computers
> to copy CW in less-than-ideal conditions, is how many of the signals on
> a crowded contest band it would actually be able to successfully decode.
> Maybe this technology has made great leaps forward since I last tried
> to use it, but I just can't see it being effective enough to dig the
> signals out of the QRM and parse out the callsign.
>
> I didn't find any actual use in a contest, so such real-world experience
> would be most interesting.

W4LT tested it last night on 40 meters. After the contest is over I'll see if I can find & excerpt his post. He seemed fairly impressed.

I wonder to what degree the improvement in Morse sending has made this kind of project more effective? The quality of transmitted Morse (in terms of spacing & element lengths being correct - and in terms of fewer errors) has improved considerably since I got my license in 1973.

37. Re: CW Skimmer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-18 19:41:13 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fpcjli$13g0$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3258

Doug Smith W9WI wrote:
> On Fri, 15 Feb 2008 09:39:13 -0500, Steve Bonine wrote:
>> My question, based on limited experience with the ability of computers
>> to copy CW in less-than-ideal conditions, is how many of the signals on
>> a crowded contest band it would actually be able to successfully decode.
>> Maybe this technology has made great leaps forward since I last tried
>> to use it, but I just can't see it being effective enough to dig the
>> signals out of the QRM and parse out the callsign.
>>
>> I didn't find any actual use in a contest, so such real-world experience
>> would be most interesting.
>
> W4LT tested it last night on 40 meters. After the contest is over I'll
> see if I can find & excerpt his post. He seemed fairly impressed.
>
> I wonder to what degree the improvement in Morse sending has made this
> kind of project more effective? The quality of transmitted Morse (in
> terms of spacing & element lengths being correct - and in terms of fewer
> errors) has improved considerably since I got my license in 1973.

Certainly the ascendancy of keyers has helped, but even then, older
software had some issues with noise, signal level, and adjacent signals.

I'm a real dilletente on the subject, but I think that the older
versions of CW decoding software relied heavily on timing to try to
emulate the human brain's decoding of Morse. Trouble is, I don't think
our brains work that way, because humans can decode some Morse that is
sent pretty badly.

But the old software could have big problems when the sender didn't use
the proper space timing, or when the dashes or dots were significantly
long or short. The human just adapted in real time.

I think that is what the new software is starting to tackle.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

38. Re: CW Skimmer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-19 18:50:01 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <17459926-ce30-42e9-b93c-3fd74f5bd375@s8g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3259

On Feb 18, 11:41 am, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
> Doug Smith W9WI wrote:

> > I wonder to what degree the improvement in Morse sending has made this
> > kind of project more effective? The quality of transmitted Morse (in
> > terms of spacing & element lengths being correct - and in terms of fewer
> > errors) has improved considerably since I got my license in 1973.
>
> Certainly the ascendancy of keyers has helped, but even then, older
> software had some issues with noise, signal level, and adjacent signals.
>
> I'm a real dilletente on the subject, but I think that the older
> versions of CW decoding software relied heavily on timing to try to
> emulate the human brain's decoding of Morse. Trouble is, I don't think
> our brains work that way, because humans can decode some Morse that is
> sent pretty badly.
>
> But the old software could have big problems when the sender didn't use
> the proper space timing, or when the dashes or dots were significantly
> long or short. The human just adapted in real time.
>
> I think that is what the new software is starting to tackle.

Available softwares for such time-related, adaptive programming have
been aided by technology such as flash memory and larger memories
in microprocessors (as stand-alone decoders). Adaptive programming
has been known in computer programming for at least 50 years but
hasn't had a resurgence until about a decade ago. The main thing
about its 'non-use' for morse code is that there really isn't a big
market for it outside of amateur radio.

Elsewhere there is the speech decoder used with a very few telephone
menu robots that can recognize numbers and certain letters or words.
A bundle with my WordPerfect 8 upgrade word processor (slightly over
8 years old now) was 'Dragon Naturally Speaking' which would process
word sounds and convert them to text. 'Naturally Speaking' would
'learn' the sound patterns associated with a particular voice
(repetition
required to have the adaptive programming do the 'learning'), then go
to a look-up table in memory and do the conversion into speech.
Outside
of trying out, I found that my faster typing skills (learned over six
decades)
would serve me better...the little free microphone was useful for
other

things...:-)

Adaptive programming is found in some higher-level visual graphics processors used in motion picture and television production around this corner of the USA. Those allow 'in-between' frame merging of movements similar to what was done in cartoon animation in the early 1930s. [lower-rank animators were assigned the tasks of making the 'in-between' drawings of major animator's drawings for the final inking and painting, hence the name 'in-betweeners'] There has been a MAJOR field of work in motion graphics software in the last couple of decades, but that is a niche activity, although a much more profitable one.

The little credit-card-sized MFJ 'morse reader' is more of a toy since it has rather simplistic adaptive programming ('learning' involved only in setting the approximate rate of words sensed) but is somewhat successful in that. More advanced adaptive programming would require more memory and processing of relative space-dot-dash sensing on-the-fly to determine the 'bad fists' of certain morse senders. As of the end of 2007, Microchip has brought out several newer microcontroller models with much more memory and faster operating clock speeds for those wanting to experiment with useful adaptations.

It is less of a 'softwares' comparison of 'old' v. 'new' but rather an intellectual experimentation project of applying adapative programming methods to such 'learned human' activities. It is probably NOT 'the way the brain works' (nobody is really certain of that anyway) but that is irrelevant in the task of determining the time-related sound patterns of on-off keying beeps and translating that back to some form of text that anyone (who knows the western alphabet) can read. It is an eminently POSSIBLE thing to do and I'm glad that some are willing to tackle the task.

73, Len AF6AY

39. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-22 07:00:03 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1203663601@panix.com>
Source record: 3260
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.scanner,rec.radio.shortwave,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

40. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-22 07:05:03 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1203663900@panix.com>
Source record: 3261
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.scanner,rec.radio.shortwave,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

41. Ahhh!!! Part 97 file.,, New Extra Exam Question pool 2008 July

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-23 13:06:34 UTC
From: Mr Fed UP <mrfedup@bellsouth.net>
Message-ID: <KQTvj.101040$N67.74699@bignews5.bellsouth.net>
Source record: 3262

Amateur info' from the top,,,,, nice site.

http://www.ncvec.org/ National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators

http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=338 2008 Extra Class Question Pool (UPDATE 02/20/2008)

http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=320 FCC Part 97 Rules

Source QST March 2008 page 62

73 K4TWO Gary

42. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 7 (Friday, February 22, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-23 15:49:25 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080222201540.6E6AD3123C@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 3263
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 7
February 22, 2008
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Kosovo and DXCC
* + Homebrew Challenge Winners Announced
* + New ARRL Section Managers in San Diego, Louisiana and Virginia
* + What's Coming Up in the March/April Issue of QEX
* + Name the W1HQ Mascot
* + Kansas Hams Working to Get Antenna Bill Passed
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+ ARRL Handbook a "Must-Have" for Broadcast Industry
From the DXCC Desk
W1AW Endowment Campaign to Start in March
Rod Dinkins, AC6V (SK)

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========================================================

==> KOSOVO AND DXCC

Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia on February 17, setting off
new speculations on what this means to Amateur Radio and specifically,
to the DXCC program. ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, said he
understands that there are many questions about the DXCC status of
Kosovo, especially concerning whether or not the new state will be added
to the DXCC list.

Moore said the DXCC rules, modified in 2000 to better handle inclusion
to DXCC, are clear on how additions can be made: "For inclusion in the
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DXCC List, certain conditions must be met. Gaining entry on the DXCC List is not contingent upon whether operation has occurred or will occur, but only upon the qualifications of the Entity."

According to Moore, adding Kosovo to the DXCC List would be considered under the "Political Entity" DXCC guidelines. The DXCC rules state that "Political Entities are those areas which are separated by reason of government or political division. They generally contain an indigenous population which is not predominantly composed of military or scientific personnel."

Kosovo, according to the DXCC rules, would then be added to the DXCC List as a Political Entity if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

* The entity is a UN Member State.

* The entity has been assigned a call sign prefix block by the ITU. (The exceptions to this rule are international organizations, such as the UN and ICAO. These Entities are classified under Special Areas, 3.a; and Ineligible Areas, 4.b.) A provisional prefix bloc assignment may be made by the Secretary General of ITU. Should such provisional assignments not be ratified later by the full ITU, the Entity will be removed from the DXCC List.

* The Entity contains a permanent population, is administered by a local government and is located at least 800 km from its parent. To satisfy the "permanent population" and "administered by a local government" criteria of this sub-section, an Entity must be listed on either (a) the US Department of State's list of "Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty" as having a local "Administrative Center," or (b) the United Nations list of "Non-Self-Governing Territories."

"New Entities satisfying one or more of the conditions above will be added to the DXCC List by administrative action as of their 'Event Date.' Kosovo will be added to the DXCC list if it becomes a member of the UN, or if it receives a prefix bloc from the ITU. The third condition does not apply," Moore said. "The 'Event Date' will be either the date Kosovo became a UN member or it receives its prefix from the ITU. Contacts made before the Event Date will be counted as Serbia."

==> HOMEBREW CHALLENGE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Homebrew Challenge (HBC) <http://www.arrl.org/qst/hbc/> was announced in the August 2006 issue of QST and on the ARRL Web site. Entrants were encouraged to submit a home-constructed voice and CW, 5 W minimum output radio by August 1, 2007. The radio had to be reproducible from no more than $50 of new parts.

In October of 2006, by popular demand, HBC organizers at ARRL offered a second category to the competition that allowed a PC to be used as part of the control, display or processing function; it could also be used to program a microprocessor.

QST Technical Editor Joel R. Hallas, W1ZR, found four entries that passed the documentation and price confirmation check. These entries also went through an ARRL Laboratory evaluation to make sure that they met all the ARRL and FCC technical requirements before being subjected to a thorough operational evaluation by ARRL staffers.

The judges announced two winners in the HBC, one in each category. The PC-supported winner was Jim Veatch, WA2EUJ, who gathered the most points in the evaluation by our judges; an article describing his radio will appear in the May 2008 issue of QST. In a way, Hallas said, Veatch's radio could be considered a contender for the other award as well, since he has agreed to provide his firmware onto builders' processors at no cost if they don't have programming capabilities.

The winner with a radio totally without use of a PC is Steve Weber, KD1JV, who came in close behind in overall scoring by the judges. His radio will be described in a subsequent QST article.

In addition to these winners, entries were received from Dave Cripe, NM0S, and Doug Pongrance, N3ZI. Hallas said the judging panel enjoyed exploring and operating each radio; each radio had its strong points and unique features, making selection difficult. The judges spent many hours operating, comparing and scoring the radios based on their technical proficiency, as well as operating features and reports from distant stations.

Hallas thanked the judges for contributing their time to this effort: W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q; ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI; Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, and QEX Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B. Hallas also served as a judge. Almost all the judges have considerable experience operating low power (QRP) radios in contests and other venues. Hare has served as a judge for various QRP equipment contests sponsored by the QRP Amateur Radio Club International (QRPARCI) and noted these entries stood well in comparison to many he has judged previously.

Hallas also thanked ARRL Lab Engineer Michael Tracy, KC1SX, for fitting in HBC testing between product review evaluations and his other responsibilities, as well as for helping set up the operational evaluation suite in the newly renovated W1HQ/W1INF Headquarters Operators Club shack.

==> NEW ARRL SECTION MANAGERS IN SAN DIEGO, LOUISIANA AND VIRGINIA

In the only contested Section Manager race this winter, Steve Early, AD6VI, was elected ARRL San Diego Section Manager with 332 votes; his opponent, Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ, received 264 votes. Election ballots were counted February 19 at ARRL Headquarters.

Early, whose two-year term begins on April 1, 2008, said that he is looking forward to the opportunity to serve. He has been active in several Amateur Radio clubs and ARES, as well as providing public service support to agencies such as the American Red Cross and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team); he is president of the Palomar

Amateur Radio Club (PARC). Early takes over from Harry Hodges, W6YOO, who was appointed to fill the vacant position in November 2007.

Louisiana will also be getting a new Section Manager on April 1. Gary Stratton, K5GLS, of Shreveport, the Louisiana Section Emergency Coordinator for the last three years, will be taking the reins from Mickey Cox, K5MC. Cox, who has served as Section Manager for the past eight years, decided not to run for another term of office.

Carl Clements, W4CAC, of Portsmouth, Virginia, returns to the Virginia Section Manager's post on April 1. He previously served as Virginia Section Manager from May 2001-March 2006. Glen Sage, W4GHS, the outgoing Virginia Section Manager, did not seek a new term of office.

The following incumbent ARRL Section Managers did not face opposition and were declared elected for their next terms of office beginning April 1, 2008: Pete Cecere, N2YJZ, Eastern New York; Eric Olena, WB3FPL, Eastern Pennsylvania; Tim Slay, N4IB, North Carolina; Richard Beebe, N0PV, South Dakota, and Bob Schneider, AH6J, Pacific.

==> WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE MARCH/APRIL ISSUE OF QEX

The March/April issue of QEX is out, and it is full of theoretical and practical technical articles that you don't want to miss.

In this issue, Milt Cram, W8NUE, and George Heron, N2APB, describe the design and construction details of their "NUE-PSK Digital Modem." The authors provide complete technical details as a companion to their March QST article. Cornell Drentea, KW7CD, presents some schematic diagrams and circuit descriptions for his "Star-10 Transceiver," in Part 2 of this series.

Jack Smith, K8ZOA, provides an interesting look at carbon composition resistor aging as well as inductive and capacitive effects of other resistor construction types in "Carbon Composition, Carbon Film and Metal Oxide Film Resistors." Contributing Editor L. B. Cebik, W4RNL, looks at several impedance matching options for modern HF and VHF beam antennas in "Antenna Options."

Would you like to write for QEX? It pays $50 per printed page. Be sure to check out the Author's Guide <http://www.arrl.org/qex/#aguide> for more information. If you prefer postal mail, please send a business-size self-addressed, stamped envelope to QEX Author's Guide, c/o Maty Weinberg, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494.

QEX is edited by Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, and is published six times a year. The subscription rate for ARRL members in the US is $24. For First Class US delivery, the rate is $37 for members, $49 for nonmembers. For international delivery via air mail, including Canada, the subscription rate is $31 for members, $43 for nonmembers. Subscribe to QEX today <http://www.arrl.org/qex>.

==> NAME THE W1HQ MASCOT

W1HQ, the Laird Campbell Memorial HQ Operators Club, has a mascot in need of a name. Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, purchased the six-foot long stuffed yellow-green toy snake as a way to make the refurbished station a bit friendlier.

Breen said, "In addition to the physical upgrades to W1HQ, we realized that it is our club -- therefore it should be fun too! It just seemed so natural to have a mascot for our club station. The snake comes in handy when stressed out trying to get that DX that is just out of reach! With all the serious sides of ham radio, it's important to remember that it is fun -- and not to take ourselves too seriously sometimes!"

Breen and the rest of the W1HQ team are calling on the Amateur Radio community to help give the as-yet unnamed snake a name: "We encourage all amateurs to submit a name for the snake. We will get together and go over all the entries to choose the best one and announce the winner at our W1HQ special event around the first of April."

"I will be blogging again and posting YouTube videos of the event," Breen said. "We'll announce the winner over the air, on the blog and in video, too." She previously blogged the Hello-Live! event and the W1AW HF Open House.

The contributor of the winning entry will receive their choice of a current edition of "The ARRL Operating Manual," "The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications" or "The ARRL Antenna Book." All entries should be family-friendly (G-rated) and sent via e-mail <w1hqsnake@arrl.org>.

==> KANSAS HAMS WORKING TO GET ANTENNA BILL PASSED

After an unsuccessful attempt eight years ago to get a PRB-1 type bill signed in Kansas, radio amateurs in that state are trying once again. A hearing for HB 2805 <http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2008/2805.pdf> in front of the Kansas House Elections and Governmental Organization Committee is scheduled for Monday, February 25. The bill, "An Act Concerning Telecommunications; Establishing The Kansas Emergency Communications Preservation Act," was written by Rep Arlen Siegfreid (R-15).

JD Spradling, KC0NYS, of Olathe, Kansas, is chairman of the committee <http://www.hamsforkansas.org/> leading the charge to get a PRB-1 <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/local/prb-1.html> law on the books in that state. He commented: "Many local zoning boards don't give FCC regulations adequate consideration when making zoning decisions and across the country amateurs have found that state laws are a more effective tool for influencing local zoning regulations. So beginning in the 1990s, amateurs began lobbying for legislation that would place PRB-1-type language into their state laws."

The bill states that if a municipality takes any action that regulates the placement, screening, number or height of a station antenna structure, the action must "Reasonably accommodate federally licensed amateur radio service communications; and constitute the minimum regulation practicable to carry out the legitimate purpose of the

governing body." Antenna support structures that were constructed prior to the bill's effective date (if passed) "are exempted from subsequent changes in zoning regulations...and may be repaired as required."

Spradling said the bill was introduced on February 11 and referred to committee the next day. The Committee will hear the bill on Monday, February 25 in Room 784 in the Docking Building in Topeka at 3:30. If hams plan on testifying Monday, please e-mail <c3smaxi@mokancomm.net> Spradling the written testimony so he can prepare a final list to give to the Committee Chairman Secretary. "If you cannot be present on Monday, you can always send written testimony and I will make sure it becomes part of the written record," Spradling said.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Tipt round with silver from the Sun's bright eyes" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: No sunspots yet, and the sun has been blank for 17 days. For a week, one sunspot was visible prior to the spotless period, and that followed a 20-day spotless run. NOAA and the US Air Force have predicted daily solar flux (the amount of energy we receive from the Sun at a wavelength of 10.7 cm or 2800 MHz) right at 70 recently, but bumps that to 72 for March 1, continuing into April. This is a minor change, but perhaps this signals that forecasters don't expect any more spots during February. NOAA also predicts low geomagnetic activity until February 28-29 with the planetary A index at 5 through February 26, then 8, 20, 15 and 12 through March 1. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions February 22-26, quiet to unsettled February 27 and unsettled February 28. Sunspot numbers for February 14-20 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 70.6, 69.7, 70.3, 71.1, 71.2, 71.7 and 70.9 with a mean of 70.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 15, 10, 9, 5, 12, 12 and 7 with a mean of 10. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 10, 8, 8, 3, 9, 10 and 5 with a mean of 7.6. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, the NCCC Sprint is on February 22. The Russian PSK WW Contest is February 22-23. Look for the CQ 160 Meter Contest (SSB), the REF Contest (SSB), the UBA DX Contest (CW), the Mississippi QSO Party and the North American QSO Party (RTTY) on February 23-24. The High Speed Club CW Contest is February 24. The North Carolina QSO Party is February 24-25 and the SKCC Sprint is February 27. Next weekend is the ARRL International DX Contest (Phone) on March 1-2. The NCCC Sprint is February 29 and the Wake-Up! QRP Sprint is March 1. Thelow band portion of the Open Ukraine RTTY Championship; the high band portion is March 2. The DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest is

March 2 and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (Data) is March 3. The ARS Spartan Sprint and another running of the NCCC Sprint are March 4. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, March, 9, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, March, 21, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* 2008 Field Day Web Page Good to Go: The official 2008 ARRL Field Day Web page <http:// www.arrl.org/FieldDay> is up and running. The page includes a summary of available resources, with links to Field Day forms and rules, logos and reference links. There is also a link for ordering commemorative Field Day T-shirts, pins and other supplies. ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said supplies will begin shipping in early March, but it's not too early to place a pre-order now. Radio clubs are encouraged to order early.

* ARRL Handbook a "Must-Have" for Broadcast Industry: A broadcast industry trade publication has named "The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications" as the top-rated reference book of broadcast engineers. In an article <http://radioworld.com/pages/s.0047/t.11230.html> in the February 13 edition of "Radio World," the various annual versions of the "Handbook" received the most mentions of necessary literature on the engineer's desk. Doug Fearn, K3KW, an independent handcrafter of audio equipment and a former chief engineer, said, "Not only did I learn electronics from that book, but the old editions are superb examples of how to explain things clearly." Andy Butler, senior director for systems engineering at PBS and a former president of the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE), also recommended the "Handbook," calling it "The best, most comprehensive, cheapest guide to technology you will ever need."

* From the DXCC Desk: ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the 3Y0E DXpedition to Bouvet Island from December 2007-February 2008 has been approved for DXCC credit.

* W1AW Endowment Campaign to Start in March: The W1AW Endowment campaign is ready to launch next month. Contributions to help preserve and maintain W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html> will help ARRL continue the work to upgrade the Amateur Radio equipment that sends the daily bulletins and code practice sessions, as well as equipment in the visitor operating suites. All new antennas have been installed and filters added in 2007. With more new transceivers and amplifiers, W1AW will continue to live up to its role as the flagship Amateur Radio station. Contributions can be made by mail, telephone (860-594-0397) or online <http://www.arrl.org/endoww1aw>.

* Rod Dinkins, AC6V (SK): Rod Dinkins, AC6V, of Oceanside, California, passed away Saturday, February 16. An ARRL member, he was 77. Many hams considered Dinkins, the author and developer of the Web site www.ac6v.com, <http://www.ac6v.com> to be the final word on anything to do with ham radio. His Web site has more than 130 pages covering thousands of Amateur Radio-related topics, everything from amps (A) to impedance (Z); some hams have said that if a topic is not found on or linked to Dinkins' Web site, it's safe to say that topic does not exist in the Amateur Radio world. Dinkins was also the author of a number of ham radio books, including "FM101x: Using FM Repeaters" and "DX101x: HF + 6 Meters DXing." Dinkins started in radio in the late 1940s with his Knight Kit Ocean Hopper receiver, listening in to the ham bands. In 1977, he received his Amateur Radio license with call sign WA6WTO. He served as an Aviation Electronics Technician from 1951-1955. Re-entering civilian life, Dinkins spent four years as an electronics instructor, followed by two years as a vocational electronics teacher at a junior college. For more than 30 years, Dinkins worked in the aerospace industry as an electronics technical writer. He was a member of the San Diego DX Club (SDDXC) and the Palomar Amateur Radio Club (PARC), and was the former newsletter editor of the Northern California DX Club (NCDXC). Son Jeff has hosted his father's Web site for the past five years and has plans to keep it up and running; Jeff plans on getting his Amateur Radio license and applying for his father's call sign. Dinkins is survived by his wife Karla, sons Jeff and Steve and two grandchildren, Rory and Ewan. Jeff Dinkins told the ARRL that a funeral with full military honors will take place March 13 at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL -- the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site

<http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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43. Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1593 - February 22, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-23 18:53:58 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080223102123.02181d78@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 3264
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1593 - February 22, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1593 with a release date of Friday, February 22nd, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The SouthEastern Repeater Association announces the beginning of digital voice repeater coordination, hams answer the call as floods hit Hawaii and the next Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference will take place this spring in Germany. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline" report number 1593 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

REPEATER COORDINATION: SERA ANNOUNCES DIGITAL VOICE BANDPLANS

Someone had to take the lead in coordinating digital voice repeaters and the SouthEastern Repeater Association has. While not the first digital voice repeater plan, it represents the largest geographic area and likely will have an impact on neighboring states and those states neighbors. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM has the details:

--

Acting on a motion presented by Mississippi Director Steve Grantham, AA5SG, the giant SouthEastern Repeater Association has adopted provisions to allow for the introduction of digital voice technology systems. This includes such entities as P 25 and D-Star repeaters.

To make this happen association President Roger Gregory, W4RWG, appointed a working committee to implement the needed changes on the groups web site. While the web presentation is described as a work-in-progress there are already links to the newly posted 144 to 148 MHz and 420 to 450 MHz Frequency Utilization Plans.

And it appears as if the SouthEastern Repeater Association has taken the positron that the introduction of digital voice technology must have minimal impact on all existing analog operations in both the repeater and non repeater portions of any band. A quick glance shows that on both bands the coordinating body has chosen to keep most, though not all, digital voice operation within current repeater subbands. It uses interleaving between existing F-M repeaters to accomplish this.

But the committee has a lot more work ahead of it to make this all happen smoothly. This includes modifying any association documents or forms

requiring change. Its also tasked with assisting district coordinators in matters pertaining to the introduction of such digital repeaters. The committee will also continue to study and bring forth new information as needed to facilitate ongoing effective digital repeater coordination efforts.

Whether or not the SouthEastern Repeater Association plan will be adopted nationally is not known, but it opens the door to a coordinated effort to introduce digital voice repeaters while protecting all other spectrum users. And that's definitely a step in the right direction.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM

--

For those not aware, the SouthEastern Repeater Association is the nations largest repeater band-planning body. It provides voluntary frequency coordination for Amateur Radio repeaters in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi. The action on digital voice repeaters came at the organization's winter board meeting on January 5th. You can see its new 2 meter and 70 centimeter bandplans on line at:

OVERVIEW OF SERA PLAN:
http://www.sera.org/D-Star%20Position%20Statement%20-%203.htm

SERA 144-148 MHz Frequency Utilization Plan: http://www.sera.org/2.html

SERA 420-450 MHz Frequency Utilization Plan: http://www.sera.org/440.html

(From SERA release)

**

REPEATER COORDINATION: UTAH VHFS ON DIGITAL REPEATER CHANNEL SPACING

Still with digital voice repeaters, word that the Utah VHF Society has produced what observers are calling a very useful article on channel spacing for D-Star digital relay devices. Titled "Analysis and recommendations of channel spacing for D-Star operations on the VHF and UHF amateur bands" the article addresses the issues of co-channel D-Star interference. It also covers adjacent channel interference issues between D-Star and existing analog FM systems.

The article is well worth the time to read. You will find it on line at www. utahvhfs.org/dstar_channel_spacing/html (From Utah VHFS release)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS RESPOND TO THE FLOODS IN HAWAII

Hams in Hawaii were quick to respond in early February when heavy rain caused flooding in many parts of the state. According to ARRL Pacific Section Manager Bob Schneider, AH6J, Skywarn and several nets were activated. Information came in from several areas including Hawaii County Civil Defense.

IRLP and Echolink were used in conjunction with VHF and HF radio to keep the information flowing. Harvey Motomura, AH6JA, also sent several test messages from Hawaii County C-D by Winlink. This, to prove that e-mail is still possible even if wire and cable connections are lost.

Even though hurricane season in Hawaii officially ended last November 30th, continued weather problems remind hams in the Island State that they are never completely out of danger. (From Hawaii SM Report)

**

RESCUE RADIO: GAREC-08 AT FREDRICHSHAFEN HAM SHOW

The fourth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference, GAREC-2008, will take place on June 26th and 27th. This, in conjunction with the 2008 Ham Radio convention in Friedrichshafen, Germany.

The event will be organized by the IARU Region 1 Emergency Coordinator, Seppo Sisatto, OH1VR with the team that already put together the previous conferences in Tampere, Finland, in 2005 and 2006. Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference 08 will focus on the cooperation among IARU member societies with specialized groups working on emergency communications in the Amateur Radio Service.

General information on subjects such as travel and accommodation is available at http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen....l/en/index.php and details of program. The URL for on-line registration will be announced on the IARU pages at http://www.iaru.org/emergency/ in a few weeks. (HB9AQS)

**

RESCUE RADIO: THE UN AND INDUSTRY COMBINE IN RESPONSE EMCOMMS

But hams are not the only ones looking at the future of first response emergency communications. A new United Nations program to train communications experts to respond faster in dangerous and hostile environments got a boost at the recent World Mobile Congress in Spain. This with word that the Vodafone Group Foundation has pledged $6.3 million for the effort. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has more:

--

According to the news release, training and deployment in time of crisis will be handled through Vodafone's technology partnership with the private United Nations Foundation. The U.N.'s World Food Program is designated as the lead communications agency in international crises. This, by nature of its longtime first-responder role.

By way of example of what these and other fly-away operations can do, when a suicide bomber struck a U.N. office in Algeria last December it not only killed 17 U.N. employees. The bomb also took out the agency communications infrastructure necessary for it to respond to the tragedy. Two communications experts were dispatched from Dubai with satellite telephones and a radio transmitting gear. They were up and running less than 24 hours after the attacks providing emergency communications support needed in the

aftermath of this terrorist attack.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

Obviously there is a lot of interest growing in split second emergency communications response, world wide. (Vodafone)

**

WORLDBEAT - RWANDA: EA5RM VS DJ9ZB OVER RWANDA

A big rift in D-X circles over a team of German operators beating out a Spanish operator to be the first to activate Rwanda. Antonio Gonzalez, EA5RM, who now also holds the call sign 9X0R says in a statement posted to his website that DJ6SI, DK2WV and DJ9ZB used political lines of communications that he developed to slip in and operate from that rare one before his DXpedition could arrive.

EA5RM claims that he was the one who traveled to Rwanda and secured permission for hams to once again take to the airwaves. He says that as a courtesy that he informed the German DX Foundation of his plans. He also requested that the Federation supply a member to his team

Gonzalez says that instead German DX'ers DJ6SI, DK2WV and DJ9ZB got their own Rwandan licenses and quickly mounted the 9-X-Zero operation that was on the air through February 21st. EA5RM says that because of this that he is returning the German DX Foundation funds donated to his upcoming 9X0R operation because he and his operators believe that the actions of its President, Franz Langner, DJ9ZB, are not the proper ones to promote amateur radio and DX. Gonzalez also asks everyone who took part in the German lead operation to and remember which kind of hams you were trying to contact.

No response to EA5RM's charges from DJ9ZB or his team They have been to busy running the pileups that they have been crating on the air from Rwanda. (EA5RM from various DX news sources)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club net serving Thousand Oaks, California

(5 sec pause here)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOW WINTER OLYMPICS IN 2010

The 2010 Winter Olympics is seeking amateur radio volunteers. This with the announcement that the Vancouver Olympics Committee has given Radio Amateurs of Canada details of their search for ham radio volunteers to

assist during the 2010 Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Winter Games.

Of the 25,000 volunteers required, Amateur Radio operators are especially needed to help in technical roles during the events, and perhaps earlier. Volunteers must have their own local accommodation in Greater Vancouver or Whistler areas.

The on-line volunteer application form at www dot vancouver2010 dot com includes space to list skills and experience. If the applicant wishes a communications or technical role, the or she should add a key phrase on their application form to make it easy for planners to identify them. And on the fifth application page, add the words "Amateur Radio Operator" in a box called "Additional Information."

Again, if you want to volunteer to provide communications support for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games and Paralympic Winter Games go to www dot vancouver2010 dot com and fill out the form. (Radio Amateurs of Canada)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC TELLS TEXAS HAM TO STAY OFF TWO REPEATERS

The FCC has told a Texas ham that he must obey the orders of repeater trustees who want him to keep off of their repeaters. In a January 29th Warning Notice to Travis L. Maltese, AD5CT, of Edna the FCC states that he trustees of the W5DSC and K5SOI repeaters have requested in writing that Maltese refrain from use of the repeaters.

The FCC say that the letters were issued as a result of Maltese alleged failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee/control operators of the repeater systems for their users. As such, the regulatory agency says that Maltese will be expected to abide by the requests to stay off the W5DSC and K5SOI systems and any other such requests by repeater licensees, control operators or trustees.

The FCC notice also warns Maltese that should he use these repeaters again after receipt of its letter, that the agency will initiate enforcement action against his license. This could include revocation, monetary forfeiture of his license or a modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies on which AD5CT may operate. Fines normally range from $7,500 to $10,000. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FLORIDA MAN TOLD TO STAY OFF HAM BANDS

And the FCC has warned a Florida non-amateur to stay off the ham bands. In its January 29th letter to Joseph Goldberg of Tavernier, the regulatory agency warns him that he could face a fine of up to $10,000 if he's again caught operating without a license. The FCC gave no other details but did add that this is the last warning that Goldberg will receive. (FCC)

**

RADIO LAW: COMCAST UNDER FCC SCRUTINY OVER INTERNET DELAYS
The FCC is looking into complaints that a telecommunications giant is tinkering with communications over the Internet. Jim Davis, W2JKD, is here with the details:
--
FCC Chairman Kevin Martin says that the FCC will investigate complaints that Comcast Corporation actively interferes with Internet traffic as its subscribers try to share files online. January 8th release says that a coalition of consumer groups and legal scholars asked the agency in November 2007 to stop Comcast from discriminating against certain types of data. The two groups also asked the FCC to fine the nation's No. 2 Internet provider $195,000 for every affected subscriber.
Comcast denies that it blocks file sharing, but acknowledged that it was "delaying" some of the traffic between computers that share files. The company said intervention was necessary to improve the surfing experience for the majority of its subscribers.
The FCC's policy statement makes an exception for "reasonable traffic management." Comcast has said its practices fall under that exception.
I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD.

--
The government will be looking to see if Comcasts actions fit the permitted exception. (FCC)

**

RADIO REGULATIONS: THE FCC CHANGES BANKS

U.S. Bank has replaced the Mellon Bank as the incoming lockbox for all FCC programs except auction related payments. A lockbox bank serves as the filing and processing agent for a corporation or government entity. Fees and payments along with associated identifying information, are sent directly to the lockbox account. The address of U.S. Bank is 1005 Convention Plaza; SL-MO-C2-GL; St. Louis, MO 63101. (RW)

**

RADIO BUSINESS: MOTOROLA MAY OPT OUT OF THE CELLPHONE BUSINESS

Motorola says that it is considering separating its loss-making mobile phone unit. The world's third-largest mobile phone maker has been losing market share to market leader Nokia Corp and Samsung Electronics. It now says that is looking at a structural and strategic realignment to help it recapture market share and enhance shareholder value. Options include spinning off or selling the phone division, which accounts for about half of revenue.

Motorola is best known for its commercial two-way land mobile radio equipment. The company recently completed a deal to acquire control of Vertex Standard Corporation which manufactures its own line of two-way land mobile equipment and Yaesu brand Amateur Radio gear. It also manufacturers television set-top box and network equipment.

As already noted, potential suitors for it mobile telephone division are believed to include rivals such as Samsung Electronics, which took the number two ales position from Motorola in 2007, or number five ranked LG Electronics.

Contrary to the rumors being circulated by uninformed Internet bloggers and web rumor mongers, any sale of Motorola's mobile phone business is not expected to in any way impact on the manufacture and sales of Yaesu brand ham radio gear. (Published reports, ARNewsline")

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: ARRL SECTION MANAGERS ELECTED

Some names in the news. The ARRL reports that in the only contested Section Manager race this winter, Steve Early, AD6VI, has been elected ARRL San Diego Section Manager. Early has been active in several Amateur Radio clubs and ARES, as well as providing public service support to agencies such as the American Red Cross and the Community Emergency Response Team.

Louisiana will also be getting a new Section Manager. Gary Stratton, K5GLS, of Shreveport, the Louisiana Section Emergency Coordinator for the last three years, will be taking the reins from Mickey Cox, K5MC. Cox, who has served as Section Manager for the past eight years, decided not to run for another term of office.

Carl Clements, W4CAC, of Portsmouth, Virginia, returns to the Virginia Section Manager's post. He had previously served in this position from May 2001 to March 2006. Glen Sage, W4GHS, the outgoing Virginia Section Manager, did not seek a new term of office.

All other incumbent ARRL Section Managers facing re-election faced no opposition and were declared winners. Ballots were counted at ARRL Headquarters on February 19th. All begin their new terms of office on April 1st. (ARRL)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: MT BEACON HAMFEST IN NY IN APRIL

Turning to the ham radio social scene, word that the 2008 Mt. Beacon Amateur Radio Club Hamfest takes place on Sunday April 1. The venue is Tymor Park in LaGrangeville, New York. More is on-line at www.wr2abb.org. (WA2BSS)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: IOTA DINNER IN CALIFORNIA IN APRIL

The 13th annual Islands On The Air or I-Oh-T-A Dinner will be held on Friday, April 25th, in the Birch Room of the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Visalia, California. This, in conjunction with the 58th annual Visalia International DX Convention. In addition to dinner, G3ZAY will present a talk on the Islands On The Air program and how it functions. For additional information regarding this event, please

contact: Jim Zimmerman N6KZ, by e-mail to: jimzim1 at mindspring dot com

(OPDX)

**

THE SOCIAL: SCENE: TAPR IN CHICAGO IN SEPTEMBER

The Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Corporation has announced that the 2008 joint Digital Communications Conference with the ARRL will take place September 26th to the 28th. This, at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, near O'Hare airport.

The conference is an international forum for radio amateurs to meet, publish their work and present new ideas and techniques. Presenters and attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental results and practical applications. Forums will feature the latest developments in Amateur Radio digital communications, as well as demonstrations of emerging digital technology.

More information is available on line at www.tapr.org/dcc.html (TAPR)

**

RADIO ENTERTAINMENT: THE BANK JOB AND HAM RADIO

And a new British movie titled The Bank Job features Amateur Radio. Due for release before months end, the film is a fictionalization of a daring, unsolved robbery, which took place in London more than 35 years ago. In the film, handhelds used by the criminals are intercepted by a ham radio operator who becomes involved in the attempt to catch them. An official website at www.bankjobmovie.co.uk gives 5 movie clips to view. But be aware. This film does carry an R rating. (Southgate)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: ROD DINKINS, AC6V, S.K.

Some truly sad news out of California's Palomar Amateur Radio Club. Word that Rod Dinkins, AC6V, the man behind the famed www dot ac6v dot com ham radio information website, has become a silent key.

Called the Google of ham radio by some, www dot ac6v dot com quickly became the place to go for information on anything amateur radio related. Its 132

pages contain 700 topics and 6000 links. If its not found on or linked to www dot ac6v dot com its safe to say it does not exist in ham radios world. Rod was also the author of a number of ham radio related books including the Amateur Radio DX Reference Guide and DX 101 for HF and 6 Meters. .

Rod Dinkins started in radio in the late 1940's as an SWL, AM, and ham band listener with a Knight Kit Ocean Hopper receiver but it was not until 1977 that he became a radio amateur with the call WA6WTO. But his career was all radio and electronics. He spent four years in the US Navy during the Korean War as an Aviation Electronics Technician. Re entering civilian life, Dinkins spent four years at Convair in Pomona, California as an instructor of electronics and guided missiles. This was followed by 2 years as a vocational electronics teacher at a Junior college level in Walnut California and over 30 years as an Electronics Technical Writer within the aerospace industry.

Rod Dinkins, AC6V, passed away on Saturday, February 16th at the Tri-City Hospital in the city of Oceanside. He is survived by his wife Karla. At airtime funeral arrangements were pending. (W6VR, others)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE SOUTH AFRICA'S SUMBANDILA SAT DELAYED

South Africa's Sumbandila Sat launch has been delayed indefinitely. The satellite, which includes an amateur radio payload, was to have been launched from a Russian submarine last year but arrangements went sour when the two defense authorities could not agree on a reciprocal satellite arrangement.

Word is that the South African Ministry of Foreign Affairs was recently in Russia this week as part of a technical and scientific cooperation mission. Its likely that an alternative launch was to have been discussed. Meantime there is no official comment on what may have transpired and Sumbandila Sat is still sitting in the clean room at the nations Sunspace launch assembly facility. (SA AMSAT)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: HOUSTON SATELLIE NET CHANGES BIRDS

The Houston AMSAT Net has moved to the K-band the SkyScanner Satellite Radio Network on the Galaxy-25 geostationary satellite. The net was formerly retransmitted on the SBS-6 bird over the W0KIE Satellite Radio Network. No reasons was given for the change which took place on February 5th. (ANS)

**

WORLDBEAT - EUROPE: CZECH HAMS TO GET 4 METER BAND

The Czech Telecommunication Office has announced that nations radio amateurs will soon have access to the 4 meter band. The

telecommunications regulator plans to issue up to 20 special permits for 70.2 to 70.3 MHz with 10 Watts ERP. This is a band unique to parts of Europe but not available to radio amateurs in I-T-U Region 2. The Czech permits will be valid until 31 Dec 2008. (Southgate)

**

RADIOSPORTS: CQ UPDATES THE WPX AWARD PROGRAM

CQ magazine and W-P-X Awards Manager Steve Bolia, N8BJQ, have announced several changes to that program. Under the new rules, contacts on all bands between 160 and 6 meters will count for W-P-X award credit. In addition, new band endorsements will now be available for 5 MHz, 10 MHz, 18 MHz, 24 MHz and 50 MHz contacts.

And a separate digital W-P-X award has also been added. It covers contacts made on RTTY, PSK and other keyboard modes. 300 confirmed prefixes required for the basic level of the award. digital-mode contacts will also count toward the existing Mixed award, as will those prefixes worked on the newly added bands.

The changes are effective immediately. Details on these and other changes will be published in the March issue of CQ magazine. They are also posted along with the March issue highlights at www.cq-amateur-radio.com. (CQ)

**

DX

In D-X, the 3Y0E Bouvet Island Dxpedition went QRT at 19:15 U-T-C on February 9th. Any contacts made with any station claiming to be 3&0E after that time and date will be considered as fakes. All log issues will be double checked and all operators concerned will be informed of their log status at that time

G3SWH and G3RTE will be active from Georgetown, Guyana, through February 29th. The callsign is 8R1PW. As there have been two operations from Guyana in 2007 which used mainly SSB, their activity is CW only on 160 to 10 meters. WSL via the bureau.

And word that SM4XDJ is active as S21XJ from Dhaka, Bangladesh for a few weeks. He's reportedly operating SSB and digitalmodes during his evening hours and the weekends. QSL via SM4XIH.

And G3TBK will once again be active from Saint Vincent signing J88DR for the March 1st and 2nd ARRL DX Phone Contest and the following week. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and SSTV. QSL via G3TBK, direct or by the RSGB Bureau.

Look for 11 Lithuanian special event stations to be active with the prefix LY90 from February 16th through March 16th.. This, to celebrate the 90th anniversary of independence in the Lithuanian Republic. QSL as directed on the air.

Lastly, keep an ear open for G3RWF who is active from Uganda as 5X1NH through March 22nd. His operation will be limited because he is on holiday but he expects to operate all bands except 160m and 6 meters. Modes will be CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK at 100 watts to wire antennas. QSL to G3RWF.

From various DX news sources

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: NASA SENDS "ACROSS THE UNIVERSE" ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

And finally, using a highly directional antenna NASA has transmitted The Beatles' song "Across the Universe" toward the North Star. The transmission originated from the NASA Deep Space Network of antenna array. It marked the 40th anniversary of the song along with the 45th anniversary of the Deep Space Network and the 50th anniversary of NASA itself.

The transmission is aimed at Polaris in the constellation Ursa Major some 431 light years away. The song is currently traveling toward it at a peed of 186,324 miles per second. The target audience, assuming something is one out there, won't hear the broadcast until the year 2439.

According to a NASA press release the Beatles Paul McCartney responded to the planned broadcast by asking NASA to end his love to the aliens. Yoko Ono, the widow of Beatle John Lennon, was a pit more introspective. She said that she sees this as the beginning of the new age in which we will communicate with billions of planets across the universe.

Meantime we have been sitting around the Newsline office trying to think of some other songs that NASA might want to beam into space. Two came immediately to mind. First is Metaphor from the off-Broadway show The Fantasticks. The other is a bit more obvious but shows our age. "I Told Every Liittle Star" by songsters Linda Scott recorded back in 1961. (RW)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline". Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's" only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline", P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go we want to remind you that the nominating period for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year is now open. Any licensed radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in the United States or Canada is eligible for the award. Full details and both downloadable and on-line nominating forms are in cyberspace at www.YHOTY.org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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44. 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-24 14:01:25 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <6072df4e-f6b7-4374-82ef-5eed5ee45e53@p25g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3265

These are the number of current,
unexpired FCC-issued amateur
radio licenses held by individuals
on the stated dates, and the
percentage of the total number
of active licenses that class contains.

Percentages may not add up to exactly
100.0% due to rounding.

These totals do not include licenses
that have expired but are in the grace
period, nor do they include club, military
and other station-only licenses.

Effective April 15, 2000, FCC no longer issued
new Novice, Technician Plus and Advanced
class licenses, so the numbers of those license
classes have declined steadily since then.

Also since April 15, 2000, FCC has renewed all
existing Technician Plus licenses as Technician.
It is therefore informative to consider the totals of
the two classes, since the Technician class
includes a significant number of Technician Plus
licenses renewed as Technician.

Due the renewing of Technician Pluses as Technicians, the number of
Novices now exceeds the number of Technician Pluses.

On February 23, 2007, the last Morse Code
test element, the 5 wpm receiving test, was
eliminated as a requirement.

The ARS License Numbers:

As of May 14, 2000:

Novice- 49,329 (7.3%)
Technician - 205,394 (30.4%)
Technician Plus - 128,860 (19.1%)
General - 112,677 (16.7%)
Advanced - 99,782 (14.8%)
Extra - 78,750 (11.7%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 334,254 (49.5%)

Total all classes - 674,792

As of February 22, 2007:

Novice - 22,896 (3.5%)
Technician - 293,508 (44.8%)
Technician Plus - 30,818 (4.7%)
General - 130,138 (19.9%)
Advanced - 69,050 (10.5%)
Extra - 108,270 (16.5%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 324,326 (49.5%)

Total all classes - 654,680

As of February 23, 2008:

Novice - 20,119 (3.1%)
Technician - 297,709 (45.3%)
Technician Plus - 18,973 (2.9%)
General - 142,812 (21.7%)
Advanced - 64,883 (9.9%)
Extra - 112,411 (17.1%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 316,682 (48.2%)

Total all classes - 656,857

Changes:

>From May 14, 2000, to February 22, 2007:

Novice - decrease of 26,433
Technician - increase of 88,114
Technician Plus - decrease of 98,042
General - increase of 17,461
Advanced - decrease of 30,732
Extra - increase of 29,520

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 9,928

Total all classes - decrease of 20,112

>From May 14, 2000, to February 23, 2008:

Novice - decrease of 29,210
Technician - increase of 92,315
Technician Plus - decrease of 109,887
General - increase of 30,135
Advanced - decrease of 34,949
Extra - increase of 33,661

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 17,572

Total all classes - decrease of 17,935

>From February 22, 2007, to February 23, 2008:

Novice - decrease of 2,777
Technician - increase of 4,201
Technician Plus - decrease of 11,845
General - increase of 12,674
Advanced - decrease of 4,217
Extra - increase of 4,141

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 7,644

Total all classes - increase of 2,177

73 de Jim, N2EY

45. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-24 22:35:16 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <c6Kdneey05eTbFzanZ2dnUVZ_g6dnZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 3266

<N2EY@aol.com> wrote in message
news:6072df4e-f6b7-4374-82ef-5eed5ee45e53@p25g2000hsf.googlegroups.com...

[snip]
> As of February 22, 2007:
> Total all classes - 654,680
>
> As of February 23, 2008:
> Total all classes - 656,857

Therefore the change from Feb 22, 2007 to Feb 23, 2008 was 0.33% increase.

Here are the guesses that were on the list.
N8UZE: 1% less to 1% more --> Average = 0% change <--- "winner"
of guessing game
N2EY: 1% more to 2% more --> Average = 1.5% growth <--- "3rd
place" in guessing game
KH6HZ: 1% less to 0% change --> Average = 0.5% decline <--- "2nd
place" in guessing game
N3KIP: 2% more to 6% more --> Average = 4.0% growth
KH6O: 6% more to 10% more --> Average = 8.0% growth
KK6J: 12% more to 14% more --> Average = 13.0% growth
KC2HMZ: 5% more --> Average = 5% growth
K8BSG: 2% to 3% more --> Average = 2.5% growth

Perhaps the next year will bring more growth or perhaps it won't.

Dee, N8UZE

46. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-25 00:07:45 UTC
From: Alan WA4SCA <ALANBIDDLE70@YAHOO.COM>
Message-ID: <i2t3s3dh70mmutmcf68ru374l1n08rbdql@4ax.com>
Source record: 3267

So perhaps the code issue wasn't all that important, anyway.

--
Alan
WA4SCA

47. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-25 05:09:28 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net>
Message-ID: <Xns9A4ECAE02E39Bmcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136>
Source record: 3268

"Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote in
news:c6Kdneey05eTbFzanZ2dnUVZ_g6dnZ2d@comcast.com:

>
> <N2EY@aol.com> wrote in message
> news:6072df4e-f6b7-4374-82ef-5eed5ee45e53@p25g2000hsf.googlegroups.com.
> ..
>
> [snip]
>> As of February 22, 2007:
>> Total all classes - 654,680
>>
>> As of February 23, 2008:
>> Total all classes - 656,857
>
>
> Therefore the change from Feb 22, 2007 to Feb 23, 2008 was 0.33%
> increase.
>
> Here are the guesses that were on the list.
> N8UZE: 1% less to 1% more --> Average = 0% change <---
> "winner" of guessing game
> N2EY: 1% more to 2% more --> Average = 1.5% growth <--- "3rd
> place" in guessing game
> KH6HZ: 1% less to 0% change --> Average = 0.5% decline <---
> "2nd place" in guessing game
> N3KIP: 2% more to 6% more --> Average = 4.0% growth
> KH6O: 6% more to 10% more --> Average = 8.0% growth
> KK6J: 12% more to 14% more --> Average = 13.0% growth
> KC2HMZ: 5% more --> Average = 5% growth
> K8BSG: 2% to 3% more --> Average = 2.5% growth

What I think is important is that new Hams are coming on board to
replace those that were lost after the big drop-off happened. That drop
is very likely to have been caused by the so called "honeydo" Hams who
became inactive with the ascendency of cell phones.

It will take a lot of new Hams testing to replace that dropoff. It looks
like we are doing it, slow and steady. Just as it should be.

The focus of of this poll is to judge the impact of the elimination
of element 1 on the numbers of Hams. Is it possible that given the other
issue of drop offs, that it is very difficult to draw a reliable
conclusion from it?

> Perhaps the next year will bring more growth or perhaps it won't.

Hard to disagree with that! 8^)

- 73 d eMike N3LI -

48. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-25 05:09:58 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net>
Message-ID: <Xns9A4ECC6D640E9mcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136>
Source record: 3269

Alan WA4SCA <ALANBIDDLE70@YAHOO.COM> wrote in
news:i2t3s3dh70mmutmcf68ru374l1n08rbdql@4ax.com:

> So perhaps the code issue wasn't all that important, anyway.

Hi Alan

It is so hard to determine. It is possible that no one cared, or that it just takes time for news to get out - Hams are not a noisy publicity seeking bunch.

Or it could be that New hams are coming along nicely. We are testing and granting licenses at a pretty good clip. I don't have the numbers handy, Anyone out there have them? We did have that big drop off of Hams who have since moved on to cell phones - those who used the first non element 1 tested group to use repeaters for local family comms, which is probably continuing, and it will take several years and a lot of new hams just to tread water.

I think we won't really know until around 7 to 10 years have passed.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

49. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-25 14:21:49 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <d0d8c24d-05cb-48e0-8622-122f907764f7@c33g2000hsd.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3270

On Feb 25, 12:09 am, Mike Coslo <mco...@youknow.comcast.net> wrote:
>
> We are testing and
> granting licenses at a pretty good clip. I don't have the numbers handy,
> Anyone out there have them?

Easy - just go to

http://www.hamdata.com/fccinfo.html

For example, in the last 365 days FCC has licensed 27,211 new
amateurs.

> I think we won't really know until around 7 to 10 years have passed.

Complicated by the fact that the rules are rarely left alone for
anywhere near that long.

Consider the past 25 years or so:

~1983: VE system created; question pools become public, license terms
doubled to 10 years
1987: Old General/Tech Element 3 split into 3A and 3B, making it
easier to get a Tech
~1990: Morse Code test waivers make any class license available with 5
wpm and a doctor's note.
1991: Technician loses its code test.
~1994:Vanity call program
2000: Restructuring reduces number of available-to-new-issue license
classes from 6 to 3 and reduces both code and written testing for all
classes
2006: HF 'phone bands widened, particularly 75 meters.
2007: Morse Code test eliminated.

On top of all that is the "anticipation effect". It takes FCC a long
time to make up its mind, and that delay can have effects of its own.
(If you were thinking of buying something and heard there would be a
big sale next month, wouldn't you tend to put off the sale until
then? Or if you heard the price was going to rise significantly,
wouldn't you tend to buy right now?) The treaty requirement for Morse
Code testing changed in July 2003 but it took FCC more than 3-1/2
years to get around to changing the rules. Could it be that there were
some folks waiting for the change to take place?

73 de Jim, N2EY

50. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-25 15:54:09 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fpumra$1a2e$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3271

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Feb 25, 12:09 am, Mike Coslo <mco...@youknow.comcast.net> wrote:
>> We are testing and
>> granting licenses at a pretty good clip. I don't have the numbers handy,
>> Anyone out there have them?
>
> Easy - just go to
>
> http://www.hamdata.com/fccinfo.html
>
> For example, in the last 365 days FCC has licensed 27,211 new
> amateurs.

And that isn't too bad. It also illustrates the extent of the falloff that those 27K only makes for a small increase in the total. Just something we have to live with for a few years.

>> I think we won't really know until around 7 to 10 years have passed.
>
> Complicated by the fact that the rules are rarely left alone for
> anywhere near that long.
>
> Consider the past 25 years or so:
>
> ~1983: VE system created; question pools become public, license terms
> doubled to 10 years

That 10 year thing is the direct precursor to the present dropoff. Of course it just delayed the start by 5 years 8^)

>
> On top of all that is the "anticipation effect". ....
> .... Could it be that there were
> some folks waiting for the change to take place?

Absolutely! I know several myself, and as a VE, I expect to hear from more in the future. I had hoped that once the requirement was dropped, that they would not have waited so long to implement it.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

51. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-25 18:38:19 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-8843A7.11585025022008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3272

Alan WA4SCA <ALANBIDDLE70@YAHOO.COM> wrote:

> So perhaps the code issue wasn't all that important, anyway.

Perhaps it is just ONE factor among many. Other factors may include:

* the almost complete lack of any reporting of this change to the world outside ham radio. I would like to see a poll that asks people what they know about this. My guess is that if you take one step outside of ham radio circles, you will find that no one knows anything about it.

* the aging (and death) of the ham population. The ten year license term means that, on average, it will be five years before a dead ham is dropped from the rolls, assuming that his heirs do not notify the FCC.

* We have no way of knowing whether a licensed ham is active, so there again, it will take years for inactive hams to be dropped from the license database, assuming that they take no action to renew their licenses.

In sum, I believe that the small change in licensing numbers does not rise to the level of statistical significance. Given the magnitude of the unknowable quantities described above, we probably cannot tell whether the population of live, active hams has grown or shrunken. Is there a statistician in the house? I would like to see an estimate of the margin of uncertainty of those numbers (plus or minus x percent), given the various unknown factors.

--
Klystron

52. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-25 20:15:21 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <13s68ed3mn0eob6@news.supernews.com>
Source record: 3273

Klystron wrote:

> In sum, I believe that the small change in licensing numbers does not
> rise to the level of statistical significance. Given the magnitude of
> the unknowable quantities described above, we probably cannot tell
> whether the population of live, active hams has grown or shrunken. Is
> there a statistician in the house? I would like to see an estimate of
> the margin of uncertainty of those numbers (plus or minus x percent),
> given the various unknown factors.

I don't claim to be a statistician but it is an easy bet that there are sufficient variables to place the current result within the error of the measurement technique. This is especially true when you add that magic word "active" to your requirement.

The most reliable statistic is the number of new hams being licensed. Even for those, it's not possible to say if they're "active" (no matter what your definition might be for that term). But if 27,000 people invested the effort to obtain a license during the last year, at least we know that about 1 in 10,000 people cared enough to study for and pass the exam.

73, Steve KB9X

53. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-26 03:19:59 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <t4ydna0HuavdGF7anZ2dnUVZ_hisnZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 3274

"Klystron" <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote in message
news:xxx-8843A7.11585025022008@news.verizon.net...
> Alan WA4SCA <ALANBIDDLE70@YAHOO.COM> wrote:
> [snip]
> * the almost complete lack of any reporting of this change to the world
> outside ham radio. I would like to see a poll that asks people what they
> know about this. My guess is that if you take one step outside of ham
> radio circles, you will find that no one knows anything about it.
>

Since most of the "outside world" doesn't and didn't have a clue about the requirements to get a ham license, publicizing the elimination of the Morse code testing would have had little to no impact. The only way it might have helped was in letting people know that ham radio exists.

> * the aging (and death) of the ham population. The ten year license
> term means that, on average, it will be five years before a dead ham is
> dropped from the rolls, assuming that his heirs do not notify the FCC.
>

Try more like 6 years since there is a two year grace period after the expiration date that also needs to be factored in.

Dee, N8UZE

54. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-26 13:01:50 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <c319d7cd-39c9-4c41-9a7e-00b91a041d55@c33g2000hsd.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3275

On Feb 25, 10:19 pm, "Dee Flint" <deeflin...@comcast.net> wrote:
> "Klystron" <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote in message
> news:xxx-8843A7.11585025022008@news.verizon.net...

> > The ten year license
> > term means that, on average, it will be
> > five years before a dead ham is
> > dropped from the rolls, assuming that his heirs do not notify the > > FC
C.

That assumes an even distribution of expiration dates. That's not
necessarily a valid assumption, because events like changes in the
vanity call rules have resulted in a lot of expiration dates being
clustered in certain years, leaving other years rather lean.
>
> Try more like 6 years since there is a two year grace period
> after the
> expiration date that also needs to be factored in.

That depends on which numbers are used. The numbers posted at the
beginning of this thread include only current, unexpired licenses, not
those in the grace period. So the 5 year number is
correct if we assume an even distribution of license expirations by
year. The numbers on hamdata.com do include licenses that are
expired-but-in-the-grace-period.

btw, in Part 97 FCC uses the term "expire" to mean
the end of the 10 year license term, not the 2 year grace period.

73 de Jim, N2EY

55. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-26 13:03:53 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-C45EB5.07421026022008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3276

"Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote:
> "Klystron" <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> > [snip]
> > * the almost complete lack of any reporting of this change to the world
> > outside ham radio. I would like to see a poll that asks people what they
> > know about this. My guess is that if you take one step outside of ham
> > radio circles, you will find that no one knows anything about it.

> Since most of the "outside world" doesn't and didn't have a clue about the
> requirements to get a ham license, publicizing the elimination of the Morse
> code testing would have had little to no impact. The only way it might have
> helped was in letting people know that ham radio exists.

I think that most people who are technically inclined to any
reasonable degree have had some awareness of ham radio, at some point in
their lives. Most were deterred from becoming involved in it by the need
to jump through the hoop of learning a useless and obsolete "skill"
(yes, I know, you probably don't see it as such) that they found
repellent. Now that that hoop has been eliminated, the reason that they
never became hams has been eliminated. Once that word gets around, I
believe that many technophiles will slowly gravitate to ham radio (as I
did).

> > * the aging (and death) of the ham population. The ten year license
> > term means that, on average, it will be five years before a dead ham is
> > dropped from the rolls, assuming that his heirs do not notify the FCC.

> Try more like 6 years since there is a two year grace period after the
> expiration date that also needs to be factored in.

Actually, that would bring it up to 7 years (5 year "expected value"
on the random variable of 'term of license remaining at time of death'
plus 2 years of grace).

--
Klystron (a RECENT no-code Extra and GROL w/ Radar)

56. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-26 15:38:59 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <b8f8ccce-d5c7-465b-ab46-d4514feee349@62g2000hsn.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3277

On Feb 26, 8:03 am, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> "Dee Flint" <deeflin...@comcast.net> wrote:
> > "Klystron" <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> I think that most people who are technically inclined to any
> reasonable degree have had some awareness of ham radio, at some point in
> their lives.

Agreed. But new hams don't just come from the "technically inclined".
In fact,
in many cases what first interested someone in technology was ham
radio.

There's also the issue of "old/inaccurate information". I have come
across people who
were knowledgeable about ham radio 30-40 years ago, but thought it had
died out in
the 1970s or so. Or who thought that the equipment had to be large,
expensive and
power-consuming. Others thought ham radio and cb were the same thing,
or that cb had
replaced ham radio (!)

> Most were deterred from becoming involved in it by the need
> to jump through the hoop of learning a useless and obsolete "skill"
> (yes, I know, you probably don't see it as such) that they found
> repellent.

Whatever your view of the *test*, Morse Code is still in wide use in
amateur radio.
Therefore, by definition, skill in its use is neither useless nor
obsolete for hams.

> Now that that hoop has been eliminated, the reason that they
> never became hams has been eliminated. Once that word gets around, I
> believe that many technophiles will slowly gravitate to ham radio (as I
> did).

Of course more new hams would be a Good Thing. However, the relatively
slow
growth of the past year, while welcome, means that either there aren't
so many
people out there who were repelled by the test, or that they haven't
yet found
out it's gone. Or both.

I will continue to post these numbers in an effort to document what's
happening.

> > Try more like 6 years since there is a two year grace period after the
> > expiration date that also needs to be factored in.

> Actually, that would bring it up to 7 years (5 year "expected value
"
> on the random variable of 'term of license remaining at time of death'
> plus 2 years of grace).

No, 6 years is the right number if the grace period is being
considered. Here's why:

If the license term is 10 years and the grace period is 2 years and
the likelihood of
a ham dying is the same for any given year, then the median value is
halfway through
that combined 12 year period. Which is 6 years.

IOW, all else being equal, half of the hams who die in the 12 year
license-term-plus-grace-period
interval will do so in the first 6 years, and half will do so in the
second 6 years.

If the grace period is not considered, the median value happens at 5
years.

73 de Jim, N2EY

57. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-26 18:37:22 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-D3B4B9.13241726022008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3278

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
[...]
> Whatever your view of the *test*, Morse Code is still in wide use in
> amateur radio.
> Therefore, by definition, skill in its use is neither useless nor
> obsolete for hams.

Of course, that sort of tautology would still hold if there were an
FCC regulation that all ham radio conversation must take place in Latin
and all new hams must pass a test in Latin.

[...]
> No, 6 years is the right number if the grace period is being
> considered. Here's why:
>
> If the license term is 10 years and the grace period is 2 years and
> the likelihood of
> a ham dying is the same for any given year, then the median value is
> halfway through
> that combined 12 year period. Which is 6 years.
>
> IOW, all else being equal, half of the hams who die in the 12 year
> license-term-plus-grace-period
> interval will do so in the first 6 years, and half will do so in the
> second 6 years.
>
> If the grace period is not considered, the median value happens at 5
> years.

I disagree. All hams will get the full 2 year grace period AFTER they
die (assuming that the FCC is not told of their deaths). It is a
constant, not a variable. 'Term of license remaining at time of death'
is the only variable. It has an expected value of 5 years. The full
grace period is added to that by default.
Put another way, my assumption is that all hams will renew their
licenses for as long as they live. Even if they die the day before the
end of their final term, they will still get the full 2 year grace. For
your model to hold, they would have to allow their final term of license
to expire and then live on into the grace period.

--
Klystron

58. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-26 19:20:40 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <62j4rjF23pi9cU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 3279

"Klystron" <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote in message
news:xxx-D3B4B9.13241726022008@news.verizon.net
: : N2EY@aol.com wrote:
: : [...]
: : : Whatever your view of the *test*, Morse Code is still
: : : in wide use in amateur radio.
: : : Therefore, by definition, skill in its use is neither
: : : useless nor obsolete for hams.
: :
: : Of course, that sort of tautology would still hold if
: : there were an FCC regulation that all ham radio
: : conversation must take place in Latin and all new hams
: : must pass a test in Latin.

It holds anyway. Nobody is saying you *must* use Morse, but that doesn't mean an appreciation of it is not of use.

Personally, I appreciate *all* modes of amateur radio, even though I don't use most of them. Conversely, I would expect anyone who doesn't use the modes that I use to appreciate that *I* like to use them.

73 Ivor G6URP

59. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-26 19:21:54 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <ad1a8cbd-37d2-41d9-8f40-272b4ad03a58@62g2000hsn.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3280

On Feb 26, 1:37 pm, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:

> > Whatever your view of the *test*, Morse Code is still in wide use in
> > amateur radio.
> > Therefore, by definition, skill in its use is neither useless nor
> > obsolete for hams.
>
> Of course, that sort of tautology would still hold if there were an

> FCC regulation that all ham radio conversation must take place in Latin
> and all new hams must pass a test in Latin.

That doesn't follow.

There isn't a regulation that radio amateurs must use Morse Code on
the air. Yet they do - by choice.
So having the skills to use it is neither useless nor obsolete.

> > No, 6 years is the right number if the grace period is being
> > considered. Here's why:
>
> > If the license term is 10 years and the grace period is 2 years and
> > the likelihood of
> > a ham dying is the same for any given year, then the median value is
> > halfway through
> > that combined 12 year period. Which is 6 years.
>
> > IOW, all else being equal, half of the hams who die in the 12 year
> > license-term-plus-grace-period
> > interval will do so in the first 6 years, and half will do so in the
> > second 6 years.
>
> > If the grace period is not considered, the median value happens at 5
> > years.
>
> I disagree. All hams will get the full 2 year grace period AFTER they
> die (assuming that the FCC is not told of their deaths). It is a
> constant, not a variable. 'Term of license remaining at time of death'
> is the only variable. It has an expected value of 5 years. The full
> grace period is added to that by default.

There's a mistake in your reasoning, I think.

> Put another way, my assumption is that all hams will renew their
> licenses for as long as they live.

That's not valid assumption, though. The renewal window is 90 days
before expiration but two years after expiration. A considerable
number of hams renew in the grace period. How many? I do not know

> Even if they die the day before the
> end of their final term, they will still get the full 2 year grace.

Of course. But at the same time, they could renew on the last day of
the grace period, too.

> For
> your model to hold, they would have to allow their final term of license
> to expire and then live on into the grace period.

Which does happen. Some hams just forget, others need time to figure
out the new regs, etc. 90 days isn't that long of a time.

And some just lose interest, for a variety of reasons besides death.
This isn't a new thing - read some ham's bios, and more than a few
talk about how work, family, and other things crowded out ham radio
for them at some point, they sold their equipment and let their
license expire, and then came back years later. From the standpoint of
license numbers, it doesn't matter if a ham dies or just lets the
license expire, the same effect happens.

Actually, we need not consider the grace period at all, because we
have sources of numbers for the current, nonexpired numbers of
licenses.

73 de Jim, N2EY

60. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-26 19:52:59 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fq1pe6$fi4$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3281

Klystron wrote:
> Alan WA4SCA <ALANBIDDLE70@YAHOO.COM> wrote:
>
>> So perhaps the code issue wasn't all that important, anyway.
>
>
> Perhaps it is just ONE factor among many. Other factors may include:
>
>
> * the almost complete lack of any reporting of this change to the world
> outside ham radio. I would like to see a poll that asks people what they
> know about this. My guess is that if you take one step outside of ham
> radio circles, you will find that no one knows anything about it.

It would be interesting for sure. Ham Radio is one of those niche activities that isn't geared toward the average person. And that really isn't all that bad a thing. Some people pick hobbies because a lot of other people are doing the same thing, Others pick ones like amateur astronomy or Ham radio because its what they enjoy.

At any rate, its all good, I think.

> * the aging (and death) of the ham population. The ten year license
> term means that, on average, it will be five years before a dead ham is
> dropped from the rolls, assuming that his heirs do not notify the FCC.

Isn't it great that Ham radio can be still pursued by older folks? I know that that is a bit of a non sequitar, but the thought just crossed my mind. 8^)

> In sum, I believe that the small change in licensing numbers does not
> rise to the level of statistical significance.

In an overall sense, it is a little hard to come to a definitive idea of how many are active, and most analysis only gives us rough trends.

I am pleased that the FCC is issuing a goodly number of new licenses, and that at least the big dropoff is at least negated for the present. I personally am happy with only a small increase in numbers.

> Given the magnitude of
> the unknowable quantities described above, we probably cannot tell
> whether the population of live, active hams has grown or shrunken. Is
> there a statistician in the house? I would like to see an estimate of
> the margin of uncertainty of those numbers (plus or minus x percent),
> given the various unknown factors.

I think that production of stats on active Hams is very difficult,
certainly it can't be gleaned from totals.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

61. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-27 01:01:10 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <xfydnZ6rbd2nLlnanZ2dnUVZ_veinZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 3282

"Klystron" <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote in message
news:xxx-C45EB5.07421026022008@news.verizon.net...
> "Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote:
>> "Klystron" <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

[snip]

>
> I think that most people who are technically inclined to any
> reasonable degree have had some awareness of ham radio, at some point in
> their lives. Most were deterred from becoming involved in it by the need
> to jump through the hoop of learning a useless and obsolete "skill"
> (yes, I know, you probably don't see it as such) that they found
> repellent. Now that that hoop has been eliminated, the reason that they
> never became hams has been eliminated. Once that word gets around, I
> believe that many technophiles will slowly gravitate to ham radio (as I
> did).
>

That would only be true if they knew what the requirements are. Very few
were aware that Morse code was required. No one is deterred by a
requirement that they don't even know exists.

Dee, N8UZE

62. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-27 13:31:06 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <23bf6de2-e8c2-4c32-a03f-a32e2bfa6884@p73g2000hsd.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3283

Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote on Tue, 26 Feb 2008 14:52:59 EST:

>Klystron wrote:
>> Alan WA4SCA <ALANBIDDL...@YAHOO.COM> wrote:

>> * the aging (and death) of the ham population. The ten year license
>> term means that, on average, it will be five years before a dead ham is
>> dropped from the rolls, assuming that his heirs do not notify the FCC.
>
> Isn't it great that Ham radio can be still pursued by older folks? I
>know that that is a bit of a non sequitar, but the thought just crossed
>my mind. 8^)

Please define 'older folks.' That remark seems to me to be verging
too close to that of a confrontational remark. :-(

The practice of operating a radio has never been any sort of test
of athletic ability or that of stamina or physical strength only
possible by those in the 20s and 30s age groups.

The 25th of February 2008 was the first anniversary of my passing
my first amateur radio license test. That day was close to the
51st anniversary of my passing my first commercial radiotelephone
operator's test at age 23. I was 74 on 25 Feb 07 and it was no
more difficult nor easier a year ago than it was to pass a
similar FCC test 52 years ago.

Since I've kept daily statistics pages from both www.arrl.org and
www.hamdata.org, here's some items of information of the past year
(25 February, 2007 to 2008) from Hamdata that isn't reported on
the ARRL license stats page:

No Longer Licensed [Expired] : 26,127
NEW : 27,211 (positive offset by 1,084)

Class Changes : 32,021

License numbers, total of ALL amateur radio licenses -
2 July 2003 : 737,938
25 Feb 2008 : 722,588 (deficit of 15,350)

About the only thing one can infer from those is that there IS
a small increase in newcomers versus expirees...but the total
of all licenses is still short of what it was about 4 1/2
years ago. At the present rate of license totals increase,
that deficit will not be offset for another 15 to 16 years.

The number of existing-license class changes has been larger
for this past year than previous one-year periods. That seems
to be the major outfall of the latest change in regulations for
amateur radio licenses.

>> In sum, I believe that the small change in licensing numbers does not
>> rise to the level of statistical significance.
>
>In an overall sense, it is a little hard to come to a definitive idea of
>how many are active, and most analysis only gives us rough trends.

The word ACTIVE has two meanings as used in this thread. The
'active' amateur radio licensees in the FCC use of the word
refers to the license itself; i.e., whether it is valid for
legal operation of a transmitter as required by a particular
radio service. The word 'active' as many use it elsewhere
refers to whether or not one USES a license for the purpose of
transmitting (as required by law). There are no definitive
statistics on USE insofar as an amateur radio license that
I've seen.

>I think that production of stats on active Hams is very difficult,
>certainly it can't be gleaned from totals.

I disagree. One of the major uses of the first major computer
systems was searching, sorting, and compiling totals of some
programmed-in sorted-for subject. That was a selling point for
the old IBM punched-card tabulator in electro-mechanical IT
operations of the 1940s. Today it is greatly aided by the mass
memories of 250 GB to 2 TB hard drives...which anyone can buy
for reasonable cost off-the-shelf at places like Fry's
Electronics. Sorting and searching programming methods have
been well-known to IT programmers for half a century.

The FCC daily and weekly database files are all available to
anyone with high-speed access capabilities. Each is so large
in size that using a dial-up connection would require about
a half day to download. ALL statistical website providers use
the SAME database so none is more 'official' than others.
What the statistics providers DO with their data is up to them.

There isn't any sampling or 'plus or minus percentage' in
regard to the FCC license class information in its database
files. It isn't a result of polling of any kind. It is data
direct from the only agency that grants amateur radio
licenses in the USA. Totals are what they are.

73, Len AF6AY

63. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-27 13:32:13 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <a37d1b17-4e3e-4391-a7a3-23977b3a817b@p43g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3284

On Feb 26, 2:52 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
> Klystron wrote:
> > Alan WA4SCA <ALANBIDDL...@YAHOO.COM> wrote:
> Ham Radio is one of those niche
> activities that isn't geared toward the average person.
> And that really isn't all that bad a thing.

"Radio for its own sake" (which is what amateur radio is really all
about) has never been a mainstream sort of thing. Just look at
the number of licensed US hams compared to the US population
at any time since licensing began.

> At any rate, its all good, I think.

Yep.

> Isn't it great that Ham radio can be still pursued by older folks?

It's great that people of all ages can be hams. Young, old,
middleage, newcomers, oldtimers, etc.

> > In sum, I believe that the small change in licensing numbers
> > does not
> > rise to the level of statistical significance.

IMHO, what *is* statistically significant is that what was a slow
decline has turned into a slow increase. What will be interesting
is if it continues long-term.

> I think that production of stats on active Hams is very difficult,
> certainly it can't be gleaned from totals.

There's also the problem of what constitutes an "active" ham.
Obviously someone who is dead or who never gets on the air
or otherwise participates isn't "active".

But what about the ham who operates a few contests a year?
Or the ham who does a lot of building and experimenting, but
little operating (and whose operating is mostly to check out the
latest project)? The ham whose activity is teaching classes,
running VE sessions, Elmering (in person and online), writing,
etc.? The ham whose focus is public service? Etc.

All sorts of activity - and it's all good!

73 de Jim, N2EY

64. What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-27 14:00:40 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fq3ph9$13lc$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3285

The ARS numbers Feb 2008 thread got me to thinking, when the topic started shifting toward who knows about what relating to Ham radio.

I think it is pretty fair to say that the ARS will never be a mainstream hobby or avocation. I really don't think that that is even a good idea, after some thought.

For myself, I am a inveterate tinkerer, and love to build things. My license allows me to legally access some pretty high powered stuff and work on the same. My path to the fold was in looking at ways to apply amateur radio to my other hobby, Amateur astronomy. Funny though, the Ham radio took over, and is now my main hobby, I never did apply it to astronmomy.

What attracted you, and can we get some ideas from that to attract or identify and attract new blood?

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

65. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-27 14:50:55 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <13sau5rtn5g6976@news.supernews.com>
Source record: 3286

Michael Coslo wrote:

> I think it is pretty fair to say that the ARS will never be a
> mainstream hobby or avocation. I really don't think that that is even a
> good idea, after some thought.

It's much like other hobbies -- there are people who enjoy collecting stamps or snapping pictures, but these aren't "mainstream" either. There will always be competition for peoples' spare time, and ham radio is one of the things that people can enjoy in their spare time.

> What attracted you, and can we get some ideas from that to attract or
> identify and attract new blood?

I would certainly like to see some of those ideas.

I think my path into ham radio was fairly typical for the 60's -- I got interested in radio and electronics, had a friend who had similar interests, and ham radio was a good fit. Not only did it provide a way to learn about electronics but it got me introduced to many people who I would never have met otherwise.

I suspect that my analog in the current generation pursues a similar interest via their computer. There's an interesting correlation between meeting people at the club meeting and on the air, versus meeting them via the Yahoo Group, the chat room, or via online game playing.

My path back into ham radio was via the public-service aspect. When I retired and moved to a place where I could participate in the hobby, I got back on the air and tried several aspects of the hobby -- NTS, contests, DX, general ragchewing. None of them really caught my fancy, for various reasons. Then I ended up in Mississippi in the Katrina effort and that activity did capture my interest. Since then my ham-radio activity has been primarily related to public service and emergency communication.

I'm not suggesting that this is the only way to recruit people into the hobby or that it's the only segment of the hobby that's worth anything. It's MY primary interest, and if other folks enjoy DX or contests or whatever, that's wonderful. Different people enjoy different things, which is one of the great things about ham radio -- it's many different hobbies, all rolled up into one. The difficulty is selling this to the general public.

73, Steve KB9X

66. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-27 18:14:52 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-5821C0.09581327022008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3287

AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote:
> [...]
>
> There isn't any sampling or 'plus or minus percentage' in
> regard to the FCC license class information in its database
> files. It isn't a result of polling of any kind. It is data
> direct from the only agency that grants amateur radio
> licenses in the USA. Totals are what they are.

You missed my point. The figures for new licenses and expired licenses are, no doubt, perfectly accurate. However, those quantities may be eclipsed by two other variables that we cannot quantify:

1) The number of hams who have died but have not yet been dropped from the rolls because the FCC does not know that they are dead

2) The number of hams who have stopped turning on their radios

--
Klystron

67. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-27 18:42:10 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <0b61fa69-c72e-4d11-80fa-aa15b9195e43@q78g2000hsh.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3288

On Feb 27, 9:00 am, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>
> What attracted you, and can we get some ideas from that to attract or
> identify and attract new blood?

>From as far back as I can remember, I was interested in technology - how things worked and what they could do. The kind of kid who's always asking questions, taking things apart and putting them together, etc. I found electricity particularly interesting.

This interest was aided and abetted by reading everything I could get my hands on. Libraries and bookstores were special places to me.

I did the usual Erector-set and battery/flashlight bulb stuff at a very young age. Then at about age 10 I found a book called "All About Radio and Television" which explained the basics of radio and how to build a simple radio using a razor-blade-and-pencil-graphite detector. I built one, strung a wire out to the crabapple tree in the back yard, and heard WPEN. I was hooked.

The book also mentioned various kinds of radio besides broadcast radio and TV. Of greatest interest to me was something called "amateur radio", where ordinary people of all ages and all walks of life had their own radio stations that they used to communicate with each other over great distances. Also of interest was "shortwave broadcasting" which came from other countries.

Nobody in my family was a ham, nor were any of my neighbors. None of them knew any hams, either. Not much detail on amateur radio was given in "All About Radio and Television", but I knew where to look for more info - other books. Soon I had a much clearer picture of what amateur radio and shortwave radio were all about. First order of business was to get a receiver in order to listen to "hams" and shortwave stations, so I built one based on information in the various books. It was a simple two-tube regenerative set, made mostly from salvaged parts. It wasn't the best receiver in the world but it worked well enough for me to hear BBC, Radio Moscow, the Voice of America - and "hams"! I wanted to talk to those folks!

The books explained that being a ham required earning an FCC license, so I set about doing that. I learned Morse Code by listening to hams use it on the air, and theory from the books and by building and improving the receiver. By the time I was 12 I figured I knew enough to pass the Novice test, so I set out to find a local ham who would be a volunteer examiner for me. I located one by the antenna in his yard, and he referred me to another amateur who did the tests. I passed on

the first go and built a simple transmitter while waiting for the license to arrive from FCC. Which it did on October 14, 1967.

I went on the air and began making contacts. It wasn't easy with the equipment I had and my basic skills, so I learned to be a better operator and how to build better equipment.

Now it's more than 40 years later and it's as much fun to me as ever.

What attracted me was the idea of building my own radio station and using it to communicate with like-minded folks all over the world. That the results were random and unpredictable only added to the attraction. I didn't think radio was "magic" or "mysterious", just a lot of fun.

A big factor in the attraction was the attitude expressed in the books. None of them said learning radio, getting a license or building equipment was difficult. None said a ham had to be older than a certain age, have a certain income, education or IQ level, be of a certain gender or ethnicity, etc. The required math, physics, chemistry and electricity, and Morse code, weren't presented as obstacles; just stuff that anybody could learn. The whole process was and is a lot of fun. A challenge, not a "hoop" or a "barrier".

None touted amateur radio as a replacement for other communication methods or as a social community, though they did mention the public-service aspect. Sure, there was no internet back then in the 1960s, no iPods, cell phones or video games, etc. But we had radio and TV, long distance telephones, music, movies, etc. Amateur radio wasn't a replacement for those things, it was fun in itself.

IMHO the way to "sell" amateur radio isn't to present it as a replacement for something else, but as a unique activity with many facets. Some will get it, others won't, no big deal.

73 de Jim, N2EY

68. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-27 19:17:05 UTC
From: xpyttl <xpyttl_NOSPAM@earthling.net>
Message-ID: <wxixj.28$u07.18@newsfe02.lga>
Source record: 3289

"Steve Bonine" <spb@pobox.com> wrote in message
news:13sau5rtn5g6976@news.supernews.com...
> Michael Coslo wrote:

>
>> What attracted you, and can we get some ideas from that to attract or
>> identify and attract new blood?
>
> I would certainly like to see some of those ideas.

Our Section Manager came up with a great idea. We have a very successful youth group in the far reaches of the state. There are, of course, a number of other amateur radio youth groups around the state, having varying levels of success.

In April, we are going to gather kids from all these groups together, ply them with pop and pizza, a have them tell us what it was that attracted them, and what we could do better. What better way to figure out how to attract new hams than by asking the new hams themselves, and especially the young ones who we need, and who are likely to be more open than their older counterparts.

By the way, that successful group out in the boonies has started another chapter in the state, and yet another in a neighboring state. They're doing something the kids lke.

..

69. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-27 20:35:12 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fq4eqafiu1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3290

AF6AY wrote:
> Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote on Tue, 26 Feb 2008 14:52:59 EST:
>
>> Klystron wrote:
>>> Alan WA4SCA <ALANBIDDL...@YAHOO.COM> wrote:
>
>>> * the aging (and death) of the ham population. The ten year license
>>> term means that, on average, it will be five years before a dead ham is
>>> dropped from the rolls, assuming that his heirs do not notify the FCC.
>> Isn't it great that Ham radio can be still pursued by older folks? I
>> know that that is a bit of a non sequitar, but the thought just crossed
>> my mind. 8^)
>
> Please define 'older folks.' That remark seems to me to be verging
> too close to that of a confrontational remark. :-(
>
> The practice of operating a radio has never been any sort of test
> of athletic ability or that of stamina or physical strength only
> possible by those in the 20s and 30s age groups.

That pretty much answers your question, Len. Lots of people who don't
"get around very well" can still have a blast. And fortunately there are
usually other Hams who can help with the more physical things like
putting up antennas, climbing towers, and the like.

> About the only thing one can infer from those is that there IS
> a small increase in newcomers versus expirees...but the total
> of all licenses is still short of what it was about 4 1/2
> years ago. At the present rate of license totals increase,
> that deficit will not be offset for another 15 to 16 years.

Pretty much my take on it too.

<snip>

>
>> I think that production of stats on active Hams is very difficult,
>> certainly it can't be gleaned from totals.
>
> I disagree. One of the major uses of the first major computer
> systems was searching, sorting, and compiling totals of some
> programmed-in sorted-for subject.

Perhaps I should have been more clear. It is hard to determine if a Ham
is active or not by just being licensed. An active license is not
necessarily a sign of an active ham. Even trying to define "active" is

difficult.

In that instance, I was referring to Klystron's "active".

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

70. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-27 20:35:28 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-58DE9F.15234327022008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3291

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> [...]
> A big factor in the attraction was the attitude expressed in the
> books. None of them said learning radio, getting a license or building
> equipment was difficult. None said a ham had to be older than a
> certain age, have a certain income, education or IQ level, be of a
> certain gender or ethnicity, etc. The required math, physics,
> chemistry and electricity, and Morse code, weren't presented as
> obstacles; just stuff that anybody could learn. The whole process was
> and is a lot of fun. A challenge, not a "hoop" or a "barrier".
> [...]

Let me clarify one point: I never suggested that Morse code was an obstacle because it was too hard. I have known any number of people who were put off by Morse, myself included, because it was archaic and unrelated to electronics. I have worked in the electronics field and I have met any number of people who knew a substantial amount about electronics in general, as well as ham radio, but were not hams. They often mentioned Morse when asked why that was.
If you can look at it objectively (I realize that it is an emotionally charged subject), you cannot make a plausible claim that there is anything inherent to radio or electronics about Morse. Morse is a linguistic construct, like a semaphore flag code, that was devised in order to enable communications using a device that was incapable of transmitting voice. It is as if prospective hams were told that before they could be allowed to handle electronic gear, RF emissions and high voltages, they first had to learn how the ancient Egyptians wrote with hieroglyphics. Then, they would have to write a page of hieroglyphics themselves and then read a page that someone else had written. If you think that that is absurd and that hieroglyphics have nothing to do with radio and that you would not be willing to waste your time on such a pointless and irrelevant digression, then you understand the frustration of electronics enthusiasts with the old system and with those who embraced it.
As far as the difficulty is concerned, I went from SWL to Amateur Extra in 9 weeks (3 separate test sessions, 3 weeks of studying per test). After leaving the material for about a month, I resumed studying and obtained a General Radiotelephone Operators License with a Radar Endorsement in about another month. I felt that the entirety of the material, on all six tests, amounted to the equivalent of about a semester of General Chemistry.

--
Klystron

71. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-27 20:36:02 UTC
From: haynes@cavern.uark.edu
Message-ID: <13sbic04mf5lc34@corp.supernews.com>
Source record: 3292

In article <0b61fa69-c72e-4d11-80fa-aa15b9195e43@q78g2000hsh.googlegroups.com>,
<N2EY@aol.com> wrote:
>>From as far back as I can remember, I was interested in technology -
>how things worked and what they could do. The kind of kid who's always
>asking questions, taking things apart and putting them together, etc.
>I found electricity particularly interesting.

Same here.

>Nobody in my family was a ham, nor were any of my neighbors. None of

I had an uncle living some distance away, who sent me an old ARRL
Handbook that I loved to flip through, more looking at the pictures
than reading the text, thinking how neat it was to be able to build
stuff like that. Also there was long ago a radio section in Popular
Mechanics with construction articles. And the days when just about
every family had a radio receiver that would get shortwave as well
as broadcast band.

>What attracted me was the idea of building my own radio station and
>using it to communicate with like-minded folks all over the world.
>That the results were random and unpredictable only added to the
>attraction. I didn't think radio was "magic" or "mysterious", just a
>lot of fun.

I guess I was that way too - it's only fairly recently that I have
come to realize it is almost magic that you put a few watts of RF
into an antenna, and the energy is radiated out into space, and
induces a tiny signal in every conductor it passes, and if that
conductor is an antenna then the tiny signal is enough to amplify
and detect and use for communication.

I know another thing that pushed me along was RTTY - I had always
been fascinated by Teletype machines, and when I learned that hams
could have them and use them to communicate I was really excited.
Without that extra push I might have delayed getting a ham license,
or maybe just continued as an electronics experimenter and SWL.

Jim, W6JVE

72. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-27 21:41:30 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fq4kdh$1joe$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3293

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Feb 27, 9:00 am, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>> What attracted you, and can we get some ideas from that to attract or
>> identify and attract new blood?
>
>>From as far back as I can remember, I was interested in technology -
> how things worked and what they could do. The kind of kid who's always
> asking questions, taking things apart and putting them together, etc.
> I found electricity particularly interesting.
>
> This interest was aided and abetted by reading everything I could get
> my hands on. Libraries and bookstores were special places to me.
>
> I did the usual Erector-set and battery/flashlight bulb stuff at a
> very young age. Then at about age 10 I found a book called "All About
> Radio and Television" which explained the basics of radio and how to
> build a simple radio using a razor-blade-and-pencil-graphite detector.
> I built one, strung a wire out to the crabapple tree in the back yard,
> and heard WPEN. I was hooked.

I remember my first crystal set. It worked not very well, and my kid's mind thought "maybe if I put a battery in the circuit it might work better." Lot's of crackles and noises in the earphone, and pretty little sparks at the pencil/razor blade interface. Still didn't work, but I was still hooked.

That battery reaction should have held a clue why it didn't work in the first place. But hey, I was a dum liddle kid! ;^)

> The book also mentioned various kinds of radio besides broadcast radio
> and TV. Of greatest interest to me was something called "amateur
> radio", where ordinary people of all ages and all walks of life had
> their own radio stations that they used to communicate with each other
> over great distances. Also of interest was "shortwave broadcasting"
> which came from other countries.

My first exposure to amateur radio came from a Boy Scout merit badge cook in which the scout would learn Morse code. I didn't get that badge, I stumbled over... well you know. Set mo off on the road to perfidy, hehe.

> Nobody in my family was a ham, nor were any of my neighbors. None of
> them knew any hams, either. Not much detail on amateur radio was given
> in "All About Radio and Television", but I knew where to look for more
> info - other books.

I was taking a lot of household appliances apart, and not being real clever about putting them back together. This caused quite a problem until my Grandfather decided to send me a "care package about every two months that had old radios and other electronic junk that he salvaged from where he worked. Joy!

> IMHO the way to "sell" amateur radio isn't to present it as a
> replacement for something else, but as a unique activity with many
> facets. Some will get it, others won't, no big deal.

Sounds good to me.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

73. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-27 21:41:57 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <28c2c937-1f19-48b7-be77-e05fa44e468d@f47g2000hsd.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3294

On Feb 27, 3:35 pm, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> I never suggested that Morse code was an
> obstacle because it was too hard. I have known any number of people who
> were put off by Morse, myself included, because it was archaic and
> unrelated to electronics. I have worked in the electronics field and I
> have met any number of people who knew a substantial amount about
> electronics in general, as well as ham radio, but were not hams. They
> often mentioned Morse when asked why that was.

That's fine, people have all sorts of reasons for not being hams.

However, Morse Code is *not* archaic, and *is* related to amateur
radio, because
hams do use it extensively - today, right now.

> If you can look at it objectively (I realize that it is an
> emotionally charged subject), you cannot make a plausible claim that
> there is anything inherent to radio or electronics about Morse. Morse is
> a linguistic construct, like a semaphore flag code, that was devised in
> order to enable communications using a device that was incapable of
> transmitting voice.

That's one reason for it. But even after voice radio was invented,
Morse code
use in radio continued, because it has certain advantages over other
modes.

> It is as if prospective hams were told that before
> they could be allowed to handle electronic gear, RF emissions and high
> voltages, they first had to learn how the ancient Egyptians wrote with
> hieroglyphics. Then, they would have to write a page of hieroglyphics
> themselves and then read a page that someone else had written.

Sorry, that's not a convincing analogy, because nobody uses Egyptian
hieroglyphics
in amateur radio - and they never did. But Morse Code was and is used
in amateur
radio. That's a big difference. Knowing Egyptian hieroglyphics doesn't
help one
with amateur radio operation, but knowing Morse Code sure does!

IMHO a better analogy is this: Suppose that all drivers had to
demonstrate the
ability to drive a car (in first gear, at 5 mph) with a manual
transmission in order
to get a driver's license, even if they only intended to drive

automatic-transmission
cars (which far outnumber manual-transmission cars today).

> If you
> think that that is absurd and that hieroglyphics have nothing to do with
> radio and that you would not be willing to waste your time on such a
> pointless and irrelevant digression, then you understand the frustration
> of electronics enthusiasts with the old system and with those who
> embraced it.

See above. Morse Code has a lot to do with amateur radio. Whether that
means it should have its own special must-pass-to-get-a-license test
is
a completely different matter. And it's been settled by FCC.

> As far as the difficulty is concerned, I went from SWL to Amateur
> Extra in 9 weeks (3 separate test sessions, 3 weeks of studying per
> test). After leaving the material for about a month, I resumed studying
> and obtained a General Radiotelephone Operators License with a Radar
> Endorsement in about another month. I felt that the entirety of the
> material, on all six tests, amounted to the equivalent of about a
> semester of General Chemistry.

I went from Novice in 1967 to Technician and Advanced in 1968, then to
Extra in 1970.
In those days there was a 2 year experience-as-a-General-or-Advanced
requirement to
even try the Extra exam. I never thought the exams were very difficult
if someone knew
a bit about the subject.

73 de Jim, N2EY

74. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-27 22:15:45 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <62lvf1F234qtoU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 3295

"Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
news:fq3ph9$13lc$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu

[snip]

: : What attracted you, and can we get some ideas from that
: : to attract or identify and attract new blood?
: :
: : - 73 de Mike N3LI -

I'm not ashamed to admit it, I came into the hobby from CB. Some friends had formed a CB club back in the early 80's just when CB became legal here in the UK (sadly using different frequencies and FM rather than AM as in the US) but we soon realised its limitations and when a few of them became licensed I was quick to join them.

Just celebrated my 25th anniversary, licensed on 21 February 1983 :-)

73 Ivor G6URP

75. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-27 23:49:39 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <8de7eb16-a632-4753-aa76-289b2b953127@60g2000hsy.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3296

Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> turned on his beam supply Wed, 27 Feb 2008
13:14:52 EST:

> AF6AY <LenAnder...@ieee.org> wrote:
>> [...]
>
>> There isn't any sampling or 'plus or minus percentage' in
>> regard to the FCC license class information in its database
>> files. It isn't a result of polling of any kind. It is data
>> direct from the only agency that grants amateur radio
>> licenses in the USA. Totals are what they are.
>
> You missed my point.

Not quite, :-), I was replying to Mike Coslo. :-)

>The figures for new licenses and expired
>licenses are, no doubt, perfectly accurate. However, those quantities
>may be eclipsed by two other variables that we cannot quantify:
>
>1) The number of hams who have died but have not yet been dropped from
>the rolls because the FCC does not know that they are dead
>
>2) The number of hams who have stopped turning on their radios

The delay of 'knowing who died' in regards to RADIO AMATEUR
licensees is only two years...the grace period. After that
and no renewal, the license expires. LICENSE expiration is
a known as far as the FCC database is concerned.

Since amateur radio is a HOBBY, not a profession, there's NO
requirement that anyone 'report in' on someone's condition.
Some become disenchanted with the activity and just quit or
have too many other activities to continue or might be laid
up with some kind of illness. It was never a requirement to
continue being an amateur radio licensee forever once granted
a license...no more so than being interested in radio long
ago was a mandate to get an amateur radio license. :-)

In my opinion, the granted license totals - even if holding
steady despite general population increases - serves as an
indicator in the USA that the amateur radio service will
continue among all the other radio services here for the
near future.

So, the licensee totals have dropped 2% in about 4 1/2 years since mid-2003. The last year has seen a 0.15% increase in totals, a rather insignificant gain, but a gain nonetheless.

Many years ago at a small microwave company, all of us were curious at the absence of one technician who just didn't show up for work. The small company, busy at keeping afloat, didn't investigate until two months had passed. Turned out the guy just got tired of what he was doing and 'quit' without notifying anyone. Later, at a larger corporation, we noticed that one engineer didn't show up for two weeks. Corporate personnel department was notified he'd been killed in an automobile accident, his family too involved with that tragedy to notify his employer. There's many reasons why someone stops doing what they were doing besides such extremes.

73, Len AF6AY

76. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-28 02:18:18 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <4LOdnYHLeoFUhFvanZ2dnUVZ_jWdnZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 3297

"Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
news:fq3ph9$13lc$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu...
> The ARS numbers Feb 2008 thread got me to thinking, when the topic started
> shifting toward who knows about what relating to Ham radio.
>
> I think it is pretty fair to say that the ARS will never be a mainstream
> hobby or avocation. I really don't think that that is even a good idea,
> after some thought.
>
>
> For myself, I am a inveterate tinkerer, and love to build things. My
> license allows me to legally access some pretty high powered stuff and
> work on the same. My path to the fold was in looking at ways to apply
> amateur radio to my other hobby, Amateur astronomy. Funny though, the Ham
> radio took over, and is now my main hobby, I never did apply it to
> astronmomy.
>
> What attracted you, and can we get some ideas from that to attract or
> identify and attract new blood?
>
> - 73 de Mike N3LI -
>

I don't think my path will be very useful to use as a tool. My second
husband dragged me to a class with the comment "Let's do this together".

Dee, N8UZE

77. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-28 02:23:37 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <tZudnRHTXq6GhlvanZ2dnUVZ_vKunZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 3298

"AF6AY" <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote in message
news:8de7eb16-a632-4753-aa76-289b2b953127@60g2000hsy.googlegroups.com...
[snip]

>
> The delay of 'knowing who died' in regards to RADIO AMATEUR
> licensees is only two years...the grace period. After that
> and no renewal, the license expires. LICENSE expiration is
> a known as far as the FCC database is concerned.
>

Actually if a person died the day they received their license, it could be
12 years before it showed up not two if no one bothers to report it.

Dee, N8UZE

78. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-28 02:25:36 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <2bef7164-4b4f-4562-829a-eff1c2f4f12c@v3g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3299

Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote on Wed, 27 Feb 2008 09:00:40 EST:

> I think it is pretty fair to say that the ARS will never be a
>mainstream hobby or avocation. I really don't think that that is even a
>good idea, after some thought.

You managed to get that sentence approved by the moderators?!? :-)

>My path to the fold was in looking at ways to apply
>amateur radio to my other hobby, Amateur astronomy. Funny though, the
>Ham radio took over, and is now my main hobby, I never did apply it to
>astronmomy.

Back in the 1960s, my lead man at Electro-Optical Systems was both
a technician class licensee and a very hands-on telescope maker.
He had ground his own 6" mirror for the telescope he was using and
was slowly grinding a 10" for a bigger scope. I came up with a
design and breadboarded a crystal-controlled time base for a
sideral drive for the ten-incher. Done with now-obsolete RTL
from Fairchild, it would be a snap to do it today with a single
Microchip IC plus a small stepper-motor or synchronous motor
driver circuit. Doug moved to Hawaii to work on the BIG
telescopes there so the ten-incher project (and its final
drive) were put on hold.

BTW, he had been into amateur radio first, then converted to doing
amateur astronomy. Folkses mileage differs. :-)

>What attracted you, and can we get some ideas from that to attract or
>identify and attract new blood?

Do we HAVE to 'attract new blood?' Serious question.

I've already told my personal story. It seems to rankle
some old-timers because it is non-standard to the 'common'
experience of USA radio amateurs...so I won't repeat it.
<shrug> After starting in the electronics industry 54
years back, doing high-power HF communications transmitting,
the elimination of the morse code test allowed me to get
a license (told that story, too, but it is also non-standard).
In talking to the applicants a year ago and several others
locally in the past year, their interest in getting a
license vary considerably. But, nearly all of them go the
Technician class route for local radio contacts, a sort of
social order thing possible in a large urban area. It was
like the CB radio craze and then the BBSs that preceded
the Internet era. Few of those got involved via the

supposed paradigm of 30 to 50 years back that lots of old-timers repeat. In this newer world of the Internet and many, many components available for lots of different electronics things, plus ten kinds of consumer electronic products (at relatively low cost) on the marketplace, the old concept of 'having one's own personal radio station' is diminishing rapidly.

As I see it, the old reasons-for-being of amateur radio aren't applicable anymore. Technology in electronics has long since leaped ahead of any state-of-the-art advances done by amateurs long ago. What I see are two areas -

1. The just-plain-for-fun boosting, for whatever purpose in communications, whether in a local urban area or a bit farther out...and an emphasis on trying out things on a personal-enjoyment level. We are NOT required to DO certain things in the hobby just because some old-timers say we MUST do those besides the regulations that all must obey.

2. De-emphasizing the 'necessity-to-be-a-part-of-the-community-as-a-service.' Now, I know that amateur radio CAN help in emergencies and all that 'service-to-community' PR can persuade some lawmakers to this 'amateur cause' but it seems to me to have gotten too big a share of the open political statements in periodicals. Those who really care about community service can just as easily go DIRECT to such existing organizations. With a total licensee database showing 720+ thousand licensees today, that should be large enough to show lawmakers that amateur radio has a large following.

I'm no expert on PR or marketing, don't have the explicit solution to get more newcomers. As I observe the hobby, it will last at least a couple of decades. That's good enough for me. USA amateur radio stands or falls by what its publicists say and try to convince new members...seldom by what the old-timers claim. Times have changed (many times over in my lifetime) and all must adapt to that, not to hold onto ancient paradigms that no longer apply.

73, Len AF6AY

79. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-28 13:46:59 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fq6c7v$15s4$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3300

Dee Flint wrote:

>
> Actually if a person died the day they received their license, it could be
> 12 years before it showed up not two if no one bothers to report it.

Now that would be sad! :^(

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

80. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-28 13:48:39 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-7532B5.08181028022008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3301

"Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote:
> "AF6AY" <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote in message
> [snip]

> > The delay of 'knowing who died' in regards to RADIO AMATEUR
> > licensees is only two years...the grace period. After that
> > and no renewal, the license expires. LICENSE expiration is
> > a known as far as the FCC database is concerned.

> Actually if a person died the day they received their license, it could be
> 12 years before it showed up not two if no one bothers to report it.

Dee is correct. Some hams may die with 10 years left on their licenses. For others, 9 years may remain. For still others, 8 years may remain (and so on). For the mathematically inclined, the "expected value" equals the sum of [i as i goes from 0 days to 3652 days] divided by 3652 days (the number of days in 10 years, including 2 leap years). The result will be in days, so divide by 365 to get years (the answer is 5 years). Add a 2 year grace period and the AVERAGE ham will remain on the rolls for seven years after his death.
When you consider the age demographics of ham radio, standard actuarial tables may lead you to conclude that we are probably in the middle of a large die off. My guess is that the number of dead hams still on the books is far greater then the thousand or so net gain that comes from simply subtracting expired licenses from new license grants. Then there is the matter of hams who no longer turn on their radios, whose number is unknowable.

--
Klystron

81. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-28 13:49:59 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fq6cov$156u$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3302

xpyttl wrote:
> "Steve Bonine" <spb@pobox.com> wrote in message
> news:13sau5rtn5g6976@news.supernews.com...
>> Michael Coslo wrote:
>

<some snippage>

> Our Section Manager came up with a great idea. We have a very successful
> youth group in the far reaches of the state. There are, of course, a number
> of other amateur radio youth groups around the state, having varying levels
> of success.
>
> In April, we are going to gather kids from all these groups together, ply
> them with pop and pizza, a have them tell us what it was that attracted
> them, and what we could do better. What better way to figure out how to
> attract new hams than by asking the new hams themselves, and especially the
> young ones who we need, and who are likely to be more open than their older
> counterparts.

Your group has hit on the correct way to attract the young folks - by
getting a number of them together.

If a young person comes into Ham radio all by themselves, it isn't as
interesting for them, and they can't do as many things easily as if they
were older. Its been my experience that young people (tweens and early
teenagers) can get a little lost at club meetings and activities like
Field day. And these days, there should be an approved adult to
chaperone them at events who has been cleared by one of the state police
background investigations.

But if you can get a fair number of young'uns who can relate to each
other well, they can become good hams and a future resource.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

82. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-28 14:36:39 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fq6ejo$u6q$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3303

AF6AY wrote:
> Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote on Wed, 27 Feb 2008 09:00:40 EST:

<some snippage>

>> What attracted you, and can we get some ideas from that to attract or
>> identify and attract new blood?
>
> Do we HAVE to 'attract new blood?' Serious question.

We do need new people to replace those who leave for one reason or the other. I want someone to talk to on the other end, and don't want the Amateur radio community to become closed and eventually die out.

<more snippage>

> As I see it, the old reasons-for-being of amateur radio
> aren't applicable anymore. Technology in electronics has
> long since leaped ahead of any state-of-the-art advances
> done by amateurs long ago. What I see are two areas -
>
> 1. The just-plain-for-fun boosting, for whatever purpose in
> communications, whether in a local urban area or a bit
> farther out...and an emphasis on trying out things on a
> personal-enjoyment level. We are NOT required to DO certain
> things in the hobby just because some old-timers say we MUST
> do those besides the regulations that all must obey.

I'm fortunate that I never had that experience. Of course, if someone ever did tell me how I was supposed to use my time in the hobby, I think I would politely decline, and go do what I wanted to do. 8^)

> 2. De-emphasizing the 'necessity-to-be-a-part-of-the-
> community-as-a-service.' Now, I know that amateur radio CAN
> help in emergencies and all that 'service-to-community' PR
> can persuade some lawmakers to this 'amateur cause' but it
> seems to me to have gotten too big a share of the open
> political statements in periodicals.

Here we agree. While I am impressed with what Amateurs have done in emergencies, the way that the public service genre of the hobby has morphed is a little troublesome to me. I don't know if you were watching the group a few weeks ago, but I related a story about an emergency comm person speaking at a club meeting. When a member noted that the ARS frequencies were there for use after the normal comms weren't working, he replied " Every thing we do is a matter of life and death, so we can use your frequencies any way we wish".

That was not only wrong, but scary that people that think in that manner are coming into the hobby with such an attitude. He (and some like him) come in to talk to the people who will be building and maintaining repeaters and infrastructure, and lay one like that on them?

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

83. Re: 1 Year Later - ARS License Numbers Feb 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-28 14:37:14 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <f031a9a8-86ac-4d8f-a910-96efb2ae9f91@c33g2000hsd.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3304

On Feb 27, 9:23 pm, "Dee Flint" <deeflin...@comcast.net> wrote:

> Actually if a person died the day they received their license, it could be

> 12 years before it showed up not two if no one bothers to report it.

As N3LI wrote, that would be sad!

However, when it showed up in the totals is a matter of which totals
you use.

If you use numbers that include the entire FCC database, such as
hamdata.com, you get both unexpired, current licenses and expired-but-
in-the-grace-period licenses, and it takes 12 years before an
unreported death shows up.

But if you use numbers that include only the unexpired, current
licenses, such as ARRL and AH0A, it takes 10 years before an
unreported death shows up.

Note that the terms "expire" and "expiration" refer to the end of the
10 year license term, and do not include the grace period. That's not
my definition, it's FCC's definition. Hamdata.com uses the term "no
longer hams" to indicate licenses which have reached the end of the
grace period without being renewed.

Of course in real life there are several factors which complicate the
issue and make simple conjectures inaccurate:

1) An unknown number of deaths *are* reported to FCC by family
members. Often this is done so the SK's callsign can be transferred to
another amateur in the family, or a club.

2) An unknown number of amateurs renew in the grace period.

3) Not all licenses which expire are the result of death. It is not
unknown for a licensed amateur to lose interest and let the license
not only expire but run past the end of the grace period. Years later,
the ex-ham's interest is revitalized and s/he gets a new license. This
was probably more common in the days of 5 year licenses but one still
encounters recent "retread" hams today.

73 de Jim, N2EY

84. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-28 14:37:33 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <13sdhm1lpi6hebf@news.supernews.com>
Source record: 3305

Michael Coslo wrote:

> Your group has hit on the correct way to attract the young folks - by
> getting a number of them together.

I agree, but I haven't found the secret for getting them together. How does one publicize this first gathering? I have not found the term "ham radio" to be effective in attracting young folks.

How about some more detail from the original poster of this scheme in terms of how they got it off the ground, and how they manage to keep it going?

Thanks and 73,
Steve KB9X

85. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-28 17:22:05 UTC
From: xpyttl <xpyttl_NOSPAM@earthling.net>
Message-ID: <qkBxj.12$uE1.8@newsfe02.lga>
Source record: 3306

"Steve Bonine" <spb@pobox.com> wrote in message
news:13sdhm1lpi6hebf@news.supernews.com...

> How about some more detail from the original poster of this scheme in
> terms of how they got it off the ground, and how they manage to keep it
> going?

Well, I wasn't the guy who got the original group going. However, my (vague) understanding is that the DAR Girls and Boys Club (I hadn't even known there was such a thing) was the original resource. Whether the DAR approached someone looking for an activity for these kids, or whether some interested ham was already a member, I don't know. Somehow they hit upon the idea of HF Contesting, and formed the "Young Amateurs Contest Ham Team" (YACHT). This, for whatever reason, took off. Apparently these kids enjoy contesting. As far as I know, the amateurs involved weren't big contesters, so this must have been the kids' idea.

On reflection, contesting seems a pretty good idea. Kids are often reluctant to have conversations with older hams on the air. A contest is an easy way to get a lot of contacts without the risk of being asked hard questions.

Locally we did have the 4H approach us looking for something of interest to the boys in 4H, since most of the activities seemed more oriented towards girls. As it turned out, we didn't attract many boys; a few girls but a bunch of parents! So that didn't work out for us. We still put together a little booth at the 4H annual pancake supper, but that really hasn't been terribly productive. One local activity that does seem to be working out is a school club. A couple of amateurs go to one of the middle schools once a week for a meeting of their radio club. This has gotten us a handful of new hams. Not huge numbers compared to the population, but every little bit helps.

Someone mentioned having mentors for the kids background cheked, and in this day and age, there is something to be said for this. Most RACES organizations now require background checks, so your RACES organization might be a source for mentors for these kids that have already been vetted.

..

86. And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-28 17:23:05 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fq6otf$mo6$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3307

Although I have a technical background, my post secondary "eddycaytion" is actually in the art field, and In my job and life I cross between the two.

I stumbled upon this site, and was pleasantly introduced to "Steampunks"

(Hang with me here, this is actually on topic-despite what it sounds like so far)

These folks take a whimsical view of modern life, and like to take modern throwaway technology and modify it to turn it into something that you wouldn't throw away. Typically they alter items to look as if they were built in the late 1800's, toward the end of Victorian times (hence the word "Steam" as a retro power source. Hand crafting is mandatory.

Now to the Ham radio apps.

In a unique (and a little bizarre) melding of technologies, one practitioner has built and implemented a Telegraph sounder that reads RSS feeds.

http://steampunkworkshop.com/telegraph.shtml

I was hooked.

Although the Amateur radio world does not have many examples of art - though some folks come pretty close with some old time stations, I found the method I'm going to use for my next shack redo. I'll have to share the pictures of the same. Now to start scrounging brass....

Certainly some will find this odd, but I like a little aesthetics in my hobbies along with the technical.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

87. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-28 19:26:33 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fq71n2$18ta$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3308

xpyttl wrote:

> Someone mentioned having mentors for the kids background cheked, and in this
> day and age, there is something to be said for this. Most RACES
> organizations now require background checks, so your RACES organization
> might be a source for mentors for these kids that have already been vetted.

Keep in mind that the background checks for working with children are
looking for different issues.

When I was prez of an association and coaching youth Ice Hockey, I
often had to explain that we weren't looking for violations of basic
law, that no one was going to be rejected because they had an underage
drinking offense or the like. No one is perfect. The only thing that
would trigger the thing was violations involving children.

The RACES checks might be a bit different, but I'm not sure. I'm almost
certain the Red Cross' ones are.

- 73 de Mike N3LI

88. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-28 21:52:00 UTC
From: xpyttl <xpyttl_NOSPAM@earthling.net>
Message-ID: <vBFxj.58$0d7.2@newsfe05.lga>
Source record: 3309

"Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
news:fq71n2$18ta$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu...

> Keep in mind that the background checks for working with children are
> looking for different issues.
>
> When I was prez of an association and coaching youth Ice Hockey, I often
> had to explain that we weren't looking for violations of basic law, that
> no one was going to be rejected because they had an underage drinking
> offense or the like. No one is perfect. The only thing that would trigger
> the thing was violations involving children.
>
> The RACES checks might be a bit different, but I'm not sure. I'm almost
> certain the Red Cross' ones are.

RACES background checks are, of course, dependent on your local emergency
manager. Most, however, a looking for pretty much the same things. In the
event of an emergency you might be deployed at a shelter or other location
where there might be vulnerable individuals. That is the same sort of thing
I would suspect one would want to know if someone were to be around
children.

But it is a good caution. Different jurisdictions can be amazingly uneven.
I know of one jurisdiction where a deputy interviews the candidate's spouse.
The concern is that the volunteer work might interfere with the home life.
So clearly, YMMV.

..

89. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-29 00:04:40 UTC
From: Bill Horne <billQRM@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <JO2dnZtt-Yq82VranZ2dnUVZ_hGdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 3310

Michael Coslo wrote:
[snip]

> In a unique (and a little bizarre) melding of technologies, one
> practitioner has built and implemented a Telegraph sounder that reads
> RSS feeds.

[snip]

Mike,

If you have an email address for Mr. von Slatt, please send it to me:
his description of the sounder he built says that it draws 3.5 amps at
12 volts, which sounds very high compared to the sounders I'm familiar with.

FWIW: there is a lot of information available about using sounders and
connecting them, via phone lines, computers, and direct wire. Civil War
reenactors and other telegraph buffs sometimes use a "Dial-up Morse"
set, which allows for "compatible" operation between two key/sounder
pairs over regular dial-up modems. The circuit can be easily modified
(as mine has been) to hook up to a computer for sounder practice.

Those interested will find lots of good information at
http://www.w1tp.com/ and linked sites.

73,

Bill, W1AC

(Filter QRM for direct replies.)

90. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-29 04:08:55 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <1d4a20ed-c679-458c-95b9-a14556a6a5be@i7g2000prf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3311

Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote on Thu, 28 Feb 2008 09:36:39 EST:

>AF6AY wrote:
>> Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote on Wed, 27 Feb 2008 09:00:40 EST:

>> Do we HAVE to 'attract new blood?' Serious question.
>
>We do need new people to replace those who leave for one reason or the
>other. I want someone to talk to on the other end, and don't want the
>Amateur radio community to become closed and eventually die out.

That seems a tad premature to me. At present there are 722K TOTAL
licensees and the expiration rate is roughly 27K/year. If that
keeps up without any newcomers, it would be 26.7 years before all
were gone. [of course there will be newcomers...but how many
depends on the attitude of the old-timers they come in contact with]

>> ... We are NOT required to DO certain
>> things in the hobby just because some old-timers say we MUST
>> do those besides the regulations that all must obey.
>
> I'm fortunate that I never had that experience. Of course, if someone
>ever did tell me how I was supposed to use my time in the hobby, I think
>I would politely decline, and go do what I wanted to do. 8^)

Well, from my experience (at work or at play) I've had some
who INSISTED on telling me what I 'should' be doing. Some
of those got rather antagonistic about it. "We don't DO that
kind of thing in <fill-in-the-blank>" kind of comment. It was
so prevalent among amateur radio licensees that I encountered
that it turned me off of bothering to get a license for a long
time. That's been my experience over the last half century and
I spent that time working IN the electronics industry.

I'll have to say that the above attitude was reflected in the
older amateur-radio-interest newsgroups and was partly due to
the creation of rec.radio.amateur.moderated.

>... I don't know if you were watching
>the group a few weeks ago, but I related a story about an emergency comm
>person speaking at a club meeting.

I was 'reading the mail' but didn't bother with it much. :-)

>When a member noted that the ARS
>frequencies were there for use after the normal comms weren't working,
>he replied " Every thing we do is a matter of life and death, so we can

>use your frequencies any way we wish".
>
>That was not only wrong, but scary that people that think in that manner
>are coming into the hobby with such an attitude.

That person was more right than wrong. If one bothers to look,
the small-number Parts of Title 47 C.F.R. state clearly that
ANYONE can use ANY radio frequency to call for assistance if
a situation is really life or death...licensed or not. True.

Phil Kane could probably quote the Part and wording off the
top of his head but, not being an attorney, I would have to
search the Parts (all freely accessible). Besides, someone
in here would want to start a whole steamy argument thread on
that, arguing minutiae on the whichness of the what...:-)
Memory says it is the Part on commercial radio licenses but
undoubtedly someone in here will say 'I am wrong.' [sigh]

Radio amateur licensees are not bound JUST to what Part 97
says. The whole of Title 47 applies, even if 99+% has nothing
directly to do with the amateur radio service. But, with REAL
life-and-death situations, anyone can use any frequency at any
time with or without any license.

>He (and some like him)
>come in to talk to the people who will be building and maintaining
>repeaters and infrastructure, and lay one like that on them?

Let's take that IN context. Consider that the attending radio
amateurs might ALSO have an 'attitude' going. Consider that
lots of government infrastructure radio facilities are kept
going 24/7 expressly FOR the purpose of life-and-death comms
needs. Amateur radio repeaters aren't. Amateur repeaters
are there primarily for the benefit of other amateurs.

I don't know about your local group, but I've seen (in real life
as well as in print) some groups that are simply too full of
themselves with self-righteousness. Such folks have a terrible
attitude and couldn't negotiate anything unless it was in their
favor. Anyone coming in contact with them would tend to reply
in-kind.

Now, in my area, I'm GLAD that the commercial, professional
radio services ARE there for anyone's benefit 24/7. LAPD and
LAFD are up and running as are the neighboring incorporated
cities of Burbank and Glendale (with nice cooperative ties
between all the government facilities). The Greater Los
Angeles Emergency Communications Center is staffed and ready
to go into action any time there is a REAL emergency and they
can tie into dozens of utility companies and other firms for
unusual emergency situations. It was put to the test on
17 Jan 94 with the Northridge earthquake and passed. Since

then it was improved via the LAFD Emergency Communications Service which donated old, unused buildings and bought or converted busses and radio equipment. I took my amateur tests at an 'Old Firehouse' that is now part of that LAFD sub-organization. Nice civic cooperation by the LAFD.

I experienced that Northridge earthquake first-hand and helped a utility company restore services. All the electric power of an area populated by 10 million or so were WITHOUT electric power for half a day. Didn't see ANY sign of 'amateur radio emergency' groups until two days AFTER the 17th. FEMA flew in RF-plus-video terminals and put them in service the day after. I'd like to say something positive about amateur radio since I am a licensee in the radio service, but there wasn't much evidence of it. I've been a commercial radio licensee for 52 years and can't forget that...I have to give credit where it is due from REAL experiences, not some nebulous 'future plans' or PR write-ups that appear only within amateur radio interest groups.

73, Len AF6AY

91. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-29 04:11:52 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <4f156b91-6374-4713-af7e-ae2dfe2ae43e@s37g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3312

Kudos to those working to bring new folks, young and old, to ham radio.

Some observations from a ham who started out in ham radio at the age of 13 (in no particular order):

1) Don't just go for high schoolers. Middle-school and even elementary schoolers can be hams if they're interested enough.

3) Don't try to sell amateur radio as a substitute for cell phones, the internet, or other communications methods. Sell it as a unique activity with its own unique attractions and rewards.

4) Scouting has a long history of connection to amateur radio. Some councils have pretty serious amateur radio programs, and always need more help.

5) Don't assume what parts of amateur radio young people will or won't be interested in. Emphasize the wide variety of activities hams do, and how much choice there is.

6) Don't assume that younger hams only want to associate with other younger hams.

For me, part of the attraction to amateur radio was the opportunity to be part of a community where one's age, gender, income, etc. are not a factor. Morse Code operation made this possible - on the air with that mode, nobody knows how old you are. You can interact with other hams of all ages. You're judged by your skills and signal quality, not how much you spent on your rig, etc.

73 de Jim, N2EY

92. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-29 04:13:37 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <05b9c507-04c4-4f6a-8ad4-07d815f5568c@e25g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3313

Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote on Thu, 28 Feb 2008 12:23:05 EST:

>Although I have a technical background, my post secondary "eddycaytion"
>is actually in the art field, and In my job and life I cross between the
>two.

So is mine...as an illustrator (an artist who draws/paints things as
they really are). I went for engineering after my Army service.

>I stumbled upon this site, and was pleasantly introduced to "Steampunks"

I admire the heck out of the excellence of that website and its
gorgeous
photos. Really well-done craftsmanship on web page design. However,
it
begins to look a lot like 'eye candy' for those who love to do things
the old-fashioned way.

>In a unique (and a little bizarre) melding of technologies, one
>practitioner has built and implemented a Telegraph sounder that reads
>RSS feeds.

NO WAY can that sounder 'copy' digital data from any Internet.

Sorry, but there's just TOO MUCH MASS in that sounder to move
anything that fast...not even at 60 WPM speeds of old Teletypes.
Those who get all upset about my absolute statements should
open up and study any OLD Model 15 to 19 TTY from Teletype.
That Chicago firm KNEW how to make machinery work fast and long.

>Although the Amateur radio world does not have many examples of art -

Our 'art training' must have come from very different schools.

I would consider the Hallicrafters SX-28 to be of very aesthetic
appeal to many. Never owned one, just used one a few times. As
a 'communications' receiver it worked fine technically. It both
sounded great (with big speakers) and had a cool look to it.

As to transceivers, I would consider the Collins KWM-2 to be of
finer aesthetic value from the looks and proportions and general
useability of its outside. Never had one of those but I've used
one and tested several older ones. Neat and compact (for tubes)
it also had a 'with it' cool look with nicely-matched colors
with sleek proportions (even if the front was a bit off symmetry).

Some time ago I found a website that showed the evolution of the
Hallicrafters S-38 external appearance. Final versions of that

model were redesigned by a professional design firm. Technically,
that one was just a glorified All-American 5 with added 'SW' bands
and thus had (actual, by comparison with its contemporaries)
lots of deficiencies. Mythos of so much shared use among old-
timers made it some kind of icon. <shrug>

>though some folks come pretty close with some old time stations, I found
>the method I'm going to use for my next shack redo. I'll have to share
>the pictures of the same. Now to start scrounging brass....

Try not to forget that brass will oxidize from exposure to air.
Stock up on Glass Wax too, it works well on a continuing need
to make brass shiny again. And again. And again.

PLATE the brass with something to avoid all that dog-work
shine-up that you will need. Find a good electrochemical shop
and make some deals there. It will save appearances a lot
longer than all that necessary polishing later.

>Certainly some will find this odd, but I like a little aesthetics in my
>hobbies along with the technical.

So do I. Our difference is that I do an innate merging of
technical functionality with outward design and color. Icom
'basic black' (with white accents and sparse color in legends)
does it for me...who also is on intimate acquaintence what the
functions are. The fine-grain, DISTINCT black on white screen
appearance does the final choosing for me. Sorry, but orange
and gray or green and gray displays of other makers don't sit
well with my taste. One is always looking at the front panel
of a receiver even if we don't 'see' it.

A SOUNDER for amateur RADIO use? The ubiquitous BFO is what I
consider the first 'DSP' for morse cognition. That's why it
became so popular in radios way back before my time on earth.
Okay, so von Statt doesn't know much about electromagnets and
didn't put finer wire with more turns on his replica.

If we get too retro on 1890s 'aesthetics,' perhaps he could
make a lovely, shiny, brassy Tuning Fork as a frequency
standard? Musicians still use those. An HC-6 holder of a
quartz crystal can never look aesthetic by itself. But it
will be a thousand or more times more accurate in frequency
than an all-mechanical vibrating Tuning Fork. But, what the
Fork? A Tuning Fork can LOOK so interesting...and it can
make a noise! :-)

73, Len AF6AY

93. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1594 - February 29, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-29 13:57:56 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080229014930.0366bd68@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 3314
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1594 - February 29, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1594 with a release date of Friday, February 29th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. An Australian digital ham radio group is shutting down, the March Clipperton Island DXpedition is going live to the

web and Japan launches its own emergency communications satellite. Find out more about it on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1594 coming your
way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO TECHNOLOGY: VK PACKET GROUP SHUTTING DOWN

The cost of keeping a radio program going has become to much for one Australian crew. After many years of service, Australia's Queensland Digital Group is closing down and transferring its ham radio networks to that nations Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Service better known by the

acronym WICEN. With the story behind the story here's W-I-A newsman Graham

Kemp, VK4BB:

--

Brisbane Area WICEN is set to take over the Queensland Digital Group packet

and Voice networks as the QDG Inc. can no longer maintain the networks and

will run out of funds within twelve months.

In order to keep the radio sites for Amateur use QDG reluctantly decided to

close down, this way they are able to pass on the networks as a going concern, complete with some funds for maintenance and on going technical support. A number of QDG Inc. members have joined WICEN to help maintain the equipment.

This decision has taken over three years while they have tried other means

to keep the networks going but this is the only logical choice left. The QDG's VK4DGQ packet mail-server will also close, due to the decline in packet usage.

The Queensland Digital Group has started the slow process of shutting down

feeds to Queensland and interstate packet BBS. Invisible to users, VK4DGQ has none the less been an integral part of the world wide packet radio network for twenty years and will be missed by many hams.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Graham Kemp, VK4BB of the WIA News in Brisbane, Australia.

--

VK4BB also reports that as the era comes to a close, so to does the VK4TX packet radio Bulletin Board Server run by Neville Mills and bearing his callsign. First on line in 1982 the well known Australian B-B-S was soon attracting packet users in the Brisbane region and was very popular in the

1980's and 1990's. Over the last few years it has as a packet forwarding

gateway. (WIA News)

**

RESCUE RADIO TECHNOLOGY: JAPAN LAUNCHES EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DATA SATELLITE

Japan has successfully orbited an experimental satellite aimed at providing high-speed emergency Internet access across Asia. This, even if

the terrestrial infrastructure were to be destroyed.

The Kizuna satellite was launched at 08:55 GMT on February 23rd from the Japan Space Center on Tanegashima island using a Japan developed H-2A rocket. The 342 million dollar bird will allow super-high speed data communications of up to 1.2 Gbps. That rate translates to 150 times that of the average high-speed ADSL connection rate of 8 Mbps, or 12 times the speed of a fiber-optic communication delivery to an Internet subscribers premises.

Japan is looking to use the satellite to allow communication when a ground-based network is severed by a disaster in any Asian country. It would be used to transmit data to crisis management offices by satellite transceiver equipped first response teams in the field. The space agency is also hoping to use the satellite as an educational or medical communications tool to reach people in remote or mountainous areas.

The word Kizuna means "bond" in Japanese. The satellite is expected to be

commissioned to full service with terrestrial infrastructures this coming

July. (Space)

**

ON THE AIR: CLIPPERTON 08 GOING LIVE TO THE WEB

It's a DXpedition that you will be able to take part in, at least vicariously. This with news that the upcoming TX5C DXpedition expects to

be active from Clipperton Island March 7th to March 17th has arranged to bring much of its operation into your shack over the World Wide Web.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of satellite phone dealer Outfitter Satellite Inc, the TX5C operation will be able to provide DX'ers with rich

high bandwidth content from the DXpedition including more online log updates, webcams and live video from Clipperton Atoll.

Bob Grimmick, N6OX, will lead the international team to Clipperton. The major sponsors include Icom America, SteppIR antennas, Alpha Radio Products, the Northern California DX Foundation, and the International DX Association. Operation will be on all the high frequency bands using C-W,

SSB and RTTY plus 6 meter CW and SSB.

This happens to be the 30th anniversary of the 1978 FO0XA-XH operation from

the atoll and the goal in 2008 is to hold 100,000 or QSO's worldwide.

More is on-line at http://clipperton2008.org. We will have more DX news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (Clipperton 2008)

**

DX DISASTER: BAD WEATHER FORCES XR7W EARLY SHUTDON

Being at the center of a DX pile up not only involves a lot of hard work, but it can also be dangerous and expensive. That's the story of the now

concluded Wager Island operation. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennent,

K6PZW, has more:

--

On February 9th, the XR7W Wager Island team experienced some truly horrible

weather conditions. They were forced to leave the island after some 24 hours of gale force winds and pouring rain.

Abandoning their DXpedition was bad enough, but once on the mainland the team suffered a rather serious accident.

They were on their way back to Coyhaique, Chile when their van slipped of a

gravel road. It hit a rock and flipped upside-down. Four operators were hospitalized. RV1CC was diagnosed with a broken left upper arm. CE6TBN received cuts, bruises and a broken rib. RA0FU had a number of cuts while

HA1AG suffered a broken finger, a broken rib and compression on the thorax

bone. Thankfully none of the operators lost their life.

Despite all the problems, the XR7W operators managed some 2,400 QSO's from

the rare Wager Island location. The damage in van, to their equipment and

additional costs are estimated in excess of 11,000 Euros.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles

--

Wager Island is off the coast of Chile. You can read an in depth first hand account of the accident written by HA1AG on line at http://dx-is.com/news/?p7 (Southgate, HA1AG, others)

**

DX NOW: KOSOVO AND DXCC

The DXCC status of the newly independent nation of Kosovo remains in question. In a lengthy press release last week, the ARRL's DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, said he understands that there are many questions about the DXCC status of Kosovo, but indicated that a decision on adding it to the approved countries list could be sometime off .

Moore said the DXCC rules, modified in 2000 to better handle inclusion to DXCC, are clear on how additions can be made. He says that for inclusion in the DXCC List, certain conditions must be met. He says that gaining entry on the DXCC List is not contingent upon whether operation has occurred or will occur, but only upon the qualifications of the Entity"

Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia on February 17th. This set off new speculation on what this means to Amateur Radio and specifically, to the DXCC program. According to Moore, adding Kosovo to the DXCC List would be considered under the "Political Entity" DXCC guidelines. These DXCC rules state that Political Entities are those areas which are separated by reason of government or political division. When Kosovo might

be put up for such consideration, Moore did not say. We will have more DX

news near the end of this weeks newscast. (ARRL)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KD1RJ repeater serving the city of Fairfield, Connecticut.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS TRAIN FOR SKYWARN IN TERRE HAUTE INDIANA

Back in the USA, amateur radio operators and others in Terre Haute, Indiana

took time out on Monday night, February 25th to learn how to identify dangerous storms. This, at a class where trainee storm spotters got a lesson in spotting potentially severe weather formations.

Dave Tucek, KC9CNF, is a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in

Indianapolis. He spoke to more than 60 amateur radio operators and other weather spotters gathered for the 2008 Weather Spotter Class sponsored by Illiana Indiana Skywarn. He says that storm spotters are vital in identifying dangerous storms at the ground level. He said that weather radar often only tells the National Weather Service what is happening several thousand feet above the ground but not what's going on down here at
ground level. Weather spotters, such as those in Illiana Skywarn, are vital

for issuing correct severe weather warnings, watches and advisories, Tucek

said.

Skywarn, a national organization that works with the National Weather Service to help identify severe weather at the ground level. (Terre Haute

Star)

**

ENFORCEMENT: DEATH CANCELS PIRATE STATION FINE

The FCC has canceled a $10,000 fine against the late Henry Gaye for operating an unlicensed radio transmitter. This, because Gaye has passed on.

The text from the FCC was short and to the point. Dennis Carlton, regional

director of the South Central Region of the Enforcement Bureau, wrote: "Th
e
Tampa Office has since learned that Mr. Gaye passed away. Because Mr. Gaye

is no longer living, we cancel the NAL." (RW)

**

ENFORCEMENT: U.K. RAID NETS 20 PIRATES OFF THE AIR

Ofcom, the United Kingdoms telecommunications regulator has announced that

it recently carried out enforcement action against over 20 illegal broadcasters in various parts of London. The operation was carried out between February 6th and 16th in cooperation with the Boroughs of Hackney,

Haringey, Tower Hamlets and Islington, and the Metropolitan Police.. This

enforcement action resulted in three arrests, one studio raid, and the removal of 22 transmitters from the airwaves. Ofcom estimates that there are still over 150 illegal stations operating in the UK, with half of those

broadcasting across London and the South East. (GB2RS)

**

RADIO LAW: FOR THE BIRDS

FCC Commissioner Michael Copps says that he is pleased with a decision by a

federal appeals court to vacate the commission's denial and dismissal of

the Gulf Coast migratory bird petition. Instead, the court ordered the commission to conduct a study of the effect of communications towers on migratory birds.

The commission has an open proceeding on the issue of whether communications towers, such as radio, TV, cell and two-way towers, cause or

contribute to migratory bird deaths. Environmentalists say they do; broadcasters say they do not or that the problem is overstated.

The FCC has not decided whether to appeal the decision but Copps called the

decision a wake-up cal. He ays that it is time to stop acting as if a problem will go away if we just keep kicking it down the road. (RW)

**

REPEATER PROBLEMS: UK D-STAR REPEATER GOES OFF DUE TO INTERFERENCE FROM UNLICENSED DEVICES

A newly operational D-Star repeater in the United Kingdom has been forced off the air due to interference on its input from unlicensed devices. The

Radio Society of Great Britain's Emerging Technology Co-ordination Committee website reports that the GB7YD dash C, 70cm D-Star system has been removed from service until an alternative frequency can be found.

According to the coordinating committee, problems have been experienced at

other United Kingdom 70 cm D-Star repeaters with an input on 433.9125 MHz. Unfortunately this part of the Amateur Band in the U-K was made license exempt and is used by a large number of micro power consumer electronic devices for remote control and telemetry applications. This includes automobile key keyless entry systems, wireless door bells and data

links for in-home weather stations. (Southgate)

**

HAM TECHNOLOGY: D-STAR GROWING IN THE UK

But its not all bad news from our neighbors across the Atlantic pond. 2 meter D-Star repeaters have been springing up like weeds across the United

Kingdom in recent days. First was GB7DG in Glasgow on February 15th. It was soon followed on the air by GB7YD in Yorkshire, GM7MI in Manchester and

GB7DE in Fife.

United Kingdom D-Star repeaters have already become well established in the

70 cm band. The new 2 meter repeaters make D-Star accessible to many more U-K Radio Amateurs. The offer by Icom UK of 2 meter or 70 cm D-STAR

repeaters for ï¿½1000 which is equivalent to about 1900 U-S dollars has undoubtedly been a factor in the rapid growth of the United Kingdom's D-Star repeater network. So even with the interference from unlicensed devices, D-Star in the United Kingdom is still quickly gaining in popularity. (Southgate)

**

HAM HELP WANTED: PSR LOOKING FOR WRITERS AND ARTICLES

The Tucson Amateur Packet Radio publication Packet Status Register is looking for a few good writers. Of particular interest are ham radio operators working on the digital side of our hobby who would like to publicize their activities.

Since 1982 Tucson Amateur Packet Radio publishes the Packet Status Register

quarterly as a membership journal featuring both technical and non-technical articles. Its editorial staff can handle just about any text and graphic format. The deadline for the next issue to be released at

the 2008 Dayton Hamvention is March 31st. Submissions go to WA1LOU at tapr

dot org. (TAPR)

**

HAM RADIO BUSINESS: HARBACH PURCHASES RIGHTS TO PETER W DAHL TRANSFORMERS

The name Peter W. Dahl and the transformers and chokes he designed will live on. This with word that Jeff Weinberg, W8CQ of Harbach Electronics, has purchased the rights to the name, along with the original transformer and choke specifications and designs, and the design equipment.

Weinberg e-mailed at least one ham to confirm that the deal had been made. In his note he indicated that the next generation of Dahl designed

transformers will be built by MagCap Engineering using the original specifications, and sold through Harbach Electronics under the Peter Dahl name. The transformer and chokes will be shipped FOB Canton, Massachusetts

and shipped directly to the customer from the MagCap Engineering factory. (QRZ.com)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE UPDATE: MT BEACON HAMFEST IN NY IN APRIL

Turning to the ham radio social scene, word that the 2008 Mt. Beacon Amateur Radio Club Hamfest takes place on Sunday April 13th not April 1st

as reported last week. The venue is still the same. It's Tymor Park in LaGrangeville, New York. More is on-line at www.wr2abb.org. (WA2BSS)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: KENNEHOOCHEE HAMFEST MARCH 15TH

The 55th Annual Kennehoochee Hamfest, takes place Saturday, March 15th in Jim R Miller Park, on Marietta, Georgia. Gates open at 8 a.m. and close at

3 in the afternoon local time with talk-in on the 146.880 MHz repeater that

requires a 100 hertz access tone. More about this event is on-line at www.w4bi.org (E-mail)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: DX PROGRAMS FOR YOUR CLUB MEETINGS

And if you are looking for a program for your next club meeting word that movie maker Jim Brooks, 9V1YC has two new DXpedition videos out. One deals

with the 2006 Kermedec Island Zed-L-8-R operation. The other chronicles the 2007 B-S-7-H Scarborough Reef operation. Both are professionally produced, broadcast-quality documentaries on DVD. More about these and Jim's other 8 DXpedition films are on line at www.dxvideos.com. (E-mail)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States

of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from

our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: BOB BEASLEY, K6BJH - S.K.

Some more sad news to report . This, with the passing of famed ham radio cartoonist Bob Beasley, K6BJH, of Homeland, California.

Bob Beasley was born and raised in southern California and became a radio amateur in 1953. He once said that he had been interested in comic art ever since he could remember, and decided at an early age that he wanted to

be a cartoonist.

For many years K6BJH was the resident cartoonist for Worldradio Magazine. After he retired much of his work was released in the book The Best of Beasley.

Bob Beasley, K6BJH, died on Saturday, February 16th. He was 83. (Worldradio)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: SWL LEADER DON RICHARD SCHMIDT - SK

And the world of shortwave listening has lost one of its prominent leaders. This with the passing of Southern California Area DX'ers club Vice President Don Richard Schmidt.

According to Stewart MacKenzie, Schmidt died of an apparent heart Attack on

Monday, February 18th. McKenzie says that the group will greatly miss Schmidt's services to the hobby of radio listening and to the two club's that he has put his full energy into all these years.

MacKenzie says that per Schmidt's wishes there are no plans for a memorial

gathering. (SCADS)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: BOEING MUST PROVE WIRELESS BROADBAND SECURITY OF 787

Boeing Aircraft Company still has something to prove when it comes to offering safe Internet access on its new 787 jetliner. This, before the

new jet will be permitted to carry passengers with their wireless devices

turned on.

Boeing has designed the 787 Dreamliner to allow airlines to offer passengers more in-flight Internet options than previous planes have allowed. Those new features and other aspects of 787's computer network go

beyond the scope of existing regulations. So the Federal Aviation Administration is requiring Boeing to show the new technology isn't a safety threat.

According to news reports, Boeing will have to show that Internet access in

the cabin will not leave the flight controls vulnerable to hackers and hijackers. The company claims it has engineered safeguards to shut out unauthorized users, but some security analysts worry navigation and communications systems could still be vulnerable.

As to you bringing along your H-T and operating from on-high. Well don't hold your breath. Its doubtful that any major airline will ever permit hams to talk on the air with their own gear as some might please. (Science OnLine)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AO-11 COPIED BUT INTERMITTANT

AMSAT reports that its aging OSCAR-11 ham radio satellite was heard from January 22nd to February 1st and again from February 11th to the 15th. Signal levels have been very variable in strength sometimes very strong, and at other time undetectable, even at high elevations. Low signal strength was particularly noticeable towards the end of the transmission periods.

OSCAR-11 is expected to switch back on under control of its on-board timer

around March 7th. There should be a short period of transmissions before permanent eclipses start in mid March. After that time it is unlikely that

the satellite will support any sustained period of operation, and will only

transmit for a short time, possibly less than a single orbit, every 21 days.

OSCAR-11 has a beacon frequency of 145.826 MHz where it transmits telemetry. More information is at http://www.users.zetnet.co.uk/clivew/ (ANS)

**

WORLDBEAT - ANTARCTICA: LOGS FINALLY ARRIVE

Some good news for those of you waiting a long time for a confirmation from

Antarctica. Adam Brown, K2ARB, reports that he has received the logs for the operation from KC4USV at McMurdo Station for the period October 2004 through February 2007. Among the operators during that period were Mike Poole, KE6ZYK, and Charles Dowdell, N2TYQ. All stations wishing to confirm

a QSO or submit an SWL signal report are invited to do so via K1IED at his address as found on QRZ.com. All QSO's will soon be uploaded to Logbook to the World as well. (Modern DX News)

**

WORLDBEAT - AUSTRALIA: A NEW HAM ON-LINE WIKI

A new amateur radio wiki has been started by Tim Roberts, VK4YEH. Roberts

says that he intends for this new wiki to become an online encyclopaedia for hams, rather than just pages of links. Articles of all sorts are welcome, but be aware that the philosophy of a wiki is that articles can be, and probably will be, edited by others. The URL is www.amateur-radio-wiki.net (WIA)

**

WORLDBEAT - WORLDWIDE: INTERNATIONAL MUSEUMS WEEKEND

This years International Museums Weekend special event will take place on the weekend of June 14th and 15th. Hams world-wide are encouraged to participate in this event by setting up stations in their local museums.

The event organizer is Harry Bloomfield, M1BYT. He asks that all those intending to join in should register their museum on the International Museums Weekend website at www.ukradioamateur.co.uk/imw Harry himself can

be contacted by email to harry dot m1byt at tiscali do co dot uk. (GB2RS)

**

DX

In DX, word that F8CHM will be active as FR5EZ from Reunion Island until the 21st of March. He expects to be active on the HF bands and 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL as directed on the air

And weather permitting, the United Kingdom's Luton VHF Group plan to activate the Welsh island of Caldey, on 1st and 2nd March. This, during the 2 meter and 70cm RSGB contest. The callsign will be GW3SVJ. The expedition is a precursor to a much longer and larger expedition planned for the first week of September. Further information is available at www dot vhfcomm dot co dot uk slash LVG.

Also the 1st and 2nd of March sees the ARRL DX SSB Contest on all HF bands.

It starts at 00.01 on the Saturday and ends at 23.59 on the Sunday. The exchange is RST and serial number. As this is a contest contacts must be kept brief so please do not ask QSL routing. Most major operations will

either post this information on the Internet or supply it to DX and contest

newsletter.

The VP6DX operation was slated to leave the island on February 28th. As this was being written, the VP6DX Web site was reporting around 121,968 QSO's. The U-R-L is www.vp6dx.com

Lastly, word that the New Zealand's NZART QSL Bureau ZL1 prefix sub-bureau

is closed until further notice. Jack Small, ZL1KQ, has retired from the position he has held since 1980. The national society is now looking for

a replacement for Small willing to take on this unpaid volunteer position.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: UK MAN STEALS TO BUY RADIOS

And finally this week, talk about being addicted to radio. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jim Damron, N8TMW, reports:

--

The Halifax Evening Courier reports that a 56-year-old man in the United Kingdom admitted to stealing the equivalent of almost $30,000 from his 71 year old partner and spending it all on receivers.

The newspaper says that the Copley, Halifax man was accused of forging his

partners signature on checks made out to himself while she was a resident in a nursing home. He reportedly used the money to purchase radios with which he surrounded himself often had them all on at once.

Police found about 50 wireless sets in his house. The defense said he had suffered from an obsessive compulsive disorder for 30 years.

--

The next time your XYL gives you a bad time over your transceiver and antenna tuner, just tell her about this guy and how lucky she really is. (Halifax EC)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the

RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can

also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go we want to remind you that the nominating period for the 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year is now open. Any licensed radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in the United States or Canada is

eligible for the award. Full details and both downloadable and on-line nominating forms are in cyberspace at www.YHOTY.org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm David Black,
KB4KCH, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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94. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-29 15:20:00 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-C57632.09083929022008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3315

AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote:
> Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote on Thu, 28 Feb 2008 09:36:39 EST:

> >When a member noted that the ARS
> >frequencies were there for use after the normal comms weren't working,
> >he replied " Every thing we do is a matter of life and death, so we can
> >use your frequencies any way we wish".
> >
> >That was not only wrong, but scary that people that think in that manner
> >are coming into the hobby with such an attitude.

> That person was more right than wrong. If one bothers to look,
> the small-number Parts of Title 47 C.F.R. state clearly that
> ANYONE can use ANY radio frequency to call for assistance if
> a situation is really life or death...licensed or not. True.
>
> Phil Kane could probably quote the Part and wording off the
> top of his head but, not being an attorney, I would have to
> search the Parts (all freely accessible). Besides, someone
> in here would want to start a whole steamy argument thread on
> that, arguing minutiae on the whichness of the what...:-)
> Memory says it is the Part on commercial radio licenses but
> undoubtedly someone in here will say 'I am wrong.' [sigh]

It is not as simple as that. What constitutes an emergency? If an ambulance crew is transporting a 90 year old heart attack victim, it is certainly a matter of life or death for that one patient. However, if the ambulance breaks down, they can't commandeer your car. For a government agency to seize private property (a category that includes repeaters, transceivers, etc.) for their own use, they must have a declaration of emergency, declaration of martial law, or, in individual cases, a court order. The fire department employee who claimed that the FD could take over an amateur radio club's repeaters anytime that they wanted to do so was dead wrong.

--
Klystron

95. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-29 15:29:37 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fq97mt$1g9u$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3316

AF6AY wrote:
> Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote on Thu, 28 Feb 2008 12:23:05 EST:
>
>> Although I have a technical background, my post secondary "eddycaytion"
>> is actually in the art field, and In my job and life I cross between the
>> two.
>
> So is mine...as an illustrator (an artist who draws/paints things as
> they really are). I went for engineering after my Army service.

I work with Illustrators in my day job.

>> I stumbled upon this site, and was pleasantly introduced to "Steampunks"
>
> I admire the heck out of the excellence of that website and its
> gorgeous
> photos. Really well-done craftsmanship on web page design. However,
> it
> begins to look a lot like 'eye candy' for those who love to do things
> the old-fashioned way.

It is an aesthetic. The Steampunk aesthetic is coupling the throwaway ideals of modern times, with the hand crafted "preciousness" of another time. It is quite purposeful anachronism, and a large part of its charm is that it isn't nihilistic, but it has a whimsical base to it. The projects they work on are specifically on new or present technology. Modifying Ipods, LCD panels, Fender Strats. It isn't even nostalgic, much of the banter appears tongue in cheek.

>> In a unique (and a little bizarre) melding of technologies, one
>> practitioner has built and implemented a Telegraph sounder that reads
>> RSS feeds.
>
> NO WAY can that sounder 'copy' digital data from any Internet.
>
> Sorry, but there's just TOO MUCH MASS in that sounder to move
> anything that fast...not even at 60 WPM speeds of old Teletypes.
> Those who get all upset about my absolute statements should
> open up and study any OLD Model 15 to 19 TTY from Teletype.
> That Chicago firm KNEW how to make machinery work fast and long.

I do not know the exact mass of the the sounder arm, but the device does not have to sound out at the RSS feed speed if it is too fast for the mechanics. The software driving it can send out the Morse at a comfortable speed.

>> Although the Amateur radio world does not have many examples of art -
>
> Our 'art training' must have come from very different schools.

I believe that is true.

<some snippage>

>> though some folks come pretty close with some old time stations, I found
>> the method I'm going to use for my next shack redo. I'll have to share
>> the pictures of the same. Now to start scrounging brass....
>
> Try not to forget that brass will oxidize from exposure to air.
> Stock up on Glass Wax too, it works well on a continuing need
> to make brass shiny again. And again. And again.

> PLATE the brass with something to avoid all that dog-work
> shine-up that you will need. Find a good electrochemical shop
> and make some deals there. It will save appearances a lot
> longer than all that necessary polishing later.

It is an aesthetic that is difficult for some to grasp, for sure, but
the brass is a big part of it. If future polishing is to be delayed,
there are coatings that can be added. Sometimes the weatherd look is
even desired in itself.

>> Certainly some will find this odd, but I like a little aesthetics in my
>> hobbies along with the technical.
>
> So do I. Our difference is that I do an innate merging of
> technical functionality with outward design and color. Icom
> 'basic black' (with white accents and sparse color in legends)
> does it for me...who also is on intimate acquaintence what the
> functions are.

<snip>

Sure, that is very nice. But it is also a style of the moment. 50 years
from now it will be old stuff, just as the Victorian aesthetic is for us
now.

> A SOUNDER for amateur RADIO use? The ubiquitous BFO is what I
> consider the first 'DSP' for morse cognition. That's why it
> became so popular in radios way back before my time on earth.
> Okay, so von Statt doesn't know much about electromagnets and
> didn't put finer wire with more turns on his replica.

I don't recall a sounder for amateur radio use. The whole project was
just a fun thing to do with an rss feed, not a vindication of something.
Strictly speaking, it wasn't Victorian technology, it was from an even
earlier time. The guy was just having a little retro fun.

> If we get too retro on 1890s 'aesthetics,' perhaps he could
> make a lovely, shiny, brassy Tuning Fork as a frequency
> standard? Musicians still use those. An HC-6 holder of a

> quartz crystal can never look aesthetic by itself. But it
> will be a thousand or more times more accurate in frequency
> than an all-mechanical vibrating Tuning Fork. But, what the
> Fork? A Tuning Fork can LOOK so interesting...and it can
> make a noise! :-)

The tuning fork was invented in 1711. They are usually made of steel. Most steampunks would not make a tuning fork. The idea is to take some modern technology and make it look as if it was manufactured in another time and place. So while a person might take an Ipod and etch an old fashioned picture in it, or a guitar and modify it, they wouldn't likely make an instrument like a tuning fork.

But to return to topic, The concept of making a station conform to an aesthetic is not all that unusual. Our stations can be an expression of ourselves, and we can either place the items on the desk and be done with it, or we can embellish the room as we see fit. It is just another way to have some fun.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

96. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-29 17:40:11 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <e5a9544c-00d5-4cd9-853d-3d6cf845ee14@q78g2000hsh.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3317

On Feb 29, 10:29 am, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:

> The concept of making a station conform to an
> aesthetic is not all that unusual. Our stations can be an expression of
> ourselves, and we can either place the items on the desk and be done
> with it, or we can embellish the room as we see fit. It is just another
> way to have some fun.

Well said, Mike!

I'm a member of the function-determines-form school of thought on this. That sounder is an excellent example of that school - its form is exactly what it needs to be to do the job it was intended to do. Yet it is aesthetically pleasing without any added ornamentation.

I've tried to follow that aesthetic in my amateur radio activities. My homebrew rig (google my call for the website) is built almost entirely out of reused parts. Rather than trying to hide this, I decided to celebrate it in the design. The shack furniture, while made mostly from new wood, is designed to be as strong and functional as possible while being constructed using simple woodworking tools and keeping the cost as low as possible. The result is a shack that is comfortable and functional, yet inexpensive and flexible for changes. When I worked the CW SS this year, I was able to incorporate a logging computer setup (homebrew-from-reused-components computer, too) in a short time, because of the flexibility of the shelving system.

--

Part of the attraction to some of the products of certain eras is that they were made of quality materials, and were intended to last a very long time. I've tried to follow that rule in my homebrew designs as well, and the result has been a very low parts failure rate. (I also have a large stock of spare parts so that if something does fail, it can be easily and quickly replaced).

--

Perhaps we hams are missing out on something by using words like "shack", "shop", and "hobby". People who do art for its own sake, without pecuniary interest, do not use those terms. Be it painting in oil or watercolor, sculpture (in a variety of media), woodworking, music, poetry, performing arts, etc., they use terms like "studio", "gallery", "performance space", etc. There's a certain approach the creative and performing artist have towards what they do, and I think we could learn from it. We should not be apologetic for our activities any more than an artist apologizes for his/hers. In amateur radio we

can be both creative (building equipment and stations) and performing (operating our stations) artists!

There's also the factor of craftsmanship, which is evident in the steampunk objects. Craftsmanship can't be bought or learned entirely from a book; it's a matter of practice, too. Steampunk clearly has lots of it!

I think we hams may have been selling ourselves short in some ways. We have aesthetics that IMHO are just as valid as any other. For example, antennas are not "ugly" in that aesthetic - they are a beautiful expression of form-following-function if done right. To me, a house does not become "home" unless there is a properly-designed-and-installed amateur radio antenna present.

73 de Jim, N2EY

97. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-29 18:47:34 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <a7208c5a-cba2-445a-9406-19cd550f5fe8@p43g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3318

On Feb 29, 10:20 am, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> > Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote on Thu, 28 Feb 2008 09:36:39 EST:
> > >When a member noted that the ARS
> > >frequencies were there for use after the normal comms weren't working,
> > >he replied " Every thing we do is a matter of life and death, so we can

> > >use your frequencies any way we wish".

> It is not as simple as that. What constitutes an emergency?

"Imminent danger of loss of life, serious injury, or damage/loss of
property". Or verbiage something like that.

> If an
> ambulance crew is transporting a 90 year old heart attack victim, it is
> certainly a matter of life or death for that one patient.

Agreed. But what if they are transporting several people - say, a
young family that was in a serious auto accident? Or suppose they were
transporting desperately-needed medicines, blood, etc., during an
epidemic?

> However, if
> the ambulance breaks down, they can't commandeer your car. For a
> government agency to seize private property (a category that includes
> repeaters, transceivers, etc.) for their own use, they must have a
> declaration of emergency, declaration of martial law, or, in individual
> cases, a court order.

I'm not sure what the ultimate legality is, in a case like that or the
others I described. I suspect that government folks would not seize
private property for emergency use unless they were desperate, because
of the possible liability.

OTOH, would you want to have it on your conscience that a person or a
family died because you wouldn't let the ambulance folks use your car
when it was desperately needed?

> The fire department employee who claimed that the
> FD could take over an amateur radio club's repeaters anytime that they
> wanted to do so was dead wrong.

I don't think the FD person wanted the repeaters. He said they could
use the frequencies, not the repeaters. And the frequencies are public
property, after all. An amateur or club might own the repeater but
they don't own the frequencies.

Further complicating the situation is the fact that many if not most amateur radio repeaters aren't installed on the owner's property. For example, one of the repeaters I use is on top of a local hospital, where its antenna shares rooftop space with antennas for other radio services. (It's an excellent location and gives very good coverage). It's connected to the hospital's backup power system, too. The repeater club pays a nominal fee for the electric power and rent. Given that level of community support, don't the repeater owners have some responsibility to the community?

Like the situation of the broken-down ambulance, would any radio amateur want it on his/her conscience that a building burned down, and/or people died, because s/he wouldn't let the emergency service people use an amateur radio repeater in an emergency when it was desperately needed?

73 de Jim, N2EY

98. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-29 20:12:10 UTC
From: Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
Message-ID: <fast-50A7BA.09550729022008@netnews.worldnet.att.net>
Source record: 3319

In article <xxx-C57632.09083929022008@news.verizon.net>,
Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote:
> > Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote on Thu, 28 Feb 2008 09:36:39 EST:
>
> > >When a member noted that the ARS
> > >frequencies were there for use after the normal comms weren't working,
> > >he replied " Every thing we do is a matter of life and death, so we can
> > >use your frequencies any way we wish".
> > >
> > >That was not only wrong, but scary that people that think in that manner
> > >are coming into the hobby with such an attitude.
>
>
> > That person was more right than wrong. If one bothers to look,
> > the small-number Parts of Title 47 C.F.R. state clearly that
> > ANYONE can use ANY radio frequency to call for assistance if
> > a situation is really life or death...licensed or not. True.
> >
> > Phil Kane could probably quote the Part and wording off the
> > top of his head but, not being an attorney, I would have to
> > search the Parts (all freely accessible). Besides, someone
> > in here would want to start a whole steamy argument thread on
> > that, arguing minutiae on the whichness of the what...:-)
> > Memory says it is the Part on commercial radio licenses but
> > undoubtedly someone in here will say 'I am wrong.' [sigh]
>
>
> It is not as simple as that. What constitutes an emergency? If an
> ambulance crew is transporting a 90 year old heart attack victim, it is
> certainly a matter of life or death for that one patient. However, if
> the ambulance breaks down, they can't commandeer your car. For a
> government agency to seize private property (a category that includes
> repeaters, transceivers, etc.) for their own use, they must have a
> declaration of emergency, declaration of martial law, or, in individual
> cases, a court order. The fire department employee who claimed that the
> FD could take over an amateur radio club's repeaters anytime that they
> wanted to do so was dead wrong.

Well actually AF6AY, and Mike are reading more into those passages of
Title 47 than they were, and are, intended, by the Commission. Phil,
being an ex FCC Lawyer can expound on the intent, but when I was a
Resident Field Agent, it was understood within the Commission, that
Amateurs, operating within their Licenses, are NOT restricted to

Frequencies, modes, or just about any other restriction, of operation, during Safety of Life situations, that are authorized by the PART 97, but this does NOT Allow them to use Frequencies NOT Authorized under than Part.
The same is true for Licensees operating under other Parts like 90, 87, and 80, where that Specific Language is used in the Part. The fact of the matter is, that you only get in trouble, IF someone complains, or has a problem with your operation, and is willing to go on the Record with their objection with your operation, and Force an investigation, of the incident. Sometimes Common Sense does prevail, but sometimes it turns into a very BIG Deal.
Case in Point, a few years back, there was an incident in California, where a young fellow used his Mod'ed HT to beak into the Local Sheriff's Frequency to report an injured Hiker. The Sheriff took offense to that intrusion, and there was a GIANT BrewHAHA, that as I recall, Phil was involved in. We had quite a discussion about the situation, between ourselves about the incident, and again, as I recall the issue was settled out of HQ by some of the BIG GUN Lawyers back there.

--
Bruce in alaska
add <path> after <fast> to reply

99. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-29 20:13:11 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fq9nr5mri1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3320

AF6AY wrote:
> Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote on Thu, 28 Feb 2008 09:36:39 EST:
>
>> AF6AY wrote:
>>> Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote on Wed, 27 Feb 2008 09:00:40 EST:
>
>>> Do we HAVE to 'attract new blood?' Serious question.
>> We do need new people to replace those who leave for one reason or the
>> other. I want someone to talk to on the other end, and don't want the
>> Amateur radio community to become closed and eventually die out.
>
> That seems a tad premature to me. At present there are 722K TOTAL
> licensees and the expiration rate is roughly 27K/year. If that
> keeps up without any newcomers, it would be 26.7 years before all
> were gone. [of course there will be newcomers...but how many
> depends on the attitude of the old-timers they come in contact with]
>
>>> ... We are NOT required to DO certain
>>> things in the hobby just because some old-timers say we MUST
>>> do those besides the regulations that all must obey.
>> I'm fortunate that I never had that experience. Of course, if someone
>> ever did tell me how I was supposed to use my time in the hobby, I think
>> I would politely decline, and go do what I wanted to do. 8^)
>
> Well, from my experience (at work or at play) I've had some
> who INSISTED on telling me what I 'should' be doing. Some
> of those got rather antagonistic about it. "We don't DO that
> kind of thing in <fill-in-the-blank>" kind of comment. It was
> so prevalent among amateur radio licensees that I encountered
> that it turned me off of bothering to get a license for a long
> time. That's been my experience over the last half century and
> I spent that time working IN the electronics industry.
>
> I'll have to say that the above attitude was reflected in the
> older amateur-radio-interest newsgroups and was partly due to
> the creation of rec.radio.amateur.moderated.
>
>> ... I don't know if you were watching
>> the group a few weeks ago, but I related a story about an emergency comm
>> person speaking at a club meeting.
>
> I was 'reading the mail' but didn't bother with it much. :-)
>
>> When a member noted that the ARS

>> frequencies were there for use after the normal comms weren't working,
>> he replied " Every thing we do is a matter of life and death, so we can
>> use your frequencies any way we wish".
>>
>> That was not only wrong, but scary that people that think in that manner
>> are coming into the hobby with such an attitude.
>
> That person was more right than wrong. If one bothers to look,
> the small-number Parts of Title 47 C.F.R. state clearly that
> ANYONE can use ANY radio frequency to call for assistance if
> a situation is really life or death...licensed or not. True.

It has to be life and death, and keep in mind that Law enforcement is
happy to make that determination after the fact - and has in some cases.
The thing that had people concerned in this case was the "anything" message.

<some snippage>

> Radio amateur licensees are not bound JUST to what Part 97
> says. The whole of Title 47 applies, even if 99+% has nothing
> directly to do with the amateur radio service. But, with REAL
> life-and-death situations, anyone can use any frequency at any
> time with or without any license.
>
>> He (and some like him)
>> come in to talk to the people who will be building and maintaining
>> repeaters and infrastructure, and lay one like that on them?
>
> Let's take that IN context. Consider that the attending radio
> amateurs might ALSO have an 'attitude' going. Consider that
> lots of government infrastructure radio facilities are kept
> going 24/7 expressly FOR the purpose of life-and-death comms
> needs. Amateur radio repeaters aren't. Amateur repeaters
> are there primarily for the benefit of other amateurs.

One of the issues that has come up in the post Katrina world is that a
number of public service agencies have had their employees get Ham radio
licenses. All well and good, and probably an end run around getting
hobbyists to help, since the employee hams will already be on the job.

Problem is, the new hams in many cases are just looking for another
communication channel, and are not interested in radio as radio. Even
this is okay. But.. The problem that arises is that there is an
expectation the people who are interested in the hobby and its technical
issues are going to keep everything up and running.

Even then, many of us with that ability are willing to pitch in.

But the big question is who becomes liable if that repeater fails? I
think that in many ways, Ham radio emergency operations are tending to
become employees who also have a ham license. And their interests are
more in the line of what they do best - save lives, not put up repeaters.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

100. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-29 21:08:23 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <ng5m95-mf6.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 3321

In article <a7208c5a-cba2-445a-9406-19cd550f5fe8@p43g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>, <N2EY@aol.com> wrote:

>I don't think the FD person wanted the repeaters. He said they could >use the frequencies, not the repeaters. And the frequencies are public >property, after all. An amateur or club might own the repeater but >they don't own the frequencies.

I think there's a significant difference between a one-time emergency use (if regular comms go down), and regular use of the frequencies as a substitute for a properly-licensed/managed public service radio allocation.

As I understand it, this issue came up in a big way some decades ago, after World War II. During the war, normal amateur-radio communications were all shut down (for security reasons). The whole RACES system was set up to allow specially-licensed stations (part of civil-defense organizations) to use the ham-radio frequencies for communication.

Some years after that (after ham-radio communications were allowed again) some controversy arose over the use of the ham frequencies. >From what I've heard, there were some public-safety organizations in small towns (police and fire) which started using the ham frequencies regularly... they got ham licenses and set themselves up as RACES stations and tried to justify their full-time tactical use of the ham band under the "RACES training and drill" rules.

Hams complained. The FCC agreed with the complaints, deciding that this was not an appropriate use of the ham frequencies, and instituted new rules which strictly limit the frequency and duration of RACES training drills that any given RACES organization can undertake (basically, the equivalent of two long weekends per year). These rules still exist today, and I imagine that many of us here had to answer at least one question about this on one of our ham exams :-)

The Rules in 47 CFR 97.113 specifically forbid "Communications, on a regular basis, which could reasonably be furnished alternatively through other radio services" as well as communications for hire or in which the operator has a pecuniary interest. I think that the first of these prohibitions would probably be ruled to apply to a fire department which (as a matter of course or regular practice) makes use of the ham band or repeaters. The FCC would (I believe) certainly rule that there are other bands and radio services which are specifically intended for public-safety use, and that these are reasonably available to fire departments and etc.

Real, short-term emergency use, when a regular fire-department or
other radio service fails for some reason, is a different matter...
but this isn't a "regular basis" of communications.

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will
boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

101. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-29 22:24:12 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <47348e24-3716-4189-af62-4ef88185b33e@47g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3322

On Feb 29, 4:08 pm, dpl...@radagast.org (Dave Platt) wrote:
> In article <a7208c5a-cba2-445a-9406-19cd550f5...@p43g2000hsc.googlegroups.
com>,

N2EY wrote:

> >I don't think the FD person wanted the repeaters. He said they could
> >use the frequencies, not the repeaters. And the frequencies are public
> >property, after all. An amateur or club might own the repeater but
> >they don't own the frequencies.
>
> I think there's a significant difference between a one-time emergency
> use (if regular comms go down), and regular use of the frequencies as
> a substitute for a properly-licensed/managed public service radio
> allocation.

Agreed. The discussion in question was about use of amateur
frequencies in an emergency situation only.

> As I understand it, this issue came up in a big way some decades
> ago, after World War II. During the war, normal amateur-radio
> communications were all shut down (for security reasons). The whole
> RACES system was set up to allow specially-licensed stations (part of
> civil-defense organizations) to use the ham-radio frequencies for
> communication.

During WW2, the system was called WERS (Wartime Emergency Radio
Service). WERS used the prewar
112 and 224 MHz bands (2-1/2 and 1-1/4 meters) for local
communications. Post-war, WERS evolved into RACES.

> Some years after that (after ham-radio communications were allowed
> again) some controversy arose over the use of the ham frequencies.
> From what I've heard, there were some public-safety organizations in
> small towns (police and fire) which started using the ham frequencies
> regularly... they got ham licenses and set themselves up as RACES
> stations and tried to justify their full-time tactical use of the ham
> band under the "RACES training and drill" rules.

Sounds plausible. The difference in cost of amateur gear (which could
be converted surplus or even homebrew) vs. commercial land-mobile VHF
equipment was probably one reason for it.

> Hams complained. The FCC agreed with the complaints, deciding that
> this was not an appropriate use of the ham frequencies, and instituted
> new rules which strictly limit the frequency and duration of RACES
> training drills that any given RACES organization can undertake

> (basically, the equivalent of two long weekends per year).

And the need for a declared emergency to activate RACES.

Good points!

73 de Jim, N2EY

102. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-02-29 23:19:03 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <13sh4mplhhqj5cc@news.supernews.com>
Source record: 3323

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Feb 29, 10:20 am, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
>>> Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote on Thu, 28 Feb 2008 09:36:39 EST:
>>>> When a member noted that the ARS
>>>> frequencies were there for use after the normal comms weren't working,
>>>> he replied " Every thing we do is a matter of life and death, so we can
>>>> use your frequencies any way we wish".
>
>> It is not as simple as that. What constitutes an emergency?
>
> "Imminent danger of loss of life, serious injury, or damage/loss of
> property". Or verbiage something like that.

There are fringe elements in all aspects of life, including ham radio. I've seen hams get much too caught up in the particular aspect of the hobby that they enjoy, be it emergency communications, DX, contesting, whatever.

Someone went to a club meeting and got carried away with what he was saying about emergency communications. This has evolved into a discussion about what constitutes an emergency, what hams can do during this emergency, and the possible ramifications of all that. It has been an interesting discussion, from which I have learned something.

But let's not assume that the statements of one individual represent the guiding principles of an entire segment of ham radio. Yes, there is a fringe element in the emergency communications interest group, but the same is true for the contest interest group, the DX interest group, and even the segment of the hobby who only wants to ragchew. You're not going to find a mainstream emcomm guy who will say "everything we do is a matter of life and death."

While this has been an interesting discussion, we need to realize that it applies to a minuscule part of our operating. If there are a thousand people reading this newsgroup, it's likely that not a single one of you will ever be involved with a real life-or-death emergency. If you are, Part 97 is likely to be the last thing on your mind, which is exactly as it should be.

Still, an interesting discussion. I hope I never have to administer CPR, but I still got the training.

73, Steve KB9X

103. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-01 02:14:39 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-B89BBC.18541729022008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3324

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> Klystron wrote:

> > If an
> > ambulance crew is transporting a 90 year old heart attack victim, it is
> > certainly a matter of life or death for that one patient.

> Agreed. But what if they are transporting several people - say, a
> young family that was in a serious auto accident? Or suppose they were
> transporting desperately-needed medicines, blood, etc., during an
> epidemic?

If you want to COMMANDEER something, re-read my previous post. It
doesn't matter if there are 99 people in the ambulance, they are all
having heart attacks and the ambulance is on fire.

> > However, if
> > the ambulance breaks down, they can't commandeer your car. For a
> > government agency to seize private property (a category that includes
> > repeaters, transceivers, etc.) for their own use, they must have a
> > declaration of emergency, declaration of martial law, or, in individual
> > cases, a court order.

> I'm not sure what the ultimate legality is, in a case like that or the
> others I described. I suspect that government folks would not seize
> private property for emergency use unless they were desperate, because
> of the possible liability.

Look for definitions of terms like "declaration of emergency,"
"martial law" or "disaster area." This is heavily traveled territory -
we don't need to reinvent the wheel, here in this newsgroup.

> OTOH, would you want to have it on your conscience that a person or a
> family died because you wouldn't let the ambulance folks use your car
> when it was desperately needed?

See bottom paragraph.

> > The fire department employee who claimed that the
> > FD could take over an amateur radio club's repeaters anytime that they
> > wanted to do so was dead wrong.

> I don't think the FD person wanted the repeaters. He said they could
> use the frequencies, not the repeaters. And the frequencies are public
> property, after all. An amateur or club might own the repeater but
> they don't own the frequencies.
>

> Further complicating the situation is the fact that many if not most
> amateur radio repeaters aren't installed on the owner's property. For
> example, one of the repeaters I use is on top of a local hospital,
> where its antenna shares rooftop space with antennas for other radio
> services. (It's an excellent location and gives very good coverage).
> It's connected to the hospital's backup power system, too. The
> repeater club pays a nominal fee for the electric power and rent.
> Given that level of community support, don't the repeater owners have
> some responsibility to the community?

If you put your shoes in a locker at the gym, are they still YOUR
shoes?

> Like the situation of the broken-down ambulance, would any radio
> amateur want it on his/her conscience that a building burned down, and/
> or people died, because s/he wouldn't let the emergency service people
> use an amateur radio repeater in an emergency when it was desperately
> needed?

There is a bit of difference between a civic minded amateur radio
club voluntarily making its facilities available and a government
employee with an inflated sense of entitlement believing that he can
seize whatever he wants to seize whenever he want to seize it because
fires and sick people in ambulances are really, really important.

--
Klystron

104. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-01 02:16:26 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <WNGdndlR7oMXMVXanZ2dnUVZ_jmdnZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 3325

On Fri, 29 Feb 2008 12:40:11 -0500, N2EY wrote:

> On Feb 29, 10:29 am, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>> The concept of making a station conform to an aesthetic is not all tha
t
>> unusual. Our stations can be an expression of ourselves, and we can
>> either place the items on the desk and be done with it, or we can
>> embellish the room as we see fit. It is just another way to have some
>> fun.
>
> Well said, Mike!
>
> I'm a member of the function-determines-form school of thought on this.
> That sounder is an excellent example of that school - its form is
> exactly what it needs to be to do the job it was intended to do. Yet it
> is aesthetically pleasing without any added ornamentation.
>
> I've tried to follow that aesthetic in my amateur radio activities. My
> homebrew rig (google my call for the website) is built almost entirely
> out of reused parts. Rather than trying to hide this, I decided to
> celebrate it in the design. The shack furniture, while made mostly from
> new wood, is designed to be as strong and functional as possible while
> being constructed using simple woodworking tools and keeping the cost a
s
> low as possible. The result is a shack that is comfortable and
> functional, yet inexpensive and flexible for changes. When I worked the
> CW SS this year, I was able to incorporate a logging computer setup
> (homebrew-from-reused-components computer, too) in a short time, becaus
e
> of the flexibility of the shelving system.

You're just several pieces of brass and leather away from steampunkin'
it, Jim! The knobs and meters are already there. maybe brass up the
chassis (technical question: will the brass have an untoward effect on
inductors, ala diddle sticks?)

The speaker (red cone is a plus) can be covered with leather real
or faux. The shelves look a lot like the ones I made. Tubes glow, so they

are already there......

> Part of the attraction to some of the products of certain eras is that
> they were made of quality materials, and were intended to last a very
> long time.

<snip>

> Perhaps we hams are missing out on something by using words like
> "shack", "shop", and "hobby". People who do art for its own sake,
> without pecuniary interest, do not use those terms. Be it painting in
> oil or watercolor, sculpture (in a variety of media), woodworking,
> music, poetry, performing arts, etc., they use terms like "studio",
> "gallery", "performance space", etc. There's a certain approach the
> creative and performing artist have towards what they do, and I think w
e
> could learn from it. We should not be apologetic for our activities any
> more than an artist apologizes for his/hers. In amateur radio we can be
> both creative (building equipment and stations) and performing
> (operating our stations) artists!

Interesting insight Jim. When I built my telescopes, each one was
designed to be functional, yet beautiful. I was especially fond of the
12.5 inch reflector, which was done in art deco style. The form followed
the function, yet the aesthetic enhanced the form. On the urging of some
friends I entered it in the home made telescope contest, and it won.

> There's also the factor of craftsmanship, which is evident in the
> steampunk objects. Craftsmanship can't be bought or learned entirely
> from a book; it's a matter of practice, too. Steampunk clearly has lots
> of it!

They love to create. I'm hoping to bring some of that to amateur
radio. I also expect a certain amount of ridicule.

> I think we hams may have been selling ourselves short in some ways. We
> have aesthetics that IMHO are just as valid as any other. For example,
> antennas are not "ugly" in that aesthetic - they are a beautiful
> expression of form-following-function if done right. To me, a house doe
s
> not become "home" unless there is a properly-designed-and- installed
> amateur radio antenna present.

I think that many people have been told that antennas are ugly,
and that some industries are happy to promote that. Most antennas are not

ugly
--
-73 de Mike N3LI -

105. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 8 (Friday, February 29, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-01 02:20:19 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080229184858.5754531741@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 3326
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 8
February 29, 2008
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + ARRL, FCC, Department of Defense Review New Developments in PAVE PAWS
Interference Mitigation
* + Tennessee Agency Calls Army MARS into Action
* + Ducie Island, VP6DX: Making Contacts, Breaking Records
* + Two New Titles Join the ARRL Bookshelf
* + The March/April Issue of NCJ Now Available
* + FCC Denies Petitions to Bring Back Morse Code Testing
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ ARRL Gearing Up for Dayton Hamvention
+ W1HQ Now Up and Running -- on the World Wide Web
Wisconsin Hams Assist Injured Driver
Los Angeles County Hams Honored for Community Service
500 kHz Distance Record Broken Again
"Swiss Army Knife" Now Available for PIOs

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==========================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, <k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========================================================

==> ARRL, FCC, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REVIEW NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PAVE PAWS INTERFERENCE
MITIGATION

The FCC, ARRL representatives and agents of the various US Air Force units
working on developing a plan to mitigate alleged interference from 70 cm ham
radio repeaters to PAVE PAWS radar systems on both coasts met February 20 via
conference call. The purpose of the conference was to review the status of
the mitigation plans at both sites: the Massachusetts Military Reservation on
Cape Cod and Beale AFB, north of Sacramento, California.
```

Thanks to the cooperation and assistance of the involved repeater owners on Cape Cod, ARRL Regulatory Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said, "I am pleased to be able to pass along that at this time, the Department of Defense has determined that the levels of harmful interference to the PAVE PAWS radar site on Cape Cod have been sufficiently reduced. As part of this determination, they are not rescheduling additional follow-up testing for that area until sometime in 2009."

Henderson said that this decision doesn't mean New England is back to pre-mitigation repeater operation: "Any mitigation steps that have been taken should remain in place. A repeater that has gone off the air should not be simply turned back on at its original power level -- its previously determined mitigation standard still applies in order to protect the primary user from harmful interference."

Henderson stressed that the entire process is ongoing. "The high degree of voluntary cooperation shown by the owners of Air Force-identified repeaters has helped demonstrate to the DoD that the amateur community takes its responsibility seriously. This should help us retain access to the band in the long run."

During the discussion of the Cape Cod radar during the teleconference, the ARRL broached the topic of allowing the resumption of coordinating new repeaters on the 70 cm band in New England. The Air Force has agreed in principle to allow the New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC) to resume coordination efforts under certain conditions. "These include that in addition to NESMC's normal coordination policies, Longley-Rice signal strength plots are prepared to determine expected signal strength at the radar site," Henderson said.

Henderson said that the ARRL has a "fairly good understanding of what strength level at the site should be workable, even though the DoD has not given us specific information on the sensitivity of the radar. The Longley-Rice plots should indicate if the operating parameters of the proposed repeater might be sufficient to prevent harmful interference to the radar site. The Longley-Rice plots are not the 'last word' in the process, but are a good tool giving the repeater owner and NESMC a reasonable assessment of possible problems."

Henderson reiterated that "any specific mitigation number from the Air Force is an exact measurement, not a 'predicted' number from a computer analysis."

Once NESMC approves a tentative coordination, Henderson explained that NESMC would forward the complete information on the new repeater to the Air Force for authorization on a case-by-case basis, as provided for in Title 47 ï¿½2.106 Footnote US7. "During a 60 day trial period, the Air Force would contact NESMC for an immediate shut-down of a new repeater causing harmful interference. If that happens the new repeater would have to remain off the air until it can be successfully mitigated."

While this new process is a bit burdensome to NESMC and the repeater owners, it goes a long way toward keeping Amateur Radio in a position where 70 cm operation can grow with careful attention to the effect of our operations on

the primary users.

During the update discussion of the Beale AFB PAVE PAWS site in California, the DoD was able to report that there was a reduction in harmful interference at the radar, though work remains to be done to bring the situation at that site to a successful conclusion. DoD officials announced that a new round of testing is scheduled during the spring at Beale, and that they will share the results after the next round of testing is complete.

During the teleconference, the FCC reported that it has received excellent compliance in the wake of their phone calls and letters to repeater trustees and owners. This cooperation has made it unnecessary for the FCC to issue any mandatory shut down orders to date. The Commission will continue to be the initial point of contact with the DoD should further mitigation be required based on additional testing at Beale.

The ARRL will continue to work with the FCC, DoD, repeater coordinating groups and individual repeater owners as requested. "Because of the sheer number of 70 cm repeaters in that area, the Beale problem is taking longer to resolve," Henderson said. "We will continue to work toward a successful, constructive conclusion for as long as it takes."

==> TENNESSEE AGENCY CALLS ARMY MARS INTO ACTION

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) called Army Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) into action as tornados swept across the Southeastern United States February 5-6. According to Army MARS Chief Stuart Carter, "For the first time as far back as we can remember, a state government called for MARS deployment in response to an actual emergency. The resulting teamwork and use of Army MARS Winlink capability gave TEMA its only e-mail link during President Bush's visit to the storm-stricken area." At least 70 messages were sent during the state operation ranging from casualty figure updates and signal reports to staff rosters and photos.

TEMA's Chief of Communications David Wolfe, WA4VVX (MARS call sign AAR4CY), said, "Although there was no commercial power at the deployment site, TEMA's communications infrastructure was fully operational. Both the VHF high band and 800 MHz repeater systems had good coverage for voice command and control. Our shortage was Internet connectivity, and our unmet needs were e-mail and the ability to send pictures. MARS Winlink provided exactly what was not available by any other means."

Carter said that this event illustrates the importance of detailed preparation and training that has taken place during realistic disaster response exercises over the past several years. "In the case of Tennessee, the story goes back a year and a half. Steve Waterman, K4CJX (MARS call sign AAA9AC) began working with Wolfe in late 2006, preparing for just such a deployment. At the time, Army MARS was just beginning to adopt the Winlink 2000 radio e-mail network system, and with the assistance of the then-Tennessee State Director Paul Drothler, WO4U (MARS call sign AAV4DJ), Army MARS had just signed a Memorandum of Understanding with TEMA. This MOU just served to strengthen an already strong relationship between TEMA and

Army MARS. Wolfe led TEMA staffers who were already hams to becoming MARS members and to become qualified MARS Winlink 2000 operators. The rest of Wolfe's team soon obtained their Amateur Radio and Army MARS licenses."

The next step, according to Carter, was joint training for TEMA staff and Tennessee Army MARS members. Some was classroom training followed up with extensive field training. The culmination of the field training was TNCAT07, a massive exercise that included the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC), an eight-state alert consortium along the New Madrid fault line. This exercise also included the participation by ARRL Amateur Emergency Radio Service (ARES), Civil Air Patrol and other EmComm services that clearly demonstrated interoperability between TEMA, Tennessee Army MARS, the Amateur Radio community and other municipal communications services.

"To make a long story short," Carter said, "we now have seen a demonstration of seamless collaboration between Army MARS and one of our supported agencies under 'Real World' emergency conditions. This was the first Army MARS deployment since the Katrina/Rita disasters two years ago. Successfully meeting the challenge involved deployment readiness on the part of our members, and it required total Winlink 2000 mobility. First of all came the building of relationships with existing and potential customers, and then came meticulous training of state and federal staffers, and frequent exercising at home and in the field. With this pattern of established collaboration between our customers and MARS members, we enter the new era of Army MARS Emergency communications support."

==> DUCIE ISLAND, VP6DX: MAKING CONTACTS, BREAKING RECORDS

After 13 days, 7 hours and 37 minutes of continuous operation, the VP6DX Team on Ducie Island <http://ducie2008.dl1mgb.com/index.php> made their 168,723rd contact. Valeri Koursov, RA0ALM, of Krasnoyarsk, Russia, contacted the Ducie Island expedition on Monday, February 25, 2008 at 0437 UTC on 30 meters. According to documents maintained by Jari Jussila, OH2BU, this contact breaks the record for the largest number of contacts made by any radio expedition. The previous record was held since February 8-28, 2001 by the Five Star DX Association's DXpedition to the Comoros Island, D68C.

The Ducie Island DXpedition has broken other expedition records throughout the course of the DXpedition, including:
* The largest number of RTTY contacts, previously held by the Swains Island N8S DXpedition in April 2007.
* The largest number of SSB (voice) contacts, previously held by the Comoros Island D68C DXpedition.
* The largest number of contacts on 40 meters, previously held by the Libya 5A7A DXpedition in November 2006.
* The largest number of contacts on 30 meters, previously held by the St Brandon Island 3B7C DXpedition in September 2007.
* The largest number of contacts on 17 meters, previously held by the Swains Island N8S DXpedition.
* The largest number of contacts with North America, previously held by the Comoros Island D68C DXpedition.
* The largest number of contacts with South America, previously held by the

Peter I Island 3Y0X DXpedition in February 2006.
* The largest number of contacts with Africa, previously held by the Rodrigues Island 3B9C DXpedition in March-April 2004.

The Ducie Island crew received inquiries about the equipment and antennas used on Ducie Island. They reported that each operating position used:
* Elecraft K3 radio. They said "The outstanding receiver and transmitter characteristics allowed us to run two positions simultaneously on any band -- even the very narrow 30 meter band -- with absolutely no interference. Good design makes the complex appear simple: the ins and outs of this sophisticated radio were quickly mastered by the operator team, none of whom had seen a K3 before the expedition."
* Microham microKeyer II computer interfaces: plug in, turn on, call CQ and get to work.
* Acom 2000, 1000 or 1010 amplifiers: quietly getting the job done without trouble. The position used on 160 meters includes an OM 2500 HF amplifier.
* 200 W W3NQN bandpass filters from Array Solutions and 2 kW bandpass filters from 4O3A.
* WinTest logging software running on Durabook ruggedized laptops.
* Honda EM65is and EM30is inverter supply, gasoline generators. The operators report that the generators offer "100 percent reliability to date. The inverter system has been very tolerant of the widely varying loads presented to the generators as multiple operating positions switch between transmit (high power consumption) and receive (low power consumption), a vast improvement over previous gasoline generator designs."

The seven operating positions were divided into two sites: East (four positions) and West (three positions). The operating sites stood about 1 kilometer apart, a 15 minute walk over a coral shelf bordering the island's inner lagoon. Each site had its own WiFi network; a microwave link tied the two sites together. Sleeping tents and meals were located at the East camp.

The Ducie Island DXpedition closed down operations on Wednesday, February 27. Amateurs who had QSOs with VP6DX can check the online logs <http://ducie2008.dl1mgb.com/onlinelog/index.php>. -- Information provided by VP6DX Team

==> TWO NEW TITLES JOIN THE ARRL BOOKSHELF

The ARRL is pleased to announce two new books as part of the spring publications line-up: "ARRL's VHF Digital Handbook" and "ARRL's Hands-On Radio Experiments." These books complete the spring suite that includes the 2008-2009 "ARRL Repeater Directory" and "TravelPlus for Repeaters" CD-ROM, both to be released in April.

"ARRL's VHF Digital Handbook," written by QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, looks at how today's Amateur Radio operators are using digital radio applications for fun, technical achievement and public service. And it's no wonder -- getting started often requires little more than a VHF radio and a computer. This new book includes such topics as packet radio, APRS, D-STAR, digital applications in public service and emergency communications and much more.

Without complicated "owner's manual" jargon, "ARRL's VHF Digital Handbook" presents the material through a unique how-to approach and friendly, conversational style. Readers will understand how to setup and operate their equipment and software and make the best use of their VHF digital station.

"ARRL's Hands-On Radio Experiments," written by H. Ward Silver, N0AX, is a compilation of the author's "Hands-on Radio" columns that appeared in QST from 2003-2008. The experiments cover a wealth of topics designed to educate today's radio experimenters, and inspire others who want to learn what makes their radios work. Even seasoned experts will encounter new approaches to practical methods, new explanations for familiar topics and new ideas that will enhance your understanding of the radio art. Step-by-step, Silver expertly leads you through each experiment -- and you'll make discoveries along the way.

With more than 60 experiments ranging from Radio and Electronic Fundamentals to Semiconductor Basics to Transmission Lines and Impedance Matching to Power Supplies, these projects are designed to increase your understanding of basic radio fundamentals, components, circuits and design.

Order your copy of "ARRL's Hands-On Radio Experiments" and "ARRL's VHF Digital Handbook" today at the ARRL Online Store <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/>.

==> THE MARCH/APRIL ISSUE OF NCJ NOW AVAILABLE

NCJ, The National Contest Journal is what everyone interested in radiosport needs to have in their shack. Filled with the latest news from the contesting world, this is a definite must-have. Whether you are new to contesting or are a seasoned pro (or somewhere in the middle), you will find something in NCJ just for you.

In the March/April issue, David Robbins, K1TTT, ruminates on a "Real-Time Contest Scoreboard." Julius Fazekas, III, N2WN, discusses "Top Band Contesting: My 80/160 Meter Receive Antenna Evolution." Tom Menas, K3WT, remembers the "The 5J0A San Andres Island 2007 CQ WW CW Contest Operation," and Scott Robbins, W4PA, profiles Rick Lindquist, N1RL, in this issue's "NCJ Profiles." Bob Neece, K0KR, concludes his "virtual tour" of the CAC in his article, "Update: The ARRL Contest Advisory Committee -- Part 2."

If you've been waiting to see how you did in the October 2007 RTTY Sprint, you definitely don't want to miss this issue! Ed Muns, W0YK, give readers the rundown on this popular contest. Was your log one of three "Golden Logs" received? Check out your scores and see if you can beat it for the March Sprint.

A new regular column appears in this issue: "Contesting 101." Each issue, Kirk Pickering, K4RO, takes contesters, novice and expert alike, around the "nuts and bolts" of radiosport. This issue, he looks at why people get started in contesting, as well as an explanation of why people participate in contests.

Of course, there are all the regular columns and features you expect from NCJ: "Workshop Chronicles," by Don Daso, K4ZA; "Contest Tips, Tricks &

Techniques," by Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT; "Propagation," by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA; "VHF-UHF Contesting," by Jon Jones, N0JK; "Contesting on a Budget," by Paul Schaffenberger, K5AF; "DX Contest Activity Announcements," by Bill Feidt, NG3K; "RTTY Contesting," by Don Hill, AA5AU, and "Contest Calendar," by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM.

All this and more in the March/April issue of NCJ. NCJ is published six times a year by the ARRL; it is edited by Al Dewey, K0AD. Subscribe today <http://www.arrl.org/ncj/>!

==> FCC DENIES PETITIONS TO BRING BACK MORSE CODE TESTING

In a "Memorandum Opinion and Order" (MOO) <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-59A1.pdf> released February 28, the FCC denied two petitions calling for General or Amateur Extra license applicants to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. In December 2006, the FCC released a "Report and Order" (R&O) <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-178A1.pdf> in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, that eliminated Morse code testing as of February 23, 2007.

The "R&O" amended Section 97.501 to remove the telegraphy requirement. In reaching this decision, the FCC noted in the R&O that "one of the fundamental purposes underlying our Part 97 rules is to accommodate amateur radio operators' ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, and that the Commission had previously concluded that an individual's ability to demonstrate Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of his or her ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art." The FCC also noted that another fundamental purpose underlying Part 97 rules is "to enhance the value of the amateur service to the public, particularly with respect to emergency communications, and that the Commission had previously concluded that most emergency communication today is performed using voice, data, or video modes, because information can be exchanged much faster using modes of communication other than telegraphy."

The Commission therefore concluded that requiring an individual to demonstrate Morse code proficiency as a licensing requirement "did not further the purposes of the Part 97 rules." The Commission also found that this reasoning applied equally to the General Class and the Amateur Extra Class, so "it rejected suggestions that the Morse code requirement be eliminated for the General Class license but retained for the Amateur Extra Class license."

In the wake of the FCC's actions in WT Docket 05-235, two amateurs submitted separate petitions to the FCC, asking them to bring back the testing. Anthony R. Gordon, KG6EQM, of West Covina California, objected to the FCC eliminating the telegraphy examination element as an examination requirement for the Amateur Extra Class operator license. Russell D. Ward, W4NI, of Nashville, Tennessee, requested the FCC reconsider their decision for "'strictly procedural'" reasons.

Gordon asserts that "'the failure to keep the Morse code telegraphy requirement intact, at least as a required examination element for the Amateur Extra Class operator license, fails to take into consideration the significant national security implications that require retaining adequate examination safeguards to insure the viability that Morse code telegraphy provides, not only to the Amateur service, but the nation as well.'" Gordon argues that the requirement should be retained so that amateur operators can act as "a 'strategic reserve,'" because there is "no assurance that...voice or digital modes will even be operationally viable in future emergency communication environments."

The FCC was not persuaded, however, that eliminating the Morse code examination element will affect national security or emergency communications. "We agree with the commenters who point out that requiring applicants to pass a one-time telegraphy examination did not and would not guarantee a supply of skilled telegraphy operators. Moreover, nothing in the Commission's decision prevents an interested amateur radio operator from pursuing Morse code proficiency."

The FCC reiterated their prior conclusion that "an individual's ability to demonstrate Morse code proficiency does not further the underlying purposes of the Part 97 rules, i.e., to accommodate individual contributions to the advancement of the radio art and to enhance the value of the amateur service to the public. Accordingly, we deny the petition."

In the MOO, Ward states that he "encountered difficulty" in submitting his comments and reply comments to the NPRM electronically and that his filings were not posted on the ECFS (the Commission's electronic filing system) until after the deadlines had passed. He asserts that "there is no certainty that the Commission considered his comments and reply comments, that the late posting of his comments prevented others from replying to them, and that it is 'quite likely that other comments were treated improperly.'" As a result, Ward requested that the FCC "stay the proceeding, reopen the record and reconsider the NPRM after the close of the extended comment period."

The FCC claims that all comments in the ECFS "were considered before the Commission adopted the Report and Order, regardless of the how or when they were filed. Moreover, many of the 3900 comments and reply comments expressed the same view as Mr. Ward, so the substance of his views unquestionably was replied to and considered. Finally, he provides no evidence that ECFS mishandled other comments. No other party has complained that his or her comments were not received. We conclude, therefore, that reopening the proceeding for additional comments is not justified, and we deny the petition."

In summary, the FCC said neither petition asserted "any grounds for reconsidering" the decision in the Report and Order. "We believe that the actions taken therein will allow amateur service licensees to better fulfill the purpose of the amateur service, and will enhance the usefulness of the amateur service to the public and licensees."

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "They have never seen the sunshine, nor the glory" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: A sunspot emerged a few days ago, a welcome sight at Cycle minimum. Sunspot numbers for February 25-28 were 12, 13, 12 and 12, but that spot (number 983) is now gone over the eastern horizon of our Sun. If the February 29 sunspot number is zero, this means our three-month moving average of sunspot numbers centered on January will be 8.5, slightly higher than the last reading. Our moving average centered on June 2007-January 2008 is 18.7, 15.4, 10.2, 5.4, 3, 6.9, 8.1 and 8.5, with the minimum centered on October 2007. Sunspot numbers for February 21-27 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 12, 13 and 12 with a mean of 5.3. The 10.7 cm flux was 71.8, 72.4, 71.6, 70.7, 71.4, 70.7 and 70.7 with a mean of 71.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 4, 4, 3, 3, 3 and 12 with a mean of 5. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 3, 3, 2, 1, 2 and 6 with a mean of 2.9. Remember that a sunspot number does not represent t
he actual number of sunspots. The minimum non-zero sunspot number is 11, because a value of 10 is counted for each cluster of sunspots; a value of one is added for each individual spot. So the February 26 sunspot number of 13 represents one group containing three sunspots. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you courtesy of Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, the ARRL International DX Contest (Phone) is March 1-2. The NCCC Sprint is February 29 and the Wake-Up! QRP Sprint is March 1. The low band portion of the Open Ukraine RTTY Championship is March 1 and 2; the high band portion is March 2. The DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest is March 2 and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (Data) is March 3. The ARS Spartan Sprint and another running of the NCCC Sprint are March 4. Next weekend starts with the NCCC Sprint on March 7. The AGCW QRP Contest and SOC Marathon Sprint are March 8. The RSGB Commonwealth Contest, the Oklahoma QSO Party, the EA PSK31 Contest and the Idaho QSO Party are March 8-9. The North American Sprint (RTTY), the SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, the UBA Spring Contest (CW) and the NSARA Contest are March 9. The Wisconsin QSO Party is March 9-10 and the CLARA and Family HF Contest is March 11-12. The RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (CW) is March 12. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, March, 9, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, March, 21, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive,

and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assi
gnments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARRL Gearing for Up Dayton Hamvention: ARRL EXPO returns to Dayton Hamvention, to be held May 16-18, 2008 at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. The huge ARRL exhibit area is a showcase of displays, activities and program representatives to enhance your ham radio experience. The ARRL EXPO is open to all Hamvention attendees. Meet ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, other ARRL officials, volunteers and staff knowledgeable on a wide variety of topics. Among the highlights of the exhibit space will be a card checking area for operating awards, activities for young hams, the ARRL bookstore and more. ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, is the ARRL EXPO coordinator. "We are looking at some new and exciting venues within EXPO, but I'm not ready to spill the beans quite yet! We are focusing our attention this year on the theme of technology and on Hamvention's theme celebrating ham radio fellowship -- stay tuned for more news. We sincerely thank the 2008 Dayton Hamvention Commi
ttee and their volunteers for all they do to make this a signature convention; we are so pleased to participate." Keep an eye on the ARRL EXPO Web site <http://www.arrl.org/expo> for updates.

* W1HQ Now Up and Running -- on the World Wide Web: ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, has started a blog <http://www.arrl.org/blog/The%20Rebirth%20of%20W1HQ> chronicling the rebirth of the ARRL employee's club station, the Laird Campbell Memorial Station, W1HQ. "I've created this blog as a method of tracking our activities at the ARRL employee's club station," Breen said. Along with Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, she has led the charge to spiff up the station by giving the room a much-needed coat of new paint. Ed Hare, W1RFI, constructed all-new desks and cabinets. Building Manager Greg Kwasowski, W1GJK, installed new carpet and ceiling tiles. Test Engineer Mike Tracy, KC1SX, and Lab Assistant Anthony Nesta, AA1RZ, ran new antenna cables to the roof and rewired the entire room with a new antenna patch panel to accommodate all the new antenna feed lines. Lab Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG, built a trap vertical. Read along as Breen, Kutzko and the rest of the
W1HQ Crew bring W1HQ back to life and back on the air. You can also check out blogs <http://www.arrl.org/blog/> from past ARRL events, such as Dayton Hamvention and ARRL Expo, the 2007 ARRL National Convention and Field Day. DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, also keeps a blog discussing news and notes concerning the DXCC program.

* Wisconsin Hams Assist Injured Driver: On Wednesday, February 27, Brian Sprecher, KC9LCC, of Prairie Du Sac, Wisconsin, received a radio call on the

147.150 Madison repeater requesting emergency help. Robert Stout, WB9ECK, of Monticello, Wisconsin, told Sprecher that a vehicle had gone off the road through a guard rail, stopping short of a creek. The driver was injured and trapped in his vehicle and an ambulance was needed at the scene. Sprecher called the Dane County sheriff's office to relay the information. Stout, via the repeater, kept Sprecher apprised of the driver's injuries; Sprecher, in turn, updated the sheriff's dispatch with the information. Stout remained at the scene providing aid until local police arrived. Sprecher relayed all information to the dispatcher until local authorities arrived and assumed control. "It sounds like the guy drove off the road through a guard rail and may have not been found had it not been for WB9ECK. It was also unknown how long the
driver had been over the embankment before being found. This could have been a lot worse had WB9ECK not become involved," Sprecher said. -- Information provided by Brian Sprecher, KC9LCC

* Los Angeles County Hams Honored for Community Service: On February 27, members of the Disaster Communications Service (DCS), based at the Carson Sheriff Station, received individual and group awards from the State of California, the County of Los Angeles, the Carson Sheriff Station Support Foundation and the City of Carson, California for their participation in a wide range of both planned and emergent events. These 27 Amateur Radio operators provided almost 8000 hours of service to the agencies, including assisting in providing assistance during a bicycle race, tactical alerts due to civil unrest, funerals for fallen deputy sheriffs and the fires that plagued Southern California. Members of their Rapid Deployment Team spent five days on Catalina Island, serving as the primary means of communication between the island and the mainland until telephone systems were restored. The service provided by the Carson Station DCS volunteers saved the taxpayers of Los Angeles County al
most $320,000, "but more importantly, they selflessly provided an invaluable service that is a critical component to the safety of our communities and families," the DCS coordinator said. Thirteen deputies, a firefighter, two station volunteers and two citizens were also recognized in the second annual event that pays tribute to Carson sheriff's deputies and supporters for their work in the city. More information can be found at the Los Angeles County Disaster Communications Web page <http://lacdcs.com/carson-awards-endpage.html>.

* 500 kHz Distance Record Broken Again: On February 21, Neil Schwanitz, V73NS/WD8CRT, on Roi-Namur in the Marshall Islands, received a signal from experimental station WD2XSH/6. This experimental station, operated by Pat Hamel, W5THT, is located in Long Beach, Mississippi -- 6679 miles away from the island in the Kwajalein atoll. This contact breaks the previous record for the longest 500 kHz contact. That record, set in January 2008, was for a distance of 4737 miles from Cottage Grove, Oregon to Roi-Namur. An article on Hamel's station appears in the March issue of QST. The ARRL 500 kHz experimental license, WD2XSH, was issued in September 2006 and has 20 active stations. Fritz Raab, W1FR, of Vermont, serves as experimental project manager for The 500 KC Experimental Group for Amateur Radio <http://www.500kc.com>. Additional information can be found at the experiment's Web site and also in the July/August 2007 issue of QEX <http://www.arrl.org/qex/2007/07/raab.pdf>. -- Info

rmation provided by Fritz Raab, W1FR

* "Swiss Army Knife" Now Available for PIOs: The 2008 edition of the "Swiss Army Knife for PIOs" CD is now available. This "toolkit-on-a-disk" is designed to be a handy reference for Amateur Radio public relations officials. Topics on the disk include how to write press releases, give interviews and talk to groups; how to deal with legislative issues affecting Amateur Radio; audio, video and picture files; how to write articles for ARRL publications such as QST; how to connect with youth; information on ARRL public relations awards; how to promote Field Day in your community; FEMA course information, and more. To receive a copy, send a self-addressed stamped envelope (please make sure the envelope is large enough for a CD disk) with at least two units of postage and a note to Public Relations, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. This disk is available to anyone with an interest in spreading the word about Amateur Radio.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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106. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-01 05:47:52 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <f1rhs317phlm4nb3mho2d24h9hf49ve3ea@4ax.com>
Source record: 3327

On Wed, 27 Feb 2008 21:18:18 EST, "Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net>
wrote:

>I don't think my path will be very useful to use as a tool. My second
>husband dragged me to a class with the comment "Let's do this together".

My wife has been married before, and all three of her husbands (I am
the last and longest) were hams. She never was interested in ham
radio until a while back when she expressed an interest in being able
to "slide into the seat" when I did emergency hospital communications.
As an electrical power and instrumentation engineer of some 40 years'
experience, theory was no problem for her. She started to take the
three-session class offered by our radio club, using the ARRL's video
tapes which in my view are insipid.. Halfway through the second tape
she got up and left, declaiming "what the hell am I doing here" and
strode out of the room. She never became interested again and I'm not
about to press the issue.

The moral of the story - good wishes have to be backed up by solid
support.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

107. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-01 06:05:35 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <52shs3d4cqecfvjl14ibov34aciheo34vl@4ax.com>
Source record: 3328

On Fri, 29 Feb 2008 10:20:00 EST, Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> It is not as simple as that. What constitutes an emergency?

Gee, let's open that can of worms once again!

It's a two-prong test - it has to be a situation involving immediate safety of life or property, AND no other means of communication are available.

My job at the Commish' involved reviewing such cases before Violation Notices were sent out, and in the vast majority of cases, both prongs were not met. In fact, in one notable case, the radio tech of the law enforcement agency upon whose frequency the "wanna-be" came up took the transceiver that was used to the location and was able to bring up several repeaters with "9-1-1" autopatch capability.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

108. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-01 06:13:17 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <vqshs3df040rqe6ubol88thsvffs9831sf@4ax.com>
Source record: 3329

On Fri, 29 Feb 2008 15:12:10 EST, Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
wrote:

>The Sheriff took offense to that
>intrusion, and there was a GIANT BrewHAHA, that as I recall, Phil was
>involved in.

The ham was a "wanna-be sheriff" and the department had had quite
enough of his antics. That's the situation that I referred to in my
earlier message this evening.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

109. USB oscilloscope?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-01 07:40:52 UTC
From: Drakefan <Drakefan@bluesky.net>
Message-ID: <p07yj.105$oy2.6@trndny07>
Source record: 3330

Hello,

I'm interested in a USB oscilloscope with the hardware and software, to use with my laptop. I'd like a frequency range to 50-Mhz. I did a web search and found quite a few models. I'd appreciate some advice and suggestions on this subject. Also, are there kits or plans for building one with free software?

Thanks

110. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-01 14:41:28 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <be82397a-8ebe-4dc5-a381-ae401379c3c0@y77g2000hsy.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3331

On Feb 29, 9:14 pm, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > Klystron wrote:

> > But what if they are transporting several people - say, a
> > young family that was in a serious auto accident?
> > Or suppose they were
> > transporting desperately-needed medicines, blood, etc.,
> > during an
> > epidemic?

> If you want to COMMANDEER something, re-read my previous
> post. It
> doesn't matter if there are 99 people in the ambulance, they are all
> having heart attacks and the ambulance is on fire.

> > > However, if
> > > the ambulance breaks down, they can't commandeer your
> > > car. For a
> > > government agency to seize private property
> > > (a category that includes
> > > repeaters, transceivers, etc.) for their own use, they
> > > must have a
> > > declaration of emergency, declaration of martial law,
> > > or, in individual
> > > cases, a court order.

> > I'm not sure what the ultimate legality is, in a case like that or the
> > others I described. I suspect that government folks would not
> > seize
> > private property for emergency use unless they were
> > desperate, because
> > of the possible liability.
>
> Look for definitions of terms like "declaration of emer
gency,"
> "martial law" or "disaster area." This is heavily traveled territory -
> we don't need to reinvent the wheel, here in this newsgroup.

The main point is that there has to be a clear and defined life-and-
death emergency.

But there's also the point of who can declare an emergency? Can the
EMTs say that the ambulance breakdown is an emergency?

> > OTOH, would you want to have it on your conscience
> > that a person or a
> > family died because you wouldn't let the ambulance
> > folks use your car
> > when it was desperately needed?
>
> ? ?See bottom paragraph.

OK

> > I don't think the FD person wanted the repeaters.
> > He said they could
> > use the frequencies, not the repeaters. And the frequencies
> > are public
> > property, after all. An amateur or club might own the
> >repeater but
> > they don't own the frequencies.

This makes it a completely different situation from the commandeering
of private property.
>
> > Further complicating the situation is the fact that
> > many if not most
> > amateur radio repeaters aren't installed on the
> > owner's property.

> ? ?If you put your shoes in a locker at the gym, are they
still YOUR
> shoes?

Of course - but if someone needed them in a life-and-death
emergency....

There's also the question of contract provisions as part of the rental
agreement. Shoes in a locker are different from permanently installed
radio equipment requiring power and radiating RF.

> > Like the situation of the broken-down ambulance, would any
> > radio
> > amateur want it on his/her conscience that a building
> > burned down, and/
> > or people died, because s/he wouldn't let the
> > emergency service people
> > use an amateur radio repeater in an emergency
> > when it was desperately
> > needed?
>
> ? ?There is a bit of difference between a civic minded ama
teur
> radio
> club voluntarily making its facilities available and a government
> employee with an inflated sense of entitlement believing that
> he can

> seize whatever he wants to seize whenever he want to seize it
> because
> fires and sick people in ambulances are really, really important.

Of course - but what if the emergency really does meet K2ASP's double-prong test? That is, it's a real life-and-death emergency, and there are no other facilities available that can do the job?

As KB9X points out, the quoted person who said "everything we do is life-and-death" was way out of line, and not representative at all. But what about real-life situations that meet the two-prong test? Granted they are very rare, and most of us will never encounter them, but the time to think about them is before they happen.

73 de Jim, N2EY

111. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-01 16:37:24 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <GrCdnfhxw9HNHVTanZ2dnUVZ_uevnZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 3332

On Sat, 01 Mar 2008 01:05:35 -0500, Phil Kane wrote:

> On Fri, 29 Feb 2008 10:20:00 EST, Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:
>
>> It is not as simple as that. What constitutes an emergency?
>
> Gee, let's open that can of worms once again!
>
> It's a two-prong test - it has to be a situation involving immediate
> safety of life or property, AND no other means of communication are
> available.

And it really isn't that difficult IMO. The fellow who directly called the Police didn't have a need to do that, and in truth would have been better off to call 911, as they are the people with the resources needed to rescue people in that situation.

There are some good reasons to use Amateur radio in emergencies. As an example, our local repeater system is a multi receiver polling system

http://www.nittany-arc.net/newrepeater.html

that takes the poll from several sites, selects the strongest one, and relays that to the main repeater. In this way, we can cover the whole county in a manner that 300 mw can pretty well work the entire area. This

is all the more impressive when you look at a topo map of Centre County PA.

Back to the reasons, if there is a deployment in the county, it can be a little difficult to establish comms from the regular systems, and in the northern parts of the county, cell phone coverage isn't easy to come by once you get away from the path that I-80 cuts through the hills.

So in the nooks and crannies of the north part of the county, our repeater is a good choice, and if there are operations in both north and south, ham radio is a pretty good choice, and fits the criteria.

I believe that in most cases, people aren't going to care a whole lot if there is a little gray area, but the "anything" description is just inaccurate and misleading.

While this may be a small minority of emergency workers who fit the "I can do anything I want to do" description, they do need their errors pointed out when they make them. According to the fellow I had the

discussion with at the meeting, there would be no rules anytime.

-73 de Mike N3LI -

112. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-01 16:37:55 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-B8C06C.11103501032008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3333

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> Klystron wrote:
[...]

> > Look for definitions of terms like "declaration of emergency,"
> > "martial law" or "disaster area." This is heavily traveled territory -
> > we don't need to reinvent the wheel, here in this newsgroup.

> The main point is that there has to be a clear and defined life-and-
> death emergency.
>
> But there's also the point of who can declare an emergency? Can the
> EMTs say that the ambulance breakdown is an emergency?

Ambulance crews cannot authorize themselves to commandeer property;
only civilian government officials can do that. The gravity of the
emergency has nothing to do with it. It is just not their call to make.

[...]

> > If you put your shoes in a locker at the gym, are they still YOUR
> > shoes?

> Of course - but if someone needed them in a life-and-death
> emergency....

They would have to ASK you for them.

> There's also the question of contract provisions as part of the rental
> agreement. Shoes in a locker are different from permanently installed
> radio equipment requiring power and radiating RF.

Not from a property ownership point of view.

[...]

> Of course - but what if the emergency really does meet K2ASP's double-
> prong test? That is, it's a real life-and-death emergency, and there
> are no other facilities available that can do the job?
>
> As KB9X points out, the quoted person who said "everything we do is
> life-and-death" was way out of line, and not representative at all.
> But what about real-life situations that meet the two-prong test?
> Granted they are very rare, and most of us will never encounter them,
> but the time to think about them is before they happen.

We are not the first people to consider these issues. As I said
before, this is well-traveled territory. Phil's 2 prong test pertains to

emergency actions on frequencies that one is not normally allowed to use. It has nothing to do with the seizure of private property. That is a topic over which the FCC has no authority or jurisdiction whatever.

--
Klystron

113. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-01 19:25:05 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <6ed90f01-6bc6-4bd7-aaf7-1b1f4b4ed566@s37g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3334

On Feb 29, 9:16 pm, Mike Coslo <mco...@comcast.net> wrote:
> On Fri, 29 Feb 2008 12:40:11 -0500, N2EY wrote:
> > On Feb 29, 10:29 am, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:

> > > I'm a member of the function-determines-form
> > > school of thought on this.
> > > That sounder is an excellent example of that
> > > school - its form is
> > > exactly what it needs to be to do the job it was
> > > intended to do. Yet it
> > > is aesthetically pleasing without any added ornamentation.

> > You're just several pieces of brass and leather
> > away from steampunkin' it, Jim!

But I don't wanna be a steampunk!

> > The knobs and meters are already there. maybe brass up the
> > chassis (technical question: will the brass have an untoward
> > effect on inductors, ala diddle sticks?)

Not any more than aluminum.

> > The speaker (red cone is a plus) can be covered
> > with leather real
> > or faux. The shelves look a lot like the ones I made.

The table is homemade, too. The clock was assembled from the pieces of
several, each of which had a different problem. The result has been
functioning perfectly for at least 15 years.

> > Tubes glow, so they are already there......

Mercury vapor rectifiers and several different kinds of VR tubes.

But see above about "form follows function" and "aesthetically
pleasing without any added ornamentation". Would adding brass and
leather make any difference in rig performance? Or are they only for
looks?

IMHO, the form-follows-function aesthetic would brass- or nickle-plate
telegraph instruments to prevent corrosion. But it would not add brass
simply for a look. Same for leather - would the speaker sound better?

> > > Perhaps we hams are missing out on something
> > > by using words like
> > > "shack", "shop", and "hobby". People who do
> > > art for its own sake,

> > without pecuniary interest,

"Art for Art's sake"

Amateur radio is "Radio for it's own sake"

See the connection?

> > do not use those terms. Be it painting in
> > oil or watercolor, sculpture
> > (in a variety of media), woodworking,
> > music, poetry, performing arts, etc., they
> > use terms like "studio",
> > "gallery", "performance space", etc.
> > There's a certain approach the
> > creative and performing artist have towards
> > what they do, and I think we
> > could learn from it. We should not be apologetic
> > for our activities any
> > more than an artist apologizes for his/hers.
> > In amateur radio we can be
> > both creative (building equipment and stations)
> > and performing
> > (operating our stations) artists!
>
> Interesting insight Jim.

TNX

> When I built my telescopes, each one was
> designed to be functional, yet beautiful.
> I was especially fond of the
> 12.5 inch reflector, which was done in
> art deco style. The form followed
> the function, yet the aesthetic enhanced
> the form. On the urging of some
> friends I entered it in the home made
> telescope contest, and it won.

EXCELLENT!

Now to homebrewing some rigs....

By sheer coincidence, last night I was at Eastern University's
telescope.

> > There's also the factor of craftsmanship,
> > which is evident in the
> > steampunk objects. Craftsmanship can't be
> > bought or learned entirely
> > from a book; it's a matter of practice, too.
> > Steampunk clearly has lots
> > of it!

> They love to create.

Same here.

> I'm hoping to bring some of that to amateur
> radio. I also expect a certain amount of ridicule.

>From whom?

> > I think we hams may have been selling
> > ourselves short in some ways. We
> > have aesthetics that IMHO are just as
> > valid as any other. For example,
> > antennas are not "ugly" in that aesthetic - they are a beautiful
> > expression of form-following-function if done right.
> > To me, a house does
> > not become "home" unless there is a
> > properly-designed-and- installed
> > amateur radio antenna present.

> I think that many people have been told that antennas are ugly,
> and that some industries are happy to promote that.

Agreed. In fact, some *amateurs* may even be happy to promote
it.

> Most antennas are not ugly.

Agreed. And for those that are, the ugliness is usually
more a function of a lack of craftsmanship than it is
of the antenna itself.

73 de Jim, N2EY

114. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-02 13:58:19 UTC
From: Jerseyj <jerseyj69@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <jerseyj69-EEE314.07430102032008@newsgroups.comcast.net>
Source record: 3335

>
> The moral of the story - good wishes have to be backed up by solid
> support.
> --
>
For me the moral of the story is that you need to match the training to
the individual. Surely someone with the qualifications you listed could
simply look throug a book for an hour or two and pass the test. Sending
someone that highly qualified to the sort of experience you mentioned
that is aimed at folks with no background at all is not apropriate IMHO.

Jerry

115. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-02 22:31:09 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <a22fe6d9-438e-4071-8521-ecaf3c3e8551@e25g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3336

>AF6AY wrote:

>... The idea is to take some
>modern technology and make it look as if it was manufactured in another
>time and place. So while a person might take an Ipod and etch an old
>fashioned picture in it, or a guitar and modify it, they wouldn't likely
>make an instrument like a tuning fork.

Yeah, you're right on what Steampunks advertise themselves as, but
that is also a small niche activity in home workshopping, not just
electronics. There's much more to be found in home wood-working
catalogs in regards to 'retro' design and home workshop construction.

A year or so ago, another sent me some links to old electronics,
especially metrology, such as a couple of old reproductions of
General Radio Company instrument catalogs. Interesting for the
moment to reflect on 'style' insofar as instrumentation designed
in the period of about 1880 to 1930. [the 'Victorian Era' is in the
beginning part of that mentioned half-century period]

In that half-century, the high (relative) cost of instruments was
coupled with a certain 'style' of 'craftsmanship' that involved
very-nice, but really non-functional, wood bases and lovely
'engraved' scales and rules (more useful to the instrument) plus
less useful all-purpose connector posts. To justify the high
labor cost (reflected in the product cost) of working with new-
fangled electrical things, the designers opted for that particular
'style' based on what could be made then but really from the
(guessed) customer's preferrence for 'looks.' Usually those
customers had to justify those new instruments to their funding
entities (managers, academic grant givers, etc.). 'Style' is a
subliminal kind of influence but any market is governed by it
to sell product.

General Radio is interesting in instrument company evolution.
In their beginnings there was no real 'style' and they depended
on the newness of any sort of electrical standards to sell their
products. It seems that GR was the first to market a ready-built
oscilloscope. At least in the USA. It had a tiny screen and was
built in three sections. That was in the early 1930s. In the later
1930s DuMont came out with a one-piece 'scope and larger face CRT.
That became the 'style' setter for many years, was even copied by
that post-WWII upstart company of Howard Vollum's called Tektronix.
Vollum's designs not only improved the innards but also exterior,
that which the majority classify as 'style.' With their plug-in
vertical function modules Tektronix now set the 'style' and

DuMont just couldn't keep up. Even HP got into competition and used the same 'style' of physical form on those...but took many years of catch-up to the clear leader of oscillography, Tektronix. GR was left way behind in oscilloscopes, giving up on that market after the end of WWII.

But, GR, now under new leadership at the end of the 1950s, got its exterior 'style' together with a 'new look.' Much more intrinsic visual appeal of form-fit-color in an instrument. They were aided by new methods of metal and plastic forming and some imagination applied realistically to that 'style.' Alas, they didn't get with the new technology intensively enough and eventually dropped out, despite the high accuracy using old technology and 'craftsmanship.' GR had also opted to try a 'luddite' form of PR on their instrument constructions, featuring ONE technician 'doing every-thing' of an instrument, 'no production line methods.' Bad PR and the wrong kind of style of advertising to a customer base that was largely involved IN production. 'Style' is lots of things, not just in its outward physical appearance.

Take Hallicrafters for radios. A Biggie among amateurs before WWII and in the immediate post-WWII period. The pre-war 'style' peak might have been the SX-28 HF receiver just from appearance. Their post-war 'style' peak might have been the SX-62 Big Dial AM-FM and 'shortwave' band receiver. They, like National Radio, came out with a consumer product TV receiver and (like National) failed to penetrate the market with their 7" electro-static deflection design. Hallicrafters had a better exterior 'style' than National's wooden cabinet model but was doomed in not going towards bigger screens. Collins Radio beat both out in commercial and military equipment after WWII. Collins Radio established its own 'style' which dominated lots of aesthetic sensibilities back then. RACAL in the UK was a strong rival in that. Hallicrafters just couldn't get with the program after around 1960 and just drooped, eventually dropping out.

Market rivalry in the USA began to be taken over more and more by off-shore designer-makers around 1960. WWII was over a long time by then and off-shore production in electronics was ramping up on all markets of electronics, including amateur radio. The Big 3 (Icom-Yaesu-Kenwood) began their domination, establishing their own exterior AND interior 'styles'. Lower labor costs (and smarts) made the Japanese the leading Asian off-shore producer first, quickly followed by Taiwan and China. Their 'style' of electronics became THE style to copy, engraved in visual centers of many minds for a quarter century.

>But to return to topic, The concept of making a station conform to an
>aesthetic is not all that unusual.

I'm NOT saying that nor ever implied it. But, let's take it in context. Who or what determines a 'retro' look? And what is its

appeal to certain folks?

A half-century ago ought to qualify as 'retro' to most. But how
many were alive or experienced in such period radios? I was in my
twenties in the 1950s but nowhere would I consider 'going retro' to a
stark utilitarian environment kind of radio communications that I
got started in over a half century ago. Neither does the 'style'
of electronic things done in a period before 50 years ago appeal
to very many. There are SOME exceptions: The Zenith Transoceanic
line of portable receivers spans the pre-WWII and post-WII times
with its own unique 'style' that is unmistakable. It IS attractive
to so many that it has a large fan base on the Internet, several
URLs, all for one model line. It has a distinct STYLE to its design.

I'm not against 'having fun' with radios. With receivers (or
transceivers) one spends a LOT of time looking at front panels
whether or not a user realizes that. Subliminally, at least, the
appearance of a front panel, its control arrangement, colors,
indications, etc., enter the visual cortex and become memory.
Will added brass geegaws enter into the mind as adornement for
the memory just because they look pretty at first glance?.

>Our stations can be an expression of
>ourselves, and we can either place the items on the desk and be done
>with it, or we can embellish the room as we see fit. It is just another
>way to have some fun.

I don't agree with that entirely. First of all, an amateur radio
is a communications device, not an article of 'interior design.'
Secondly, today's ready-built amateur radios can stand on their
own as far as appearance and 'style' is concerned. That includes
most peripheral equipment. OTHER people did the styling of all
those, contemporaries, not some long-gone folks of another era a
century ago.

Thirdly, we have to be careful about 'style influencing.' No one
should dictate what or how we 'have fun' in radio other than technical
requirements of radio regulation. That includes 'style' matters
in my mind. Fashion styles exist to Sell More Clothes and Make
More Money for clothing makers...it was not really about aesthetic
appearance despite what the PR write-ups say (those write-ups are
crafted to help sell those clothes). Radio equipment isn't in such
a 'style' area. One either feels comfortable with a radio or not.
That covers its technical performance first, appearance a second.
The amateur operator will be looking at amateur radio equipment
the most at any home station. If other non-radio-interested members
of a household see it often, it should not (for their consideration)
appear too offensive to them.

All-mechanical things are fine fun for those who like to do that.
Old-time telegraphy equipment is one area well suited for such
reproduction. Many amateurs like to collect manual keys. Fewer

can make their own without ALSO having at least a small machine shop at their disposal. The same holds true for electrochemical treatment beyond simple PCB etching (which very few see once it has been loaded, tested, and put into equipment). I've learned to do simple tasks in all those areas but have found that working in wood and plastic basic materials is easier for hobby construction. It is simpler to do even if not flashy. I just don't have, or care to have,
a small all-purpose factory on the premises for any sort of manual construction hobby.

Now, MY likes or dislikes don't apply to others. I've been writing (hopefully) in generalities. All of electronics is generally based on FORWARD-LOOKING technologies and 'going retro' in any regard may be of momentary aesthetic appeal. There ARE devotee of equipment of a particular radio era. 'Mileage varies.'

73, Len AF6AY

116. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-02 23:46:18 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net>
Message-ID: <Xns9A55BEF60527Bmcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136>
Source record: 3337

Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote in
news:f1rhs317phlm4nb3mho2d24h9hf49ve3ea@4ax.com:

> She started to take the
> three-session class offered by our radio club, using the ARRL's video
> tapes which in my view are insipid.. Halfway through the second tape
> she got up and left, declaiming "what the hell am I doing here" and
> strode out of the room. She never became interested again and I'm not
> about to press the issue.

It seems like your xyl did the same thing as my wife, only in the opposite direction. She's every bit as intelligent as me, a quick study, and she has expressed some interest, but says "I could never do the things that you do", referring to the homebrewing and design I do. I keep telling her it isn't like that at all for a majority of Hams, but so far she has not gone for it. And likewise, I'm not going to press the issue! ;^)

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

117. Re: What makes a person become a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-03 00:49:37 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <M_SdnWtQv6uO1IbanZ2dnUVZ_oytnZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 3338

"Phil Kane" <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote in message
news:f1rhs317phlm4nb3mho2d24h9hf49ve3ea@4ax.com...
> On Wed, 27 Feb 2008 21:18:18 EST, "Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net>
> wrote:
>
>>I don't think my path will be very useful to use as a tool. My second
>>husband dragged me to a class with the comment "Let's do this together".
>
> My wife has been married before, and all three of her husbands (I am
> the last and longest) were hams. She never was interested in ham
> radio until a while back when she expressed an interest in being able
> to "slide into the seat" when I did emergency hospital communications.
> As an electrical power and instrumentation engineer of some 40 years'
> experience, theory was no problem for her. She started to take the
> three-session class offered by our radio club, using the ARRL's video
> tapes which in my view are insipid.. Halfway through the second tape
> she got up and left, declaiming "what the hell am I doing here" and
> strode out of the room. She never became interested again and I'm not
> about to press the issue.
>
> The moral of the story - good wishes have to be backed up by solid
> support.
> --
>
> 73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
>

I suspect that what happened here is that for a woman of her abilities, the material was presented too slowly and at the level of the lowest common denominator and she couldn't stand it (too boring). She would probably have done just fine with the Question & Answer book and it's brief explanations.

Dee, N8UZE

118. Ham radio as a condition of employment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-03 14:58:16 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <13so4flh6tq9u61@news.supernews.com>
Source record: 3339

I would like to see other opinions on this issue, which came up in passing in another group.

One of the participants there mentioned that a ham radio license has been added as an employment condition for some of their professional responders. Presumably the motivation is based on a desire to have a known population of people who can use ham radio technology in a disaster if nothing else is working.

I have two questions on this.

Is this a common situation? I hadn't heard of a formal requirement until it was mentioned on the other forum, but a couple more people came forward and said that it was in place in their area. Is it happening in your area?

Do you think it's a good idea?

73, Steve KB9X

119. Re: Ham radio as a condition of employment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-03 17:06:12 UTC
From: Alan WA4SCA <ALANBIDDLE70@YAHOO.COM>
Message-ID: <gq7os3h38r7mokna0m69l9unhbpf9je1n5@4ax.com>
Source record: 3340

Steve,

Where I live, middle TN, we are seeing a lot of medical, law enforcement, and emergency service types turning up in our technician and general class classes. So far as I know, none are there by requirement or "suggestion." It is just a desire to have another tool to use, and as the result of what they have seen that ham radio can and has done. In some cases, I suspect that the extent of their operating is to check in on the monthly hospital net.

It does not seem to be an unreasonable requirement for a job, given how easy the licence process is today. The rest of the hiring process will at least provide some selection of people with demonstrated responsibility. It certainly is not extraneous to most job requirements.

--
Alan
WA4SCA

120. Re: Ham radio as a condition of employment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-03 17:07:46 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <32ead94d-a9a7-4eff-9d07-ec61ff258843@13g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3341

On Mar 3, 9:58 am, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:

> Is this a common situation?

I've never heard of it before.

> Do you think it's a good idea?

No. At least not as a formal requirement for the job. I'm all for
encouraging and recruiting new hams,
and supporting them, but forcing them to be licensed as a condition of
employment is not a good idea, except maybe
in certain specific conditions.

Here's why:

(insert standard "I-am-not-a-lawyer" disclaimer HERE)

One of the rules about hiring-and-firing is that you cannot make
something a formal requirement for a job unless it is a reasonable
part of the normal job duties. For example, if the job involves
typical office work, you can't make it a requirement that an employee
be able to lift a 100 pound box and place it on a shelf 6 feet above
the floor unless doing so is a normal part of the job. Once in a blue
moon isn't good enough.

OTOH, if the job requires that a person occasionally drive a company
vehicle, having the required driver's licenses to do so is a
reasonable expectation.

So if an employer wants all hires to have a ham license, one has to
ask if using ham radio for communications is a routine part of the
job. If it's not, then the requirement isn't reasonable. If it is,
then we have to ask about the "pecuniary interest" part of Part 97.

The specific conditions I mentioned above are:

1) If a school had ham radio as part of the curriculum, and a specific
teacher was expected to be able to operate the station so the students
could, say, talk to the Space Shuttle. Even this is not clear-cut
because a volunteer or one of the students could be the control
operator.

2) If an organization like ARRL Hq or a museum needed someone to
operate an amateur station as part of their normal duties (demos,
bulletins, etc.)

Both of those are specifically provided for in Part 97.

The problems I see with requiring employees in other situations to be hams are:

1) It weakens the no-pecuniary-interest thing.
2) It creates a number of amateurs whose fundamental focus isn't "radio for its own sake" but rather "something I gotta do for the job". Which isn't good.

IMHO

73 de Jim, N2EY

121. Re: Ham radio as a condition of employment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-03 19:39:33 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fqhelh$1cuo$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3342

Steve Bonine wrote:
> I would like to see other opinions on this issue, which came up in
> passing in another group.
>
> One of the participants there mentioned that a ham radio license has
> been added as an employment condition for some of their professional
> responders. Presumably the motivation is based on a desire to have a
> known population of people who can use ham radio technology in a
> disaster if nothing else is working.
>
> I have two questions on this.
>
> Is this a common situation? I hadn't heard of a formal requirement
> until it was mentioned on the other forum, but a couple more people came
> forward and said that it was in place in their area. Is it happening in
> your area?

It isn't a requirement in our area, but it is apparently strongly encouraged. This is one of the situations that I refer to as "Professional Hams". It is truly a profound change in emergency operations. I am pretty convinced that the end strategy of all this is that these groups expect to use amateur radio via their "professional hams, and will not use hobbyists in the future.

> Do you think it's a good idea?

Not particularly.

The nature of emergency work is that it only happens when there is an emergency, so people have a lot to talk and think about in between emergencies.

One of the things that emergency planners do best is impose a structure on work and situations. The problem is that structure tends to go away as soon as the emergency happens, just like battle plans.

It's why Ice trucks were left sitting in parking lots in another state when they were needed in the Katrina aftermath, its why emergency groups talk about interoperability, not realizing that the more structure they put in place, the more points for failure there will be. We seem to think that if "the boss" can see what everyone is doing and can directly command them, then all will be well. When in reality, the folks on the ground need to be able to function autonomously and be trusted to make a decision.

So instead of having trained communicators on board - note that by trained communicators, I mean people who know how to get comms across X number of miles at Y o'clock, not those who just know what to say - we'll be having professionals who happen to have a license.

Getting a Ham radio license is just an entry ticket. Are these new folks going to be able to put together a repeater system when the hurricane comes through and knocks out every other one in the stricken area? Will they wonder why they can't talk to others in the same state on 20 meters or that 75 meters seems so dead during the daytime? That is what Hams have brought to the table over the years.

I know that mine is a minority opinion, hopefully I'm very wrong!

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

122. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-03 19:40:27 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fqhg1e$13mi$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3343

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Feb 29, 9:16 pm, Mike Coslo <mco...@comcast.net> wrote:
>> On Fri, 29 Feb 2008 12:40:11 -0500, N2EY wrote:
>>> On Feb 29, 10:29 am, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>>> I'm a member of the function-determines-form
>>> school of thought on this.
>>> That sounder is an excellent example of that
>>> school - its form is
>>> exactly what it needs to be to do the job it was
>>> intended to do. Yet it
>>> is aesthetically pleasing without any added ornamentation.
>
>> You're just several pieces of brass and leather
>> away from steampunkin' it, Jim!
>
> But I don't wanna be a steampunk!

Of course you can arrange your station to your own aesthetic 8^)

> But see above about "form follows function" and "aesthetically
> pleasing without any added ornamentation". Would adding brass and
> leather make any difference in rig performance? Or are they only for
> looks?

Well, now you open a interesting subsubject! The addition of brass to a station is one of those choices that does not necessarily defeat function. There needs to be a chassis to place components on or in. Is aluminum or steel or plastic more functional than brass? there might be some technical reasons fort one over the other, but in the end, they are a support structure. An example is the copper plated chassis found in some radios. Pretty cool. But I wonder how much "worse" they would perform if they weren't plated?

> IMHO, the form-follows-function aesthetic would brass- or nickle-plate
> telegraph instruments to prevent corrosion. But it would not add brass
> simply for a look.

Keeping in mind that fff could be used to not allow any embellishment, such as staining, finishing, we have to make sure we don't minimalize things out of existence.

side note: I once went to a classroom where a true minimalist had hung a data projector from the ceiling from wires. Problem was, the fan would push the projector, only as far as the wires would allow, and it made a pendulum. People were getting seasick!

Same for leather - would the speaker sound better?

well, possibly could make for some vibration damping.

My thoughts are to make a setup that incorporates the aesthetic in a fashion that is applicable to the situation. The equipment has to sit on something, so it will be made in a fashion that involves natural materials, and brass will be used where needed. I'm not going to remove my radios from their cases and build wooden boxes around them. I don't plan on overly embellishing the station, my goals are a warm feeling with an antique look where practical

- 73 d eMike N3LI -

123. Re: Ham radio as a condition of employment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-03 20:02:37 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fqhkv8$1jpk$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3344

N2EY@aol.com wrote:

> 1) It weakens the no-pecuniary-interest thing.
> 2) It creates a number of amateurs whose fundamental focus isn't
> "radio for its own sake" but rather "something I gotta do for the
> job". Which isn't good.

Especially number two!

One thing I'll note there is that at least one of the new "Emergency Ops" guys in our area has become hooked on Amateur radio for it's own sake, and assuming his test last weekend went okay, is now a General, and is getting into HF mobile in a big way. He'll be an asset to the service.

So that is a really good thing, but I still worry about the "Professional Amateur" aspect

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

124. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-03 23:23:29 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <_K%yj.5387$Sa1.3287@news02.roc.ny>
Source record: 3345

Michael Coslo wrote:

> side note: I once went to a classroom where a true minimalist had hung a
> data projector from the ceiling from wires. Problem was, the fan would
> push the projector, only as far as the wires would allow, and it made a
> pendulum. People were getting seasick!

All that for the lack of one, properly placed additional wire, heh.

> My thoughts are to make a setup that incorporates the aesthetic in a
> fashion that is applicable to the situation. The equipment has to sit on
> something, so it will be made in a fashion that involves natural
> materials, and brass will be used where needed. I'm not going to remove
> my radios from their cases and build wooden boxes around them. I don't
> plan on overly embellishing the station, my goals are a warm feeling
> with an antique look where practical

That's easily and authentically achieved by obtaining an old wooden desk
and some genuine vintage equipment.

I have the castoff oak veneered desk from W8YX, the University of
Cincinnati ARC station. It is shown in a photo of the station which
appeared in a 1937 QST article about the Ohio River flood.

If I want a "thirties feel", I can fire up W4JBP's homebrew xtal
controlled 6L6 rig and pair it up with an HRO, SW-3, FB-7, an RME 69 or
a Hallicrafter Sky Challenger. If I want to move to the fifties, my
Johnson Valiant or Central 20-A might be paired with an HQ-70 or a
Collins 75A-3.

Dressing up modern technology to look as if it is powered by steam,
strikes me as more than a tad silly.

Dave K8MN

125. Re: Ham radio as a condition of employment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-03 23:26:19 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <XN%yj.5388$Sa1.734@news02.roc.ny>
Source record: 3346

Steve Bonine wrote:
> I would like to see other opinions on this issue, which came up in
> passing in another group.
>
> One of the participants there mentioned that a ham radio license has
> been added as an employment condition for some of their professional
> responders. Presumably the motivation is based on a desire to have a
> known population of people who can use ham radio technology in a
> disaster if nothing else is working.
>
> I have two questions on this.
>
> Is this a common situation? I hadn't heard of a formal requirement
> until it was mentioned on the other forum, but a couple more people came
> forward and said that it was in place in their area. Is it happening in
> your area?

No, it isn't happening in this area.

> Do you think it's a good idea?

No. I refer to N2EY's thoughtful response. I don't think it makes any
more sense to make obtaining an *amateur* license part of a professional
position any more than requiring an applicant for an amateur radio know
how to to fight fires.

Dave KMN

126. Re: Ham radio as a condition of employment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-03 23:33:12 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <13sp0qe1dkr8405@news.supernews.com>
Source record: 3347

Michael Coslo wrote:

> This is one of the situations that I refer to as
> "Professional Hams". It is truly a profound change in emergency
> operations. I am pretty convinced that the end strategy of all this is
> that these groups expect to use amateur radio via their "professional
> hams, and will not use hobbyists in the future.

My experience does not support that, but I realize that it's MY experience and that the situation in other areas may be different. That's one of the reasons I started the thread; I am curious as to how things are in other areas. I doubt that my area is typical, but I'm not sure that "typical" even exists in this case.

I don't see our professional emergency management folks thinking that they will replace the traditional ham radio recruit, the "hobbyists" if you will. They seem to be more interested in getting licensed so that they can work more effectively with the ham volunteers, and "tap in" to the resources that are available. They see cases where hams are providing something positive and they want to be able to take best advantage of it.

Most of these professionals realize that the actual radios and the technology, while important, isn't really the most important component of what the ham radio community can provide. It's the people that matter the most. Rather than trying to minimize that, the paid emcomm folks that I have seen are trying to maximize it.

> One of the things that emergency planners do best is impose a structure
> on work and situations. The problem is that structure tends to go away
> as soon as the emergency happens, just like battle plans.

With all due respect, having an effective battle plan is key to winning a battle. They don't "go away", any more than an effective emergency plan does. Sure, things seldom go exactly as the plan would suggest, but the more planning is done in advance, the higher the probability that things will go more smoothly.

Katrina was probably the ultimate example of how Mother Nature can throw things at us that are beyond the threshold of our plans. Even so, the organizations that had invested in planning came out much better than the ones that had not.

> It's why Ice trucks were left sitting in parking lots in another state
> when they were needed in the Katrina aftermath, its why emergency groups
> talk about interoperability, not realizing that the more structure they
> put in place, the more points for failure there will be.

Plans are not perfect. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't plan. I am not willing to concede that ice trucks sitting in the wrong place were a result of planning. In fact, my conclusion would be the opposite -- if the plan were better, the material would stand a better chance of getting where it needed to be.

> We seem to
> think that if "the boss" can see what everyone is doing and can directly
> command them, then all will be well. When in reality, the folks on the
> ground need to be able to function autonomously and be trusted to make a
> decision.

Sure, the folks on the ground need to be able to make decisions, but the people trying to manage the big picture need to know what that decision was so that they can integrate it into the response. It's not an ideal situation when the folks on the ground MUST function autonomously because they have not the slightest idea what their compatriots are doing since they can't talk to them.

If I'm placed into the position of having to make a command decision, I'm more comfortable making that decision if I have good information upon which to base it. Without communications, that information is often missing.

> Getting a Ham radio license is just an entry ticket. Are these new folks
> going to be able to put together a repeater system when the hurricane
> comes through and knocks out every other one in the stricken area? Will
> they wonder why they can't talk to others in the same state on 20 meters
> or that 75 meters seems so dead during the daytime? That is what Hams
> have brought to the table over the years.

And I hope that they continue to do so. I just don't accept the premise that having paid members of the team as licensed amateurs changes that situation. The more that the people who are managing the disaster know about ham radio, the better they will be able to make use of the resource.

And who knows . . . some of the people might get hooked and actually grow into full fledged ham contributors.

73, Steve KB9X

127. Re: Ham radio as a condition of employment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-04 00:34:03 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <13sp67dk030af93@corp.supernews.com>
Source record: 3348

Of course, it depends. For a job working behind the counter at a retail store that was, um, "geared" particularly toward ham radio equipment, parts, and supplies being licensed was a requirement. A non-ham couldn't, among other things, speak the language or have had any experience with the equipment and antennas. Besides, only the hams were partaking in the Saturday morning coffee and donuts. ;-)

In fact, I remember the newspaper help-wanted ad very specifically: "Ham radio operator wanted for full-time counter sales."

128. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-04 01:17:08 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <4070b8fb-5298-4934-8050-4b006ee817a6@i29g2000prf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3349

On Mar 3, 2:40 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:

> >> You're just several pieces of brass and leather
> >> away from steampunkin' it, Jim!
>
> > But I don't wanna be a steampunk!
>
> Of course you can arrange your station to your own aesthetic 8^)

Actually, Steampunk is only a few pieces of brass and leather away
from my aesthetic...

> > But see above about "form follows function" and "aesthetically
> > pleasing without any added ornamentation". Would adding
> > brass and
> > leather make any difference in rig performance?
> > Or are they only for
> > looks?
>
> Well, now you open a interesting subsubject!

Actually I think it's the whole subject....

> The addition of brass to a
> station is one of those choices that does not necessarily defeat
> function.

Agreed - but in the Triple-F aesthetic (hereafter referred to as
"The Southgate School" or TSS), not defeating function isn't enough.
All choices must enhance or support functionality.

TSS also involves the use of available materials and techniques,
usually from non-traditional sources. The rig pictured on my website
(known as the Southgate Type 7) was built almost entirely from reused/
recycled/recovered parts found at hamfests and in junkpiles. A few
crystals were bought new, as was the solder, but that's about it. The
main tuning capacitor is from a junked BC-221 frequency meter; the
dial drum is cut from a piece of Perspex tubing 6" in diameter that
came from a piece of industrial equipment, the VFO box was made (by
hand - hacksaw & flat file) from scraps of 3/32" thick aluminum plate,
etc., etc.

IOW, "found objects".

> There needs to be a chassis to place components on or in. Is
> aluminum or steel or plastic more functional than brass?

Depends on the application.

For things like power supplies, steel is preferred due to greater strength and some level of magnetic shielding. But steel must be painted, plated or otherwise finished to prevent rust, particularly in a basement shack where humidity may be high.

For things like transmitters and receivers (TSS does not normally use built-in power supplies because they usually decrease functionality), aluminum is preferred because of its light weight, corrosion resistance, higher conductivity and ease of working.

Brass has good conductivity and is easy to work, but it is heavy, expensive, and rarer than aluminum or steel. There is some use of brass in TSS, mostly for specialized applications where aluminum is too soft and plating or painting steel is not practical. For example in the Southgate Type 7, there is a shaft extender from the tuning capacitor which I made from brass. You don't see it but it's there.

> there might be
> some technical reasons fort one over the other, but in the end,
> they are a support structure.

Agreed. I have used wood as well, in applications where shielding wasn't important, or could be obtained in other ways.

> An example is the copper plated chassis found in
> some radios. Pretty cool. But I wonder how much "worse" they
> would
> perform if they weren't plated?

Copper plating of steel chassis (Drake is a prime example) was done for a couple of reasons. One was corrosion protection; since the steel had to be coated with something to prevent rust. Unlike most paints, copper plating is conductive, so shields and components mounted to the copper-plated chassis would make a good chassis connection. Another plus is the ability to solder directly to the chassis.

But copper plating has disadvantages too. One is that the copper tarnishes over time. Another is that any break in the plating can set up electrolytic corrosion. There's also the cost and relative impracticality of copper-plating at home.

What Drake and others did was to plate the chassis after all the holes were punched. That's fine for production-line manufactured rigs, but if there's a possibility of future changes that require new holes, the plating would be broken. So I stick with aluminum, steel, and sometimes plastic and wood.

> Keeping in mind that fff could be used to not allow any
> embellishment,
> such as staining, finishing, we have to make sure we don't
> minimalize
> things out of existence.

TSS is about simplicity and functionality, not minimalism. If staining
or finishing improves the functionality, it is done. For example, the
shack tabletop consists of a layer of oriented strandboard (for
strength) topped by a layer of masonite (for a smooth hard surface).
This combination (actually a composite) was chosen because it was the
least expensive at the time. The masonite was given a couple of coats
of varnish because doing so improved the functionality.

> I once went to a classroom where a true minimalist had hung a
> data projector from the ceiling from wires. Problem was, the fan
> would
> push the projector, only as far as the wires would allow, and it
> made a
> pendulum. People were getting seasick!

There's a textbook example of form *not* following function! The
purpose of the data projector support is to hold the projector at the
proper place so it can do its job, and if the image isn't rock-steady
the appearance doesn't matter.

> **>** Same for leather - would the speaker sound better?
> **>**
> **>** well, possibly could make for some vibration damping.

Possibly. I've had some experience building speaker cabinets (clones
of the Altec A-7 "Voice of the Theater", JBL folded horns, for
example) and the trick is to build solid from the beginning.

> My thoughts are to make a setup that incorporates the
> aesthetic in a
> fashion that is applicable to the situation.

Which is the basis of Triple-F. You're not far from joining TSS!

> The equipment has to sit on
> something, so it will be made in a fashion that involves natural
> materials, and brass will be used where needed.

There's the key: "where needed".

> I'm not going to remove
> my radios from their cases and build wooden boxes around them.

OTOH, wood can be a good cabinet for a rig that doesn't have one.

> I don't
> plan on overly embellishing the station, my goals are
> a warm feeling with an antique look where practical.

I've always wondered what the fascination with "antiques" is. I can
understand the fascination with craftsmanship, design, practicality
and materials, though.

The term I would use is "classic" or "timeless". Look at some Mission
or Shaker furniture - it does not appear "antique" or dated. That's

what TSS is all about, applied to Amateur Radio (and a limited budget!)

For another example, look at the classic Hitchcock film "Rear Window". Even though it is more than 50 years old, the overall look of James Stewart's New York apartment, the clothes, the cameras, and all the other details are so classic that you'd want to live there today. (Having Grace Kelly stopping by doesn't hurt either!)

Yet "Vertigo", made just a few years later by mostly the same people (Hitchcock, Stewart), looks very kitschy and dated by comparison.

Perhaps the biggest challenge is that our hamshacks are usually works in progress, rather than fully complete, so flexibility has to be designed in too.

73 de Jim, N2EY

129. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-04 01:23:27 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <MD0zj.5393$Sa1.3099@news02.roc.ny>
Source record: 3350

AF6AY wrote:
>> AF6AY wrote:
>
>> ... The idea is to take some
>> modern technology and make it look as if it was manufactured in another
>> time and place. So while a person might take an Ipod and etch an old
>> fashioned picture in it, or a guitar and modify it, they wouldn't likely
>> make an instrument like a tuning fork.
>
> Yeah, you're right on what Steampunks advertise themselves as, but
> that is also a small niche activity in home workshopping, not just
> electronics. There's much more to be found in home wood-working
> catalogs in regards to 'retro' design and home workshop construction.

I had a little trouble following this in that the attributions appear to
be wrong. I don't think you were really replying to yourself.

> Take Hallicrafters for radios. A Biggie among amateurs before WWII
> and in the immediate post-WWII period. The pre-war 'style' peak
> might have been the SX-28 HF receiver just from appearance.

It might have been, but there were other contenders with big, German
Silver engraved dials.

> Their
> post-war 'style' peak might have been the SX-62 Big Dial AM-FM and
> 'shortwave' band receiver.

Except that wasn't a number produced or sold in large numbers.
Hallicrafters had a number of contenders in the post war period. Some
of these include the SX-100, the SX-115, the SX-88 and the SX-42. Even
the Raymond Loewy-desgined, inexpensive S-40B would have been on the list.

> They, like National Radio, came out
> with a consumer product TV receiver and (like National) failed to
> penetrate the market with their 7" electro-static deflection design.
> Hallicrafters had a better exterior 'style' than National's wooden
> cabinet model but was doomed in not going towards bigger screens.

Hallicrafters did not do anything special in designing the cabinet. The
very same cabinet style was used in the SX-101, HT-32/32A/32B, HT-33 and
perhaps one additional linear amp.

> Collins Radio beat both out in commercial and military equipment
> after WWII. Collins Radio established its own 'style' which
> dominated lots of aesthetic sensibilities back then.

Collins had two-and-a-half styles during the fifties: There was the big and clunky series of transmitters and receivers all painted in a very dark St. James gray wrinkle finish. These included the 51J series of receivers, the 75A series, a series of high power and low power AM/CW transmitters and the KWS-1 SSB high power transmitter. Then came the intermediate styling of the tiny KWM-1 SSB transceiver. That was followed by the light gray, low profile styling of the KWM-2/2A and S-Line in the late fifties.

> RACAL in the
> UK was a strong rival in that.

RACAL, jointly owned by those in the UK and in South Africa was never a contender in the amateur radio market at all. Eldico did make some Chinese copies of early fifties Collins gear which was sold to the amateur market. Many USAF MARS stations were also equipped with the Eldico stuff.

> Hallicrafters just couldn't get with
> the program after around 1960 and just drooped, eventually
> dropping out.

I don't believe that Hallicrafters was ever a big player in the military market, post WW II.

> Market rivalry in the USA began to be taken over more and more
> by off-shore designer-makers around 1960.

Japanese manufacturers did not gain more than a toe hold in the U.S. amateur radio market until about 1969 or 1970 so you're about a decade off there. Only in low-end, inexpensive stuff sold by the likes of Lafayette Radio, did the JA stuff do well. Most of their "communications receivers" weren't really that.

> WWII was over a long
> time by then and off-shore production in electronics was ramping
> up on all markets of electronics, including amateur radio. The
> Big 3 (Icom-Yaesu-Kenwood) began their domination, establishing
> their own exterior AND interior 'styles'. Lower labor costs (and
> smarts) made the Japanese the leading Asian off-shore producer
> first, quickly followed by Taiwan and China. Their 'style' of
> electronics became THE style to copy, engraved in visual centers
> of many minds for a quarter century.

WW II was only over for fifteen years by 1960. Icom was not a big player in the U.S. in other than the 2m FM game until the late seventies. Yaesu had a head start on Kenwood in SSB transceivers sold in the U.S. Kenwood (actually still Trio at the time) made some inexpensive gear sold by Lafayette and others. Kenwood HF gear didn't really start selling much until the early/mid-1970's.

I don't see "smarts" entering into the mix as much as low price. One could save hundreds of dollars on an HF transceiver made in Japan compared to the price of one made in the U.S. Early Japanese suffered

from awful receiver performance. That made it possible for outfits like R.L. Drake to stay in the market until the mid-1980's. It also made it possible for companies like Ten-Tec to grow from what was essentially the producer of inexpensive QRP rigs to a maker of full featured HF rigs.

To my knowledge, no amateur radio receivers, transceivers or linear amps made in Taiwan have ever been marketed in the U.S. I believe the first HF transceiver to be built in China is the Yaesu FT-2000.

>> But to return to topic, The concept of making a station conform to an
>> aesthetic is not all that unusual.
>
> I'm NOT saying that nor ever implied it. But, let's take it in
> context. Who or what determines a 'retro' look? And what is its
> appeal to certain folks?

There are those now marketing (Thomas) what look like cathedral or tombstone radios which incorporate AM-FM tuners and CD players. Those who buy them must like them--and I'll even go so far as to say they deserve them. They are retro in style. They just aren't authentic. I'm much rather own the real thing than some modern contrivance.

> A half-century ago ought to qualify as 'retro' to most. But how
> many were alive or experienced in such period radios?

I'm not certain how that matters.

> I was in my
> twenties in the 1950s but nowhere would I consider 'going retro' to a
> stark utilitarian environment kind of radio communications that I
> got started in over a half century ago.

When I became a radio amateur 44 years back, I used junk. That didn't mean that everyone used junk. Much of the high end stuff of that era is quite capable of doing a good job today. My Hallicrafter HT-32B uses the crystal filter method of sideband generation. It puts out nearly 100 watts and it features 1 KC readout. The Collins 75A-3 it is paired up with uses selectable mechanical filters and it too has 1 KC readout. Neither can be considered "stark utilitarian".

> Neither does the 'style'
> of electronic things done in a period before 50 years ago appeal
> to very many.

I dunno. One of the first things visitors to my home notice is a 1942 Philco console AM/SW radio in the living room. They ooh and ahh over it and want to know if it works. When I turn it on and let them hear KDKA rolling forth from the big speaker, they're impressed. I know of a number of businesses who'll obtain and "remanufacture" such radios on order for those who want one in their homes.

> There are SOME exceptions: The Zenith Transoceanic
> line of portable receivers spans the pre-WWII and post-WII times

> with its own unique 'style' that is unmistakable. It IS attractive
> to so many that it has a large fan base on the Internet, several
> URLs, all for one model line. It has a distinct STYLE to its design.

Well, at least *two* distinct styles. The solid state Transoceanics are
quite different looking than the earlier models.

> I'm not against 'having fun' with radios.

That pleases me, Len.

> With receivers (or
> transceivers) one spends a LOT of time looking at front panels
> whether or not a user realizes that. Subliminally, at least, the
> appearance of a front panel, its control arrangement, colors,
> indications, etc., enter the visual cortex and become memory.
> Will added brass geegaws enter into the mind as adornement for
> the memory just because they look pretty at first glance?.

If I want extra brass, I'll add a diving helmet or a ships lantern. The
manufactured radio equipment of the past is what it is. It doesn't need
the extras.

>> Our stations can be an expression of
>> ourselves, and we can either place the items on the desk and be done
>> with it, or we can embellish the room as we see fit. It is just another
>> way to have some fun.
>
> I don't agree with that entirely. First of all, an amateur radio
> is a communications device, not an article of 'interior design.'

I don't think that was claimed. I have a neighbor who makes kitchen
cabinets with raised panel doors. He has made many a hutch or computer
center with similar raised panels, all out of solid wood. I'm giving
serious thought to having him make me a new operating position. The
choice is mine to make. If someone else wants to set his gear up on a
card table, that is his choice to make.

> Secondly, today's ready-built amateur radios can stand on their
> own as far as appearance and 'style' is concerned. That includes
> most peripheral equipment. OTHER people did the styling of all
> those, contemporaries, not some long-gone folks of another era a
> century ago.

I'm not one who believes that things have to match. I go for function
first in my primary station. Everything else is secondary. The long
ago stuff is of interest to me and I enjoy having it surround me.

Dave K8MN

130. Re: Ham radio as a condition of employment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-04 10:37:43 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <09adnSQo9ofYU1HanZ2dnUVZ_sKqnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 3201

Steve Bonine wrote:
> I would like to see other opinions on this issue, which came up in
> passing in another group.
>
> One of the participants there mentioned that a ham radio license has
> been added as an employment condition for some of their professional
> responders. Presumably the motivation is based on a desire to have a
> known population of people who can use ham radio technology in a
> disaster if nothing else is working.
>
> I have two questions on this.
>
> Is this a common situation? I hadn't heard of a formal requirement
> until it was mentioned on the other forum, but a couple more people came
> forward and said that it was in place in their area. Is it happening in
> your area?

Not that I know of.

> Do you think it's a good idea?

I wouldn't mind having a job that required me to be a ham, but being required to have a ham license in addition to being trained for some other field does, as others have pointed out, risk degrading the quality of applicant.

I think what the emcomm managers _really_ want is a commercially licensed emergency radio technician and communicator, but there's no license for that. The problem with requiring a ham license is that there's so much variability in the training and currency of hams, not to mention their physical condition, that I don't think that having a ham license is a reliable indicator of emcomm proficiency.

After all, _any_ municipal employee can be trained to operate a two-way radio: what's required in an emergency is guys that can operate the radio _and_ put up the antenna _and_ figure out which rigs can share a power supply _and_ figure out which existing antennas are "close enough" for the frequency needed _and_ get a CD-badged Gooneybox to communicate with an FM radio. Long story short, I think requiring a ham license involves an assumption that anyone with a license knows how to operate and improvise in an emergency, and that's not true.

FWIW. YMMV.

73, Bill W1AC
(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

131. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-04 14:05:46 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fqjgi9$18j8$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3202

Dave Heil wrote:
> Michael Coslo wrote:
>
>> side note: I once went to a classroom where a true minimalist had hung
>> a data projector from the ceiling from wires. Problem was, the fan
>> would push the projector, only as far as the wires would allow, and it
>> made a pendulum. People were getting seasick!
>
> All that for the lack of one, properly placed additional wire, heh.

Even with that, most buildings shake a little due to machinery, HVAC,
etc, and in the end, a projector mounted that way would be a problem.

>> My thoughts are to make a setup that incorporates the aesthetic in a
>> fashion that is applicable to the situation. The equipment has to sit
>> on something, so it will be made in a fashion that involves natural
>> materials, and brass will be used where needed. I'm not going to
>> remove my radios from their cases and build wooden boxes around them.
>> I don't plan on overly embellishing the station, my goals are a warm
>> feeling with an antique look where practical
>
> That's easily and authentically achieved by obtaining an old wooden desk
> and some genuine vintage equipment.

Oh yeah. I enjoy the look, and even went for it in a small way with some
tube equipment I bought a few years ago.

<some snippage>

> Dressing up modern technology to look as if it is powered by steam,
> strikes me as more than a tad silly.

Absolutely! This aesthetic is in no way saying "look at me! I'm serious
art!" I would go a little further to state that some examples of the
genre are downright ridiculous - by design. Interviews with the creators
usually show them to have a great sense of humor, and that they enjoy
pulling our legs at times. But they want everyone in on the joke.

That being said, there are examples of great beauty in there, on the
workshop page, the telegraph sounder was gorgeous, and the pick guard on
the Stratocaster is beautiful.

There is actually some of this aesthetic running about in Amateur
radio, even if we don't notice it.

Like keys for instance

Just look at say Begali keys. What workmanship and quality! These things are true art. Other keys are gorgeous too. Even my modest Bencher has an attractive look to it.

But most of that stuff isn't really needed. Certainly the Begali keys are playfully experimental in nature, and the gold plating isn't really needed, it's there for aesthetics.

And yet, I could go out to the garage, and make a serviceable paddle with a piece of 2 by 4 and some springy metal.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

132. Nominating Period Open For 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham Of the Year Award

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-04 18:51:22 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080304084040.03eea838@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 3203
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

The Amateur Radio Newsline, Inc.
(A Federal 501(C)(3) Not For Profit Corporation)
Editorial Offices
28197 Robin Avenue
Santa Clarita Ca. 91350
Tel/Fax: (661) 296-7180
E-Mail: newsline@arnewsline.org
ARNewsline Websitest: www.arnewsline.org
YHOTY Award Website: www.yhoty.org

Press Release

For more information please contact:
Bill Pasternak (ARNewsline) at 661-296-7180 or via e-mail to
newsline@arnewsline.org
Rich Moseson (CQ Magazine) at 973-680-1585 or via e-mail to
w2vu@cq-amateur-radio.com
Dennis Motschenbacher (Vertex-Standard) at 714-827-7600 or via e-mail to
d.motschenbacher@vxstdusa.com

Nominating Period Open For 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline
Young Ham Of the Year Award

Los Angeles, CA. (March 1, 2008) - If you know a young radio amateur age 18 or younger who has done something very special in the Amateur Radio hobby, this is the time to consider nominating him or her for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award.

HOW THE YHOTY AWARD WORKS

The "Young Ham of the Year Award" is presented annually to a licensed Radio Amateur (Ham) who is 18 years of age or younger, is a resident of the 50 United States, Canada provinces or Puerto Rico, and who has provided outstanding service to the nation, the community or the betterment of the state of the art in communications through the Amateur Radio hobby/service.

All nominations must be received by May 30 of any given calendar year on an official application and accompanied by verification materials. Applications forms are available for a self addressed stamped envelope mailed to the Young Ham of the Year Award c/o Newsline, 28197 Robin Avenue Santa Clarita California 91350. These nominating applications are also available for electronic download or on-line submission from our special award website at http://www.yhoty.org

WHOM TO NOMINATE

Here are some of the things you should be thinking about it in a nominee. First off, as noted above, the nominee must be age 18 or younger and a resident of the United States, Canada or Puerto Rico. He or she must hold a valid Amateur service license issued by the United States FCC or Canadian telecommunications regulator Industry Canada.

Also, your nominee should be someone who has done something outstanding as an Amateur Radio operator. Perhaps it was something special he or she did for his community through the Amateur service. Maybe it was some outstanding achievement that led to an improvement in amateur radio in his or her area. Or perhaps he or she was successful in recruiting a lot of new hams. Whatever it was or is, we want to hear about it.

If you're looking at what makes a good candidate, we suggest you check out our special Young Ham of the Year website at www.yhoty.org and look at the credentials of past award winners.

HOW TO FILE A NOMINATION

Printable nominating forms and an on-line click-to-send form are available at www.yhoty.org. It's very important that you, as a nominator, fill out the on-line or downloadable and printable application as required. If you're sending it by way of the regular mail, please make sure it reaches us at Amateur Radio Newsline by May 30 2008. That's the deadline for all applications.

In addition, we need as much documentation as you can give us so the committee can carefully evaluate each nominee. When we say documentation, we are talking about letters, e-mails, magazine articles, videos and other kinds of endorsements that would accompany the application. In the past, we've even had photos e-mailed in with some of the applications.

THE AWARD PRESENTATION

As in years past, the 2008 Young Ham of the Year will receive an expense paid trip to the Huntsville Hamfest in Alabama and a gift of Amateur Radio gear compliments of Vertex-Standard Corporation. Those are the folks who manufacture the famed Yaesu line of ham radio gear. And from our other primary corporate sponsor -- CQ Magazine -- the winner gets a week at Spacecamp Huntsville, where he or she can learn first-hand about man's conquest of the final frontier.

But none of this can happen without you. Now is the time to get on line, go to www.yhoty.org and fill out that on-line nominating form or download a nominating form, print it and send it in. Either way, you and some worthy young ham will be glad that you did.

SOME BACKGROUND ON THE PRIMARY AWARD SPONSORS

The Young Ham of the Year Award program was created in 1986 by Bill Pasternak, (WA6ITF) and is sponsored by the Amateur Radio Newsline, Inc.. Better known as "ARNewsline" it is the world's largest not for profit (501(c)(3)) and totally independent ham radio broadcast news and data

information service. It was organized in 1976 as the Westlink Radio Network by Jim Hendershot (WA6VQP), and Bill Pasternak (WA6ITF). Since that time it has produced and aired over 1538 consecutive weeks of free news bulletin programming dealing with Amateur Radio and related personal communications issues.

Primary corporate underwriting since the inception of the "Young Ham of the Year Award" program is supplied by Vertex-Standard Corporation (Yaesu U.S.A.) and CQ Magazine. Vertex-Standard is a world leader in the design, manufacture and distribution of Yaesu brand high quality Amateur Radio and Vertex brand commercial two-way radio equipment.

As of 1995, CQ Publishing has been an additional corporate underwriter. CQ Magazine and its sister publications are owned by CQ Communications and are considered the trend-setting publications serving today's modern radio amateur.

Past recipients of the Young Ham of the Year award include:

Shawn Alan Wakefield, WK5P, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma (1986)
David Rosenman, KA9PMK, of Muncie, Indiana (1987)
Jonathan Binstock, NK3D, of Potomac, Maryland (1988)
Erin McGinnis, KAOWTE, of Topeka, Kansas (1989)
Mary Alestra, KB2IGG, of Staten Island, New York (1990)
Richard S. "Sammy" Garrett, AAOCR, of St. Louis, Missouri (1991)
Angela (Angie) Fischer, KBOHXY, of St. Louis, Missouri (1992)
Kevin Boudreaux, N5XMH, of New Orleans, Louisiana (1993)
Allison Zettwoch, KD4CKP, of Louisville, Kentucky (1994)
Adam Weyhaupt, N9MEZ, of Alton, Illinois (1995)
Toby Metz, KB7UIM, of Boise, Idaho (1996)
Brian Mileshosky, N5ZGT, of Albuquerque New Mexico (1997)
Richard Paczkowski, Jr., KF4BIA, of Edgewater Florida (1998)
Michelle Swann, KE4EZI, of Warner-Robins, GA (1999)
Christopher Arthur, KT4XA, of Russellville, AL (2000)
Patrick Clark, KC8BFD, of Charleston W. VA. (2001)
Josh Abramowicz, KB3GWY, of Reading PA (2002)
Jay Thompson, W6JAY, of Santa Ana CA (2003)
Andrea Hartlage, KB4IUM, of Grayson GA (2004)
Rebekah Dorff, WG4Y, of Birmingham AL (2005)
Catherine Ferry, NC8F, of Silver Lake, OH (2006)
Grant Morine, W4GHM, of Wilmington N.C. (2007)

ABOUT THE UNITED STATES AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

The United States Amateur Radio service is force of over a 600,000 publicly spirited personal radio operators who are licensed and regulated by the Federal Communications Commission. They provide the nation with a pool of trained radio operators and technicians to assist the United States in improving international relations. They are also available as a voluntary group of skilled public service-oriented individuals with their own radio equipment who are available to provide emergency communications in times of disaster. In the moments immediately following the 911 terror attacks,

Amateur Radio volunteers became the first-response communicators in New York City after a major portion of that city's radio system was destroyed. Hams also provided life-saving communications along the U.S. Gulf Coast during and after Hurricane Katrina made landfall in 2005.

-30-

133. Re: Ham radio as a condition of employment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-04 19:35:49 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fqk7e2$14ra$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3204

Bill Horne wrote:

> I think what the emcomm managers _really_ want is a commercially
> licensed emergency radio technician and communicator, but there's no
> license for that. The problem with requiring a ham license is that
> there's so much variability in the training and currency of hams, not to
> mention their physical condition, that I don't think that having a ham
> license is a reliable indicator of emcomm proficiency.

Bingo! What has happened over the years is that radio communications skills have been marginalized to such an extent that they overdid it. The skill set that Hams bring to the emergency used to be shared by professional radio ops. But the powers that be wanted highly simplified systems that required no more electrical acumen than turning the radio on and mashing the PTT button ended up meanining that no one knew much about radio, and therefore needed someone who did to help.

Ask an Emcomm manager if they would rather have the "unpaid volunteer" Ham or someone who actually worked for them doing comms, and I would be surprised if anyone would prefer the Ham.

- 73 d eMike N3LI -

134. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-05 02:05:43 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <rdnzj.5462$Sa1.5008@news02.roc.ny>
Source record: 3205

Michael Coslo wrote:
> Dave Heil wrote:
>> Michael Coslo wrote:
>>
>>> side note: I once went to a classroom where a true minimalist had
>>> hung a data projector from the ceiling from wires. Problem was, the
>>> fan would push the projector, only as far as the wires would allow,
>>> and it made a pendulum. People were getting seasick!
>>
>> All that for the lack of one, properly placed additional wire, heh.
>
> Even with that, most buildings shake a little due to machinery,
> HVAC, etc, and in the end, a projector mounted that way would be a problem.

Maybe. Another wire, mounted diagonally from the rear would have done
away with most of the pendulum action. If you're worried about
buildings shaking, even a steel mounted would have such vibrations
transfered to the projector. The wires might have even damped those
types of motion.

>>> My thoughts are to make a setup that incorporates the aesthetic in a
>>> fashion that is applicable to the situation. The equipment has to sit
>>> on something, so it will be made in a fashion that involves natural
>>> materials, and brass will be used where needed. I'm not going to
>>> remove my radios from their cases and build wooden boxes around them.
>>> I don't plan on overly embellishing the station, my goals are a warm
>>> feeling with an antique look where practical
>>
>> That's easily and authentically achieved by obtaining an old wooden
>> desk and some genuine vintage equipment.
>
> Oh yeah. I enjoy the look, and even went for it in a small way with some
> tube equipment I bought a few years ago.

In my Cincinnati basement shack, there was one desk on which everything
was all mid-1930's, all the time.

> <some snippage>
>
>> Dressing up modern technology to look as if it is powered by steam,
>> strikes me as more than a tad silly.
>
>
> Absolutely! This aesthetic is in no way saying "look at me! I'm
> serious art!" I would go a little further to state that some examples of

> the genre are downright ridiculous - by design.

...and I'd go even further in saying that most of it is downright
ridiculous by design or otherwise.

> Interviews with the
> creators usually show them to have a great sense of humor, and that they
> enjoy pulling our legs at times. But they want everyone in on the joke.

Kitsch is kitsch no matter who tosses the pillows with a flair.

> That being said, there are examples of great beauty in there, on the
> workshop page, the telegraph sounder was gorgeous, and the pick guard on
> the Stratocaster is beautiful.

I own a perfectly good '73 Strat. I'm defacing it for no one.

> There is actually some of this aesthetic running about in Amateur
> radio, even if we don't notice it.

It isn't evident here.

> Like keys for instance
>
> Just look at say Begali keys. What workmanship and quality! These things
> are true art. Other keys are gorgeous too. Even my modest Bencher has an
> attractive look to it.

Some guys like Picasso. Some like Wyeth. If you liked the Bencher,
you'd love the FYO keyer it is based on. Either a metal like brass or
nickel is needed or some sort of plating is necessary to keep the metal
from corroding/rusting.

> But most of that stuff isn't really needed. Certainly the Begali keys
> are playfully experimental in nature, and the gold plating isn't really
> needed, it's there for aesthetics.

Some kind of plating or paint is needed and it isn't practical to paint
things like the threads of screws. Key's aren't designed to look as if
they're steam powered.

> And yet, I could go out to the garage, and make a serviceable paddle
> with a piece of 2 by 4 and some springy metal.

I think we could all agree that such a contraption would be ugly in the
eyes of most. Additionally, it wouldn't be likely to work very well.

Dave K8MN

135. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-05 05:43:33 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <0b5123b8-5e94-4881-89ff-d3a7619a81f5@d21g2000prf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3206

On Mar 3, 8:23 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:

> Hallicrafters had a number of contenders in the post war
> period. Some of these include the SX-100, the SX-115,
> the SX-88 and the SX-42. Even
> the Raymond Loewy-desgined, inexpensive S-40B would have
> been on the list.

Agreed. Also the rare PRO-310.

I find it impressive that Hallicrafters made so many different
receiver models in so few years (say, 1945-1960).

> Collins had two-and-a-half styles during the fifties:
> There was the big
> and clunky series of transmitters and receivers all painted
> in a very
> dark St. James gray wrinkle finish. These included the 51J
> series of
> receivers, the 75A series, a series of high power and
> low power AM/CW
> transmitters and the KWS-1 SSB high power transmitter.

I would not describe them as "clunky". They were big and heavy because
that's what the job required at the time.

Included in that list is the 75A-4, a pioneering receiver that
is still a good performer, and which can be modified to be
an excellent performer. (The mods involve using a better
tube for the RF amplifier upgrading the 6BA7 mixers).

The 75A-4 is the first receiver I know of that included passband
tuning as a standard feature.

>Then came the
> intermediate styling of the tiny KWM-1 SSB transceiver.

Yep. I don't think Collins ever repeated that!

> That was
> followed by the light gray, low profile styling of the KWM-2/2A and
> S-Line in the late fifties.

Which changed the game completely.

> Japanese manufacturers did not gain more than a
> toe hold in the U.S.
> amateur radio market until about 1969 or 1970

That's true.

> Only in low-end, inexpensive stuff sold by the likes of
> Lafayette Radio, did the JA stuff do well. Most of their
> "communications receivers" weren't really that.

Lafayette HA-350, anyone? Henry Radio Tempo One?

There were also Japanese parts sold through Lafayette and others, such
as vernier dials, knobs, panel meters and other parts. Allied
also got into that game.

> WW II was only over for fifteen years by 1960.
> Icom was not a big
> player in the U.S. in other than the 2m FM game until the late
> seventies. Yaesu had a head start on Kenwood in
> SSB transceivers sold
> in the U.S. Kenwood (actually still Trio at the time) made some
> inexpensive gear sold by Lafayette and others.
> Kenwood HF gear didn't
> really start selling much until the early/mid-1970's.

IMHO what turned the tide were two now-classic HF rigs: the Yaesu
FT-101 and the Kenwood TS-520.

Actually these were families of rigs, and the early ones weren't any
great shakes, particularly the FT-101. But the companies learned and
improved, and by the time of the FT-101E and the TS-520S they were
pretty decent. Not Drake or Collins quality, of course, but not Heath
either. And they offered things American rigs did not.

Consider the TS-520S, for example. It did the usual 80-10 meter SSB
job pretty well. But it also gave a choice of AGC fast/slow/off, an
optional narrow CW filter that was pretty good, RIT/XIT, 160 meters
and WWV/JJY, fan-cooled finals, plus a built-in AC power supply.

> I don't see "smarts" entering into the mix as much as low
> price. One
> could save hundreds of dollars on an HF transceiver made
> in Japan
> compared to the price of one made in the U.S.

Not just price but price/performance/features combo. For example, try
to think of a US-made HF amateur transceiver that had the following:

- 100 watt output class
- 6146 finals, not sweep tubes
- Sharp CW filter
- RIT/XIT
- AGC off/slow/fast

> Early Japanese suffered
> from awful receiver performance.

Particularly IMD in their SS products. They could not compete with
tube designs. They got better, though.

> That made it possible for outfits like
> R.L. Drake to stay in the market until the mid-1980's.
>�It also made it
> possible for companies like Ten-Tec to grow from what was
> essentially
> the producer of inexpensive QRP rigs to a maker of full featured
> HF rigs.

40 years of Ten Tec ham rigs. Incredible.

Digi-Key got its start about the same time as Ten Tec - 1968 or so.
Their name comes from the fact that the company got started by selling
digital ICs (RTL!) in small quantities to hams so they could build
solid-state Morse Code keyers. Then they just kept growing, but the
name stayed.

> When I became a radio amateur 44 years back,
>I used junk. �That didn't mean that everyone used junk.
> Much of the high end stuff of that era is
> quite capable of doing a good job today. �My Hallicrafter
> HT-32B uses
> the crystal filter method of sideband generation. �It puts out nea
rly
> 100 watts and it features 1 KC readout.
>�The Collins 75A-3 it is paired
> up with uses selectable mechanical filters and it too has 1 KC
> readout.
> Neither can be considered "stark utilitarian".

Exactly. Nor are they overly ornate. They are functional and
attractive just as they are.

>�The
> manufactured radio equipment of the past is what it is.
>�It doesn't need
> the extras.

The same is true of a lot of homebrew gear. Look up the stuff made by
one of my Elmers, master homebrewer W2LYH. (several QST articles).
Great stuff, high performance, no ornamentation, Sounded great on the
air, too.

> I'm not one who believes that things have to match.
> I go for function
> first in my primary station. Everything else is secondary.

Same here!

73 de Jim, N2EY

136. Re: Ham radio as a condition of employment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-05 05:45:56 UTC
From: Tom Horne <hornetd@veriqrmzon.net>
Message-ID: <ytozj.10395$C1.2234@trnddc07>
Source record: 3207

Bill Horne wrote:
> Steve Bonine wrote:
>> I would like to see other opinions on this issue, which came up in
>> passing in another group.
>>
>> One of the participants there mentioned that a ham radio license has
>> been added as an employment condition for some of their professional
>> responders. Presumably the motivation is based on a desire to have a
>> known population of people who can use ham radio technology in a
>> disaster if nothing else is working.
>>
>> I have two questions on this.
>>
>> Is this a common situation? I hadn't heard of a formal requirement
>> until it was mentioned on the other forum, but a couple more people
>> came forward and said that it was in place in their area. Is it
>> happening in your area?
>
> Not that I know of.
>
>> Do you think it's a good idea?
>
> I wouldn't mind having a job that required me to be a ham, but being
> required to have a ham license in addition to being trained for some
> other field does, as others have pointed out, risk degrading the quality
> of applicant.
>
> I think what the emcomm managers _really_ want is a commercially
> licensed emergency radio technician and communicator, but there's no
> license for that. The problem with requiring a ham license is that
> there's so much variability in the training and currency of hams, not to
> mention their physical condition, that I don't think that having a ham
> license is a reliable indicator of emcomm proficiency.
>
> After all, _any_ municipal employee can be trained to operate a two-way
> radio: what's required in an emergency is guys that can operate the
> radio _and_ put up the antenna _and_ figure out which rigs can share a
> power supply _and_ figure out which existing antennas are "close enough"
> for the frequency needed _and_ get a CD-badged Gooneybox to communicate
> with an FM radio. Long story short, I think requiring a ham license
> involves an assumption that anyone with a license knows how to operate
> and improvise in an emergency, and that's not true.
>
> FWIW. YMMV.

>
> 73, Bill W1AC
> (Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)
>

I have to strongly agree with my brother here. (Yes its come to this. Its come to this. And wasn't it a long way down.) I'm deliberately trying to prepare myself to be an effective emergency communicator and I'll just go ahead and admit that it is a lot heavier going then I initially anticipated. There is an awful lot to learn only some of which is radio theory and practice. I'm part way through the ARRL Emergency Communications Level I course and they have already devoted two sections to subjects like the relationship with the served agency. Some Hams have trouble with the idea that no one wants them to read messages to each other any more. The folks who need our help in order to help the actual victims want to sit down at their laptop, compose an email and expect us to get it were it needs to go. One of the best answers to limited training time is to use technologically based best practice and apply it to the problem. An emergency manager will get a lot more out of my Amateur TeleVision (ATV) signal then he / she will ever get out of my verbal description of what I'm seeing. If they use a VCR I can get a lot of windshield survey done very quickly. The people responsible for supporting the response can get a lot more information out of that video by syncing it with an APRS position record of were I was then they'd very get out of brief verbal reports. I hear some fellow Amateurs moaning that "they just want appliance operators." Cash your reality check guys that's what they've always wanted from us. It's only the sophistication of the appliances and the expectations for what is possible using them that are changing.
--
Tom Horne

"This alternating current stuff is just a fad. It is much too dangerous for general use." Thomas Alva Edison

137. Re: Ham radio as a condition of employment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-05 06:02:47 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <lnbss3p4nvlg5mrhrsk0f448kcpn2gfpl5@4ax.com>
Source record: 3208

On Mon, 3 Mar 2008 14:39:33 EST, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

> It isn't a requirement in our area, but it is apparently strongly
>encouraged. This is one of the situations that I refer to as
>"Professional Hams". It is truly a profound change in emergency
>operations.

The Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) - is now requiring that every Emergency Department ("ER") that they accredit have ham radio as a backup communications system for emergencies when other communication systems fail, and as a result, the regional hospital system at which I volunteer is using licensed staff people normally in the ER to be able to act until a volunteer or licensed off-duty staff person can respond. As long as the responding staff person is off duty, the "no pecuniary interest" test is satisfied.

We are establishing a system-wide capability of both HF and VHF/UHF ham stations at each hospital, clinic, and the Regional Emergency Command Center. During the severe storms last December, ham radio was the only link to two hospitals whose telephone, internet, cellphone, and electric services were knocked out for several days, and as a result, both medical and support staff people have been expressing an interest in getting themselves and their family members licensed, if only to be able to keep contact with their families and still be of service when needed.

As far as being a requirement for employment, let me relate a parallel situation with the commercial General Radio Telephone Operator License that happened shortly after the FCC stopped requiring that license to service land-mobile (2-way) radios. A local utility in San Francisco continued to require that their radio technicians have that license as a condition of employment (under union pressure, I understand) and someone took that to the State Labor Board, which ruled that if the FCC Rules did not require it, it was a non-job-related requirement on the part of the employer and could not be enforced. The State of California and the railroads got away with keeping the requirement because they operated marine/aviation stations at airports and bridges where the licensed-technician requirement still applied.

In sort, a ham license cannot be required for a job except as permitted under the FCC Rules. Getting the employer(s) to accept this is another story - someone must be willing (and have the deep pockets) to take it to litigation if need be.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
ARRL Volunteer Counsel

email: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

138. Re: Ham radio as a condition of employment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-05 06:09:02 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <g2ess31c1dg8n0mqrpne8euog9rl13pvio@4ax.com>
Source record: 3209

On Tue, 4 Mar 2008 05:37:43 EST, Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:

>I think what the emcomm managers _really_ want is a commercially
>licensed emergency radio technician and communicator, but there's no
>license for that.

Actually, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials
(APCO) does have training courses and certificates for just those
specialties, and it's up to the Comm Director to go forward with those
things and get the staff trained.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

139. Re: Ham radio as a condition of employment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-05 16:25:38 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fqmeqm$690$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3210

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Mon, 3 Mar 2008 14:39:33 EST, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>> It isn't a requirement in our area, but it is apparently strongly
>> encouraged. This is one of the situations that I refer to as
>> "Professional Hams". It is truly a profound change in emergency
>> operations.
>
> The Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
> (JCAHO) - is now requiring that every Emergency Department ("ER") that
> they accredit have ham radio as a backup communications system for
> emergencies when other communication systems fail, and as a result,
> the regional hospital system at which I volunteer is using licensed
> staff people normally in the ER to be able to act until a volunteer or
> licensed off-duty staff person can respond. As long as the responding
> staff person is off duty, the "no pecuniary interest" test is
> satisfied.

And that is fits my description of the way Ham radio for Emcomms is heading. If I was a supervisor, and in an emergency, I'm going to pick the person who works for me instead of a possibly unknown quantity.

I've headed up some works using volunteers. You have to treat them a lot differently, and many of those differences are solved by having a paid person for whom you can issue direct orders to.

As for the "off duty" business, that one is quite easy to solve. If it is a salaried employee, on and off duty time isn't always that clear anyhow.

I would be willing to wager an adult beverage that in 10 years, the hobbyist ham involved in emcomms will be completely replaced by those "off duty" professional hams. It's conjecture of course, but I've seen the beginnings of that. And your above description certainly fits.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

140. Re: Ham radio as a condition of employment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-05 16:27:28 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fqmgqa$15u0$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3211

Tom Horne wrote:

> I have to strongly agree with my brother here. (Yes its come to this.
> Its come to this. And wasn't it a long way down.)

And the camera pans the stand in stunt man..... ;^)

<some snippage>

> was then they'd very get out of brief verbal reports. I hear some
> fellow Amateurs moaning that "they just want appliance operators." Cash
> your reality check guys that's what they've always wanted from us. It's
> only the sophistication of the appliances and the expectations for what
> is possible using them that are changing.

Yeah, mostly. The issue that I see is this.

The Emcomm managers go to the school of "Just tell me what to do". Not really a bad idea. No manager should have to know the technical details of say an ATV repeater, although a little knowledge might be good, as in when the conditions prevent proper operation.

What I see as a possible problem is that as the hobbyist Hams are phased out, these technical innovations might not filter down to practice as easily. They might not be operated by people who know what to do when the wheels fall off. It's all transparent as long as we push the button on that appliance and it works. But when it doesn't??

I should probably take this moment to not that I am NOT "anti Emcomm". In fact, as my retirement comes around, I intend to volunteer as a way to pay back to the community. I'm hoping that there will be a place for the hobbyist and technically savvy Ham to do that.

but I do have some concerns.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

141. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-05 20:09:45 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <TRCzj.5581$7d1.4540@news01.roc.ny>
Source record: 3212

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Mar 3, 8:23 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:

> I find it impressive that Hallicrafters made so many different
> receiver models in so few years (say, 1945-1960).

Loads and loads. Most were variations on a common theme with styling changes though octal tubes might have been replaced by loctals or miniature 7 or 9 pin types.

>> Collins had two-and-a-half styles during the fifties:
>> There was the big
>> and clunky series of transmitters and receivers all painted
>> in a very
>> dark St. James gray wrinkle finish. These included the 51J
>> series of
>> receivers, the 75A series, a series of high power and
>> low power AM/CW
>> transmitters and the KWS-1 SSB high power transmitter.
>
> I would not describe them as "clunky". They were big and heavy because
> that's what the job required at the time.

Well, I meant in contrast with the smaller, much lighter S-Line stuff.

> Included in that list is the 75A-4, a pioneering receiver that
> is still a good performer, and which can be modified to be
> an excellent performer. (The mods involve using a better
> tube for the RF amplifier upgrading the 6BA7 mixers).

The 'A-4 was the best of the period. The models with the Collins vernier tuning knob were the best of the best.

> The 75A-4 is the first receiver I know of that included passband
> tuning as a standard feature.

I think you're right. My 75A-3 came with a Universal Service (predecessor to today's Universal Radio) PTO mod which plugs into the NBFM socket. The Collins winged emblem was removed, a hole drilled in the spot and a long 1/4" shaft from the PBT box ran through the hole. An engraved plate was mounted on the panel and the shaft was fitted with a miniature knob. A mod for the AGC time constant was also added. The thing is nearly the equal to a 75A-4.

>> Then came the
>> intermediate styling of the tiny KWM-1 SSB transceiver.
>

> Yep. I don't think Collins ever repeated that!

It was a funny duck. It had almost a military look to it.

>> That was
>> followed by the light gray, low profile styling of the KWM-2/2A and
>> S-Line in the late fifties.
>
> Which changed the game completely.

Everybody began jumping on that band wagon. Heathkit came up with the
"poor man's S-Line"; Drake introduced the 1-A, 2-A and 2-B and TR-3;
Swan introduced monoband and multiband transceivers; Hallicrafters and
National also began producing smaller, lighter separates and transceivers.

>> Japanese manufacturers did not gain more than a
>> toe hold in the U.S.
>> amateur radio market until about 1969 or 1970
>
> That's true.
>
>> Only in low-end, inexpensive stuff sold by the likes of
>> Lafayette Radio, did the JA stuff do well. Most of their
>> "communications receivers" weren't really that.
>
> Lafayette HA-350, anyone? Henry Radio Tempo One?

The Lafayette HE-10, HE-30, HE-80 were Trio rigs. The Tempo One was a
Yaesu FT-100. The FT-50 and FR-50 were sold by another firm.

> There were also Japanese parts sold through Lafayette and others, such
> as vernier dials, knobs, panel meters and other parts. Allied
> also got into that game.

Sure thing--and don't leave out Olson and Radshack.

>> WW II was only over for fifteen years by 1960.
>> Icom was not a big
>> player in the U.S. in other than the 2m FM game until the late
>> seventies. Yaesu had a head start on Kenwood in
>> SSB transceivers sold
>> in the U.S. Kenwood (actually still Trio at the time) made some
>> inexpensive gear sold by Lafayette and others.
>> Kenwood HF gear didn't
>> really start selling much until the early/mid-1970's.
>
> IMHO what turned the tide were two now-classic HF rigs: the Yaesu
> FT-101 and the Kenwood TS-520.

I'd toss in the Yaesu tube-type rigs such as the FTDX-560 and 570.

> Actually these were families of rigs, and the early ones weren't any
> great shakes, particularly the FT-101. But the companies learned and

> improved, and by the time of the FT-101E and the TS-520S they were
> pretty decent. Not Drake or Collins quality, of course, but not Heath
> either. And they offered things American rigs did not.

They did offer extras but you should look at the TS-520's receiver specs. They're dismal. The FT-101 series would have been pretty good had it not been for a flaw in leaving the noise blanker connected even when it was turned off. That's a flaw Yaesu continues to make. It is one of the problems with the FT-1000 series.

> Consider the TS-520S, for example. It did the usual 80-10 meter SSB
> job pretty well. But it also gave a choice of AGC fast/slow/off, an
> optional narrow CW filter that was pretty good, RIT/XIT, 160 meters
> and WWV/JJY, fan-cooled finals, plus a built-in AC power supply.

Yep. It served pretty well as an everyman's rig and would have been much better if the receiver section had been better design. The Japanese were not the only ones with this problem. Heath's early solid state receiver, the HW-303 was an absolute clunker in this regard.

Hammarlund made one valiant effort to stave off the JA's with the introduction of the solid state HQ-215. I have one of those and it is a pretty darned good receiver. It has an edgewise drum dial with 1 KC readout, has fixed, selectable USB/LSB and a variable BFO for CW. It has a preselector in the front end, offers AUX band positions and places for three Collins mechanical filters. The mixing scheme is the same as the S-Line and it has the same 200 KC band segments. There are input/output ports on the rear panel so that the receiver can be slaved to a 32S-whatever transmitter for transceive use. I think it was first offered about 1967.

>> I don't see "smarts" entering into the mix as much as low
>> price. One
>> could save hundreds of dollars on an HF transceiver made
>> in Japan
>> compared to the price of one made in the U.S.
>
> Not just price but price/performance/features combo. For example, try
> to think of a US-made HF amateur transceiver that had the following:
>
> - 100 watt output class
> - 6146 finals, not sweep tubes
> - Sharp CW filter
> - RIT/XIT
> - AGC off/slow/fast

That's quite a number of preconditions. I don't think there were any. The Heath SB-102 comes close. The Drake TR-4CW comes close (6JB6's).

>> Early Japanese suffered
>> from awful receiver performance. &#65533;
>

> Particularly IMD in their SS products. They could not compete with
> tube designs. They got better, though.

They got a lot better over the years. I ran the FR-101 with the FT-101E
for a couple of years. It did pretty well.

>> That made it possible for outfits like
>> R.L. Drake to stay in the market until the mid-1980's.
>> It also made it
>> possible for companies like Ten-Tec to grow from what was
>> essentially
>> the producer of inexpensive QRP rigs to a maker of full featured
>> HF rigs.
>
> 40 years of Ten Tec ham rigs. Incredible.

...and about thirty years of high performance gear.
>
> Digi-Key got its start about the same time as Ten Tec - 1968 or so.
> Their name comes from the fact that the company got started by selling
> digital ICs (RTL!) in small quantities to hams so they could build
> solid-state Morse Code keyers. Then they just kept growing, but the
> name stayed.

They've done phenomenally well. Many of the old line distributors are
just plain gone.

>> When I became a radio amateur 44 years back,
>> I used junk. That didn't mean that everyone used junk.
>> Much of the high end stuff of that era is
>> quite capable of doing a good job today. My Hallicrafter
>> HT-32B uses
>> the crystal filter method of sideband generation. It puts out nea
> rly
>> 100 watts and it features 1 KC readout.
>> The Collins 75A-3 it is paired
>> up with uses selectable mechanical filters and it too has 1 KC
>> readout.
>> Neither can be considered "stark utilitarian".
>
> Exactly. Nor are they overly ornate. They are functional and
> attractive just as they are.

Agreed. I've often wondered if any of the modern gear will be
functional/repairable in forty or fifty years. My guess is that it will
not.

>> The
>> manufactured radio equipment of the past is what it is.
>> It doesn't need
>> the extras.
>

> The same is true of a lot of homebrew gear. Look up the stuff made by
> one of my Elmers, master homebrewer W2LYH. (several QST articles).

I know a few guys who still operate the W6TC HBR series of receivers
that they or others constructed. I also of quite a number of quality
homebrew linear amps which are still put on the air on a regular basis.

> Great stuff, high performance, no ornamentation, Sounded great on the
> air, too.

...and still sounds great on the air.

Dave K8MN

142. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-05 20:20:38 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <XfDzj.5584$7d1.4238@news01.roc.ny>
Source record: 3213

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Mar 3, 2:40 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>> N...@aol.com wrote:

> Agreed - but in the Triple-F aesthetic (hereafter referred to as
> "The Southgate School" or TSS), not defeating function isn't enough.
> All choices must enhance or support functionality.

Gotcha, Jug!

> TSS also involves the use of available materials and techniques,
> usually from non-traditional sources. The rig pictured on my website
> (known as the Southgate Type 7) was built almost entirely from reused/
> recycled/recovered parts found at hamfests and in junkpiles. A few
> crystals were bought new, as was the solder, but that's about it. The
> main tuning capacitor is from a junked BC-221 frequency meter; the
> dial drum is cut from a piece of Perspex tubing 6" in diameter that
> came from a piece of industrial equipment, the VFO box was made (by
> hand - hacksaw & flat file) from scraps of 3/32" thick aluminum plate,
> etc., etc.
>
> IOW, "found objects".

If you're willing to get dirty and are patient, it is possible to save a
bundle by using other people's castoffs.

>> There needs to be a chassis to place components on or in. Is
>> aluminum or steel or plastic more functional than brass?
>
> Depends on the application.
>
> For things like power supplies, steel is preferred due to greater
> strength and some level of magnetic shielding. But steel must be
> painted, plated or otherwise finished to prevent rust, particularly in
> a basement shack where humidity may be high.

I'm going to use an old computer tower for a chassis/cabinet for a pair
of 4-400's I plan to build.

> Brass has good conductivity and is easy to work, but it is heavy,
> expensive, and rarer than aluminum or steel. There is some use of
> brass in TSS, mostly for specialized applications where aluminum is
> too soft and plating or painting steel is not practical. For example
> in the Southgate Type 7, there is a shaft extender from the tuning
> capacitor which I made from brass. You don't see it but it's there.

If you're building something small, try hobby shops. They often have
bins of both brass, copper and aluminum sheet in various thicknesses
along with round and square tubing and rod of the same materials.

>> there might be
>> some technical reasons fort one over the other, but in the end,
>> they are a support structure.
>
> Agreed. I have used wood as well, in applications where shielding
> wasn't important, or could be obtained in other ways.

Wood with a thin sheet of flashing aluminum is one way to get the shielding.

> But copper plating has disadvantages too. One is that the copper
> tarnishes over time. Another is that any break in the plating can set
> up electrolytic corrosion. There's also the cost and relative
> impracticality of copper-plating at home.

You can find a number of Heath and Drake units with really good looking
plating. I suspect that the problem units were stored in areas of high
humidity.

> What Drake and others did was to plate the chassis after all the holes
> were punched. That's fine for production-line manufactured rigs, but
> if there's a possibility of future changes that require new holes, the
> plating would be broken. So I stick with aluminum, steel, and
> sometimes plastic and wood.

I think home plating of a large chassis would be so very time consuming
that not many would bother. It is also much easier to work aluminum
than steel. I wouldn't hesitate to break the copper plating for
modifying/repairing such equipment. A touch of lacquer on the edges
would keep air and humidity from getting to the steel.

> TSS is about simplicity and functionality, not minimalism. If staining
> or finishing improves the functionality, it is done. For example, the
> shack tabletop consists of a layer of oriented strandboard (for
> strength) topped by a layer of masonite (for a smooth hard surface).
> This combination (actually a composite) was chosen because it was the
> least expensive at the time. The masonite was given a couple of coats
> of varnish because doing so improved the functionality.

The tempered Masonite, no doubt. The front panel of W4JBP's 1941
homebrew transmitter is of that stuff, painted black.

> Possibly. I've had some experience building speaker cabinets (clones
> of the Altec A-7 "Voice of the Theater", JBL folded horns, for
> example) and the trick is to build solid from the beginning.

I've shared the experience and still remember all of the kerfing that
went into getting those curves right. Add a 15" Electrovoice SRO
speaker (which was about 3db better than anything else on the market at
the time), top is with some massive horn tweeters and you had something.

> I've always wondered what the fascination with "antiques" is. I can
> understand the fascination with craftsmanship, design, practicality
> and materials, though.

I think there a couple of classes of antique furniture items. There are those things which can only be viewed and those things which can be used. A small, antique ladies chair might not be something you could use, but an antique dining room suite or an antique sideboard can be quite utilitarian.

> The term I would use is "classic" or "timeless". Look at some Mission
> or Shaker furniture - it does not appear "antique" or dated. That's
> what TSS is all about, applied to Amateur Radio (and a limited
> budget!)

I had to grin. I believe that 2x4's, 4x4's, plywood or hollow core doors will never go out of style. There's no "Captain Nemo walking into his cabin on the Nautilus" look here, but the place is attractive and utilitarian.

Dave K8MN

143. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-06 01:02:41 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <897cd9bc-b397-42c3-9194-28b9e8e5dd4a@v3g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3214

On Mar 5, 3:09 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Mar 3, 8:23pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> > I find it impressive that Hallicrafters made so many different
> > receiver models in so few years (say, 1945-1960).
>
> Loads and loads. Most were variations on a common theme
> with styling
> changes though octal tubes might have been replaced by loctals > or miniat
ure 7 or 9 pin types.

Hallicrafters never went for loctals in a big way; they were used only where there was no other choice at the time. Your variations-on-a-theme idea is correct; notice how similar the SX-42 and SX-62 are on the inside.

> The 'A-4 was the best of the period. The models with the Collins
> vernier tuning knob were the best of the best.

IMHO Collins made a design mistake by putting such a fast tuning rate (100 kc. per knob turn) on the 75A-4. The reduction knob fixed that.

A few years ago, a small company began manufacturing a reduction knob for the 75A-4, machined out of solid brass. Functional and attractive.

> > The 75A-4 is the first receiver I know of that included passband
> > tuning as a standard feature.
>
> I think you're right. My 75A-3 came with a Universal Service
> (predecessor to today's Universal Radio) PTO mod which plugs
> into the
> NBFM socket. The Collins winged emblem was removed, a hole
> drilled in
> the spot and a long 1/4" shaft from the PBT box ran through the
> hole.
> An engraved plate was mounted on the panel and the shaft was
> fitted with a miniature knob.

How did it provide PBT? The 75A-4 PBT is entirely mechanical; it works by rotating the PTO and the BFO controls simultaneously, but so that their frequencies move in opposite directions. The linearity of both oscillators is such that the received carrier frequency does not move.

>A mod for the AGC time constant was also added. The
> thing is nearly the equal to a 75A-4.

NICE!
>
> >> That was
> >> followed by the light gray, low profile styling of the KWM-2/2A and
> >> S-Line in the late fifties.
>
> > Which changed the game completely.
>
> Everybody began jumping on that band wagon. &#65533;
> Heathkit came up with the
> "poor man's S-Line"; Drake introduced the 1-A, 2-A and 2-B and
> TR-3;
> Swan introduced monoband and multiband transceivers;
> Hallicrafters and
> National also began producing smaller, lighter separates and
> transceivers.

IIRC the 1-A predated the S-line and KWM-2. It was a revolutionary design; small, light and compact at a time when even inexpensive receivers were big and heavy. Note the tiny, taller-than-it-is-wide front panel and the very deep chassis. The 1-A had passband tuning too, but it was implemented by having a tunable LC filter at the last IF. The 2-A and 2-B are excellent receivers for their price and complexity, and are prized today. But they were a dead end in one way: there was no matching transmitter that could transceive with them.

What the KWM-2 and S-line did was to make "transceiving" popular.

The KWM-1 and a few other rigs like the legendary Cosmophone (the first true full-featured HF amateur transceiver) had been the first manufactured amateur HF rigs to use the same tunable oscillator to control both the transmitter and receiver, but they did not achieve wide popularity.

Indeed, a homebrew 40 meter *CW* transceiver built around a surplus BC-453 was described in a 1954 QST, probably the first published use of the idea in amateur radio. It even had full QSK. But it was ahead of its time.

The KWM-2 and S-line took transceiving to another level. Not only were they smaller and lighter than their predecessors, they had relatively few controls. They made SSB more popular with hams by reducing the cost and size and eliminating the job of zerobeating the transmitter. Tune an SSB station correctly and the transmitter was automatically on the right frequency.

Add to this the grounded-grid linear amplifier and things really changed. High power 'phone became not only less expensive but a lot smaller and lighter. Transceivers and matched-pair separates became the new paradigm in HF ham gear; AM wasn't part of that.

Compare the Heathkit line of 1964-65 with what they were selling just 5 years earlier for just one example.

> > IMHO what turned the tide were two now-classic HF rigs:
> > the Yaesu
> > FT-101 and the Kenwood TS-520.
>
> I'd toss in the Yaesu tube-type rigs such as the
> FTDX-560 and 570.

Well, sort of. They had QC problems and were really competition for
the likes of Swan, who did the same lots-of-watts-from-sweep-tubes
game.

> They did offer extras but you should look at the TS-520's receiver
> specs. They're dismal.

But you have to ask "compared to what?" Plus they were almost all
"solid state", which was a selling point even if performance suffered.

> > Consider the TS-520S, for example.
> > It did the usual 80-10 meter SSB
> > job pretty well. But it also gave a choice of AGC fast/slow/off, an
> > optional narrow CW filter that was pretty good, RIT/XIT,
> >160 meters
> > and WWV/JJY, fan-cooled finals, plus a built-in AC
> > power supply.
>
> Yep. It served pretty well as an everyman's rig and
> would have been
> much better if the receiver section had been better design.

Agreed, but for the time and price it was decent enough. Point is,
it opened the door.

> The
> Japanese were not the only ones with this problem.
> Heath's early solid
> state receiver, the HW-303 was an absolute clunker in this regard.

I think you mean the SB-303. And yes it was - very sensitive but at
the cost of dynamic range.

> Hammarlund made one valiant effort to stave off the JA's with the
> introduction of the solid state HQ-215. I have one of those and
> it is a
> pretty darned good receiver. It has an edgewise drum dial
> with 1 KC
> readout, has fixed, selectable USB/LSB and a variable BFO for
> CW. It
> has a preselector in the front end, offers AUX band
> positions and places
> for three Collins mechanical filters. The mixing scheme is the
> same as
> the S-Line and it has the same 200 KC band segments. There are
> input/output ports on the rear panel so that the receiver can be

> slaved
> to a 32S-whatever transmitter for transceive use. I think it was
> first
> offered about 1967.

Correct on all counts. It was meant to be a solid-state 75S-3. But never quite got there. Hallicrafters made the almost-all-solid-state FPM-300 transceiver a few years later, too.

Its drum dial inspired the Southgate Type 4 (receiver) and Type 7 (transceiver) dials. But they use all-gear-drive.

It should be remembered that there were some colossal also-rans in that period, too. B&W made their 6100 transmitter with its multiknob mixing synthesizer, obviously inspired by commercial/military sets like the R-1051. Stable but poorly adapted to amateur HF operation.

The legendary Squires Sanders SS-1R was poised to give Collins a good run for the money, but without a matching transmitter, not many hams were going to spend S-line-level dollars for it.

Some folks criticized amateurs for being "slow" to use solid-state HF rigs, but there was a reason for caution. More than one early SS rig had come to grief, like the Hallicrafters FPM-200 of the early 1960s and the EF Johnson Avenger transceiver, of which only about a dozen were made. Avenger was a decent rig but cost so much to make that EFJ never produced more, knowing they wouldn't sell. EFJ never again made an amateur HF transceiver, and was soon not making HF ham gear at all.

Central Electronics pioneered the no-tune transmitter (with all tubes!) back in the late 1950s, and was poised to market a matching receiver (the 100-R) which was reportedly as good or better than the 75S-3. But the company was bought for some patents and other contracts and was soon out of the amateur market. The sole 100-R prototype survives to this day.

OTOH, Southgate Radio is still building rigs after 40+ years...

> > Not just price but price/performance/features combo.
> > For example, try
> > to think of a US-made HF amateur transceiver that
> > had the following:
>
> > - 100 watt output class
> > - 6146 finals, not sweep tubes
> > - Sharp CW filter
> > - RIT/XIT
> > - AGC off/slow/fast
>
> That's quite a number of preconditions.

Not really, IMHO, and they're pretty basic things, easily implemented with 1960s technology.

>I don't think there were any.

Exactly.

> The Heath SB-102 comes close.

Not really. It doesn't have RIT/XIT, and you can't easily add it.
Can't turn off the AGC nor adjust its time constant either.

> The Drake TR-4CW comes close (6JB6's).

Only if you get the model that had both RIT and the sharp filter,
which was only produced for a short time. Blink and you missed it.
Plus check the price of a TR4-CW with power supply and speaker. Ouch!

By comparison, the TS-520S had all of that and more, even if the rx
wasn't as good.

> > Digi-Key got its start about the same time as Ten Tec - 1968
> > or so.
> > Their name comes from the fact that the company got
> > started by selling
> > digital ICs (RTL!) in small quantities to hams so they could build
> > solid-state Morse Code keyers. Then they just kept
> > growing, 'but the
> > name stayed.
>
> They've done phenomenally well. Many of the old line distributors

> are just plain gone.

Newark and Allied are still around.

> > Nor are they overly ornate. They are functional and
> > attractive just as they are.
>
> Agreed. I've often wondered if any of the modern gear will be
> functional/repairable in forty or fifty years. My guess is that i
t will
> not.

I think it will be, but in different ways:

The first way will be the renovators, who make a few good rigs from a
pile of problem sets. This is already starting to happen; look on ebay
for "TS-940" and you will see lots of parts for sale.

The second way will be the rebuilders, who will make replacement PCBs
using parts available then. A much harder go at first, but given the
automation possibilities now, who knows what the future could do.

> > Look up the stuff made by
> > one of my Elmers, master homebrewer W2LYH.
> > (several QST articles).
>

> I know a few guys who still operate the W6TC HBR series of
> receivers that they or others constructed. &#65533;

There are folks still building HBRs today, from scratch.

But with all due respect to those designs, do check out W2LYH's
designs, such as the 23 tube receiver or the ultrastable Frankling
VFO. His construction is an art in itself; no ornamentation needed.

I often wonder what happened to his rig. I don't think I want to know.

> I also of quite a number of quality
> homebrew linear amps which are still put on the air on a regular
> basis.

Yep. Also a number of SB-200s, SB-220s, L-4s and similar amps are
pounding out the watts today, often with upgrades and modernizations.

73 de Jim, N2EY

144. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-06 04:27:45 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <5esus39ir5dhlan7jvqrqimst8lbbivsaq@4ax.com>
Source record: 3215

On Wed, 5 Mar 2008 20:02:41 EST, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>Hallicrafters never went for loctals in a big way; they were used only
>where there was no other choice at the time. Your variations-on-a-
>theme idea is correct; notice how similar the SX-42 and SX-62 are on
>the inside.
>
I had a Hallicrafters SX-101 for many years - the one with the big
slide rule dial and the capability of adding a 2-meter converter (we
all ran AM in those days on 2m). It weighed quite a bit and kept the
room warm in the winter, especially when paired it up with the HT-44B,
but worked very well.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

145. Re: Ham radio as a condition of employment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-06 04:43:02 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <o5tus3tbknhtusptplm3bu2f1obl1e2914@4ax.com>
Source record: 3216

On Wed, 5 Mar 2008 11:27:28 EST, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

>I'm hoping that there will be a place for
>the hobbyist and technically savvy Ham to do that.

C'mon to our hospital. We have several such ham volunteers (including me) and at least two staff people that fit that very description. For the non-technical folks, we have an operations chart which says that if Channel A fails, go to Channel B and here's how you do it. It's up to us techies to make sure that those channels are available where they are needed. I look up to their medical and hospital procedural knowledge as much as they look up to our radio knowledge. I learned an awful lot during the several shifts that I pulled during the December storms.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

146. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-06 05:16:03 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <Z5Lzj.5620$7d1.1714@news01.roc.ny>
Source record: 3217

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Wed, 5 Mar 2008 20:02:41 EST, N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>
>> Hallicrafters never went for loctals in a big way; they were used only
>> where there was no other choice at the time. Your variations-on-a-
>> theme idea is correct; notice how similar the SX-42 and SX-62 are on
>> the inside.
>>
> I had a Hallicrafters SX-101 for many years - the one with the big
> slide rule dial and the capability of adding a 2-meter converter (we
> all ran AM in those days on 2m). It weighed quite a bit and kept the
> room warm in the winter, especially when paired it up with the HT-44B,
> but worked very well.

I like the early SX-101 as it covered 160m. The later variants didn't
but one thing they did have was the oscillator tube filaments on at all
times when the rig was plugged in. That helped stability quite a bit.
I'd still like to have a 101 to pair with the HT-32B.

Dave K8MN

147. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-06 05:56:06 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <4%Kzj.5549$Sa1.4872@news02.roc.ny>
Source record: 3218

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Mar 5, 3:09 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>> On Mar 3, 8:23pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>>> I find it impressive that Hallicrafters made so many different
>>> receiver models in so few years (say, 1945-1960).
>> Loads and loads. Most were variations on a common theme
>> with styling
>> changes though octal tubes might have been replaced by loctals > or miniat
> ure 7 or 9 pin types.
>
> Hallicrafters never went for loctals in a big way; they were used only
> where there was no other choice at the time. Your variations-on-a-
> theme idea is correct; notice how similar the SX-42 and SX-62 are on
> the inside.

The SX-42 is what brought the loctals to mind. Perhaps the '43 had 'em
too. If you look at the long line of Hallicrafters stuff, the S-40 was
basically a Sky Buddy with an S-meter and an extra stage.

>
>> The 'A-4 was the best of the period. The models with the Collins
>> vernier tuning knob were the best of the best.
>
> IMHO Collins made a design mistake by putting such a fast tuning rate
> (100 kc. per knob turn) on the 75A-4. The reduction knob fixed that.

> A few years ago, a small company began manufacturing a reduction knob
> for the 75A-4, machined out of solid brass. Functional and
> attractive.

I noted them when I saw the ads in Electric Radio. The price was very dear.

>>> The 75A-4 is the first receiver I know of that included passband
>>> tuning as a standard feature.

>> I think you're right. My 75A-3 came with a Universal Service
>> (predecessor to today's Universal Radio) PTO mod which plugs
>> into the
>> NBFM socket. The Collins winged emblem was removed, a hole
>> drilled in
>> the spot and a long 1/4" shaft from the PBT box ran through the
>> hole.
>> An engraved plate was mounted on the panel and the shaft was
>> fitted with a miniature knob.

>
> How did it provide PBT? The 75A-4 PBT is entirely mechanical; it works
> by rotating the PTO and the BFO controls simultaneously, but so that
> their frequencies move in opposite directions. The linearity of both
> oscillators is such that the received carrier frequency does not move.

I'm going to have to dig out the paperwork on the Universal Service unit
(which I got copies of just a year or two back) and let you know.

>> A mod for the AGC time constant was also added. The
>> thing is nearly the equal to a 75A-4.
>
> NICE!

The CW filter I have is the 800 Hz unit. One of these days I may
replace it with an Inrad unit. I'll have to juggle things a bit to
match the modern Collins mechanical filter to the radio.

>>>> That was
>>>> followed by the light gray, low profile styling of the KWM-2/2A and
>>>> S-Line in the late fifties.
>>> Which changed the game completely.
>> Everybody began jumping on that band wagon.
>> Heathkit came up with the
>> "poor man's S-Line"; Drake introduced the 1-A, 2-A and 2-B and
>> TR-3;
>> Swan introduced monoband and multiband transceivers;
>> Hallicrafters and
>> National also began producing smaller, lighter separates and
>> transceivers.
>
> IIRC the 1-A predated the S-line and KWM-2.

I think you'll find that all of them hit the market in '57.

> It was a revolutionary
> design; small, light and compact at a time when even inexpensive
> receivers were big and heavy. Note the tiny, taller-than-it-is-wide
> front panel and the very deep chassis.

Yes. The 1-A was also a good example of the Drake copper plated
chassis. Unfortunately it was built as an SSB-only receiver. There
were no provisions for a narrow filter for CW or a wider one for AM. In
fact, the BFO could not be turned off at all. I sold a number of rigs
after coming back stateside and the Drake 1-A was one of them.

> The 1-A had passband tuning
> too, but it was implemented by having a tunable LC filter at the last
> IF.

That sort of thing was Drake stock and trade until the R-4C. The low
frequency IF filters really worked quite well in the Drake units.

> The 2-A and 2-B are excellent receivers for their price and
> complexity, and are prized today. But they were a dead end in one way:
> there was no matching transmitter that could transceive with them.

In the time when they were introduced, many folks were still using
separates. I've kept my 2-B because it really is a classic and performs
well today. The matching 2-BQ adds a lot to the receiver.

> What the KWM-2 and S-line did was to make "transceiving" popular.

Well, they made it popular for those with lots of money.

> The KWM-1 and a few other rigs like the legendary Cosmophone (the
> first true full-featured HF amateur transceiver) had been the first
> manufactured amateur HF rigs to use the same tunable oscillator to
> control both the transmitter and receiver, but they did not achieve
> wide popularity.

If I recall correctly, there were identical-looking models with two
different power output levels.

> Indeed, a homebrew 40 meter *CW* transceiver built around a surplus
> BC-453 was described in a 1954 QST, probably the first published use
> of the idea in amateur radio. It even had full QSK. But it was ahead
> of its time.

You've aroused my curiosity. I'll have to dig through the back issues
and check it out. There's a '453 lying about here somewhere.

> The KWM-2 and S-line took transceiving to another level. Not only were
> they smaller and lighter than their predecessors, they had relatively
> few controls. They made SSB more popular with hams by reducing the
> cost and size and eliminating the job of zerobeating the transmitter.
> Tune an SSB station correctly and the transmitter was automatically on
> the right frequency.

I have to disagree with the reduction of cost. When the KWM-2 was
introduced, my dad made a little less than $6,000 per year gross pay as
a Miami Herald reporter. That transceiver would have cost about a
quarter of a year's pay. Fast forward a bit. When I bought a Ten-Tec
Omni VI, the new cost was a small fraction of a year's pay and that rig
offered features only dreamed about at the time of the introduction of
the Collins rig. The KWM-2 was smaller and lighter but an HT-32B and an
HQ-170 would have been cheaper by hundreds of dollars.

> Add to this the grounded-grid linear amplifier and things really
> changed. High power 'phone became not only less expensive but a lot
> smaller and lighter. Transceivers and matched-pair separates became
> the new paradigm in HF ham gear; AM wasn't part of that.

There are a couple of "duh" factors buried in there for us to mull over.
It would have been possible for radio amateurs to have built and used
grounded-grid linear amps for use with AM rigs much earlier. A rig such
as the Johnson Ranger would have driven one to a KW AM input with ease.

> Compare the Heathkit line of 1964-65 with what they were selling just
> 5 years earlier for just one example.

You're right. Plated modulated AM rigs were gone from the line. You
either got a small and light SSB rig or you bought a Novice type rig
like the DX-60 with controlled carrier AM built in.

>>> IMHO what turned the tide were two now-classic HF rigs:
>>> the Yaesu
>>> FT-101 and the Kenwood TS-520.
>> I'd toss in the Yaesu tube-type rigs such as the
>> FTDX-560 and 570.
>
> Well, sort of. They had QC problems and were really competition for
> the likes of Swan, who did the same lots-of-watts-from-sweep-tubes
> game.

Right, but they were rigs which helped the Japanese penetrate the U.S.
amateur radio market. One rig which we omitted was the Kenwood TS-511
which predated the '520.

>> They did offer extras but you should look at the TS-520's receiver
>> specs. They're dismal.
>
> But you have to ask "compared to what?" Plus they were almost all
> "solid state", which was a selling point even if performance suffered.

I suppose you're right, but having a reliable solid state receiver which
will perform poorly for a long, long time, doesn't seem like much of a
sales tool.

>
>>> Consider the TS-520S, for example.
>>> It did the usual 80-10 meter SSB
>>> job pretty well. But it also gave a choice of AGC fast/slow/off, an
>>> optional narrow CW filter that was pretty good, RIT/XIT,
>>> 160 meters
>>> and WWV/JJY, fan-cooled finals, plus a built-in AC
>>> power supply.
>> Yep. It served pretty well as an everyman's rig and
>> would have been
>> much better if the receiver section had been better design.
>
> Agreed, but for the time and price it was decent enough. Point is,
> it opened the door.

As sales types say, "There's lots of sizzle"--and the prices were low.

>> The
>> Japanese were not the only ones with this problem.
>> Heath's early solid
>> state receiver, the HW-303 was an absolute clunker in this regard.
>

> I think you mean the SB-303.

Yes. That's the one.

> And yes it was - very sensitive but at
> the cost of dynamic range.

...and not only dynamic range. The 2nd order, 3rd order and IMD figures are were all terrible. I'd have hated to have been the owner of one of those with a guy running a KW in my neighborhood.

>> Hammarlund made one valiant effort to stave off the JA's with the
>> introduction of the solid state HQ-215. I have one of those and
>> it is a
>> pretty darned good receiver. It has an edgewise drum dial
>> with 1 KC
>> readout, has fixed, selectable USB/LSB and a variable BFO for
>> CW. It
>> has a preselector in the front end, offers AUX band
>> positions and places
>> for three Collins mechanical filters. The mixing scheme is the
>> same as
>> the S-Line and it has the same 200 KC band segments. There are
>> input/output ports on the rear panel so that the receiver can be
>> slaved
>> to a 32S-whatever transmitter for transceive use. I think it was
>> first
>> offered about 1967.
>
> Correct on all counts. It was meant to be a solid-state 75S-3. But
> never quite got there.

Actually it did get there. It wasn't perfect, but it was good. The problem is that there was no matching transmitter and the receivers didn't exactly fly off the shelves.

> Hallicrafters made the almost-all-solid-state
> FPM-300 transceiver a few years later, too.

That was a loser from the git go. It offered no CW filters and didn't (I don't think) offer 1 KHz readout. I think that was after Bill Halligan sold the firm to Wilcox Gay.

> Its drum dial inspired the Southgate Type 4 (receiver) and Type 7
> (transceiver) dials. But they use all-gear-drive.

That should be quite solid.

I just checked the HQ-215 and a single turn of the tuning knob equals 15 KHz. That was respectable in its day. My Orion, as I've set it up for CW, tunes about 1.65 KHz per knob revolution. If I tap a button, the rate changes to about 6 KHz per revolution. It ratio can be set higher or lower. At the lowest step setting, one revolution provides about 65 Hz.

> It should be remembered that there were some colossal also-rans in
> that period, too. B&W made their 6100 transmitter with its multiknob
> mixing synthesizer, obviously inspired by commercial/military sets
> like the R-1051. Stable but poorly adapted to amateur HF operation.

That was a blunder. The 6100 was every bit as big and heavy as its AM/CW only 5100 and this at a time when others were moving to smaller and lighter gear.

> The legendary Squires Sanders SS-1R was poised to give Collins a good
> run for the money, but without a matching transmitter, not many hams
> were going to spend S-line-level dollars for it.

That receiver was ahead of its time, but nobody came to the party. As a result, they're very rare and bring lots of money on today's market.

> Some folks criticized amateurs for being "slow" to use solid-state HF
> rigs, but there was a reason for caution. More than one early SS rig
> had come to grief, like the Hallicrafters FPM-200 of the early 1960s
> and the EF Johnson Avenger transceiver, of which only about a dozen
> were made. Avenger was a decent rig but cost so much to make that EFJ
> never produced more, knowing they wouldn't sell. EFJ never again made
> an amateur HF transceiver, and was soon not making HF ham gear at all.

We can draw a comparison to those folks who lost out during the battle between Panasonic and Sony in the videotape format war. Those folks were slow to change to DVD players and are being even slower still in going HD-DVD or Blu-Ray. It appears that the Blu-Ray format is the winner and that people will begin to purchase those units as the prices come down.

> Central Electronics pioneered the no-tune transmitter (with all
> tubes!) back in the late 1950s, and was poised to market a matching
> receiver (the 100-R) which was reportedly as good or better than the
> 75S-3. But the company was bought for some patents and other contracts
> and was soon out of the amateur market. The sole 100-R prototype
> survives to this day.

I'll bet that one is worth a fortune. The 100V and 200V transmitters go for a great deal and they aren't all that rare. I've never owned one but I've had my hands on a few. The only Central Electronics gear I've owned have been 10-B's and 20A's along with their small monitor scope and a sideband receiving adapter (phasing type like the transmitters).

> OTOH, Southgate Radio is still building rigs after 40+ years...

Heh.

>>> Not just price but price/performance/features combo.
>>> For example, try
>>> to think of a US-made HF amateur transceiver that
>>> had the following:
>>> - 100 watt output class
>>> - 6146 finals, not sweep tubes

>>> - Sharp CW filter
>>> - RIT/XIT
>>> - AGC off/slow/fast
>> That's quite a number of preconditions.
>
> Not really, IMHO, and they're pretty basic things, easily implemented
> with 1960s technology.

Well, that leaves us discussing what was built vs. what might have been
built.

>> I don't think there were any.
>
> Exactly.
>
>> The Heath SB-102 comes close.
>
> Not really. It doesn't have RIT/XIT, and you can't easily add it.

Actually, you can. I've added it to my HW-101A. The mod is applicable
to the SB-100 through SB-102. There's a single mini-toggle switch and a
pot (with matching green Heath knob) added to the upper right quadrant
of the panel. My HW-101 has an added divide by four calibrator as well
for 25 KHz markers.

> Can't turn off the AGC nor adjust its time constant either.

You could easily add a switch to implement several AGC time constants.

Yeah, I know--Heath didn't build 'em that way.

>> The Drake TR-4CW comes close (6JB6's).
>
> Only if you get the model that had both RIT and the sharp filter,
> which was only produced for a short time. Blink and you missed it.

That was the last model variant. Remember that those Drake transceiver
used *three* sweep tubes in the output for a bit more oomph. The C-Line
transmitters used a pair.

> Plus check the price of a TR4-CW with power supply and speaker. Ouch!

Guys argued with Drake for ages about the inclusion of CW filters and
RIT in the transceivers. The Drake folks couldn't understand how anyone
would need such things. Amateur radio is much more market driven today.
The lower end rigs are driven by cost and the upper end gear is driven
by DXers and contesters demanding performance.

> By comparison, the TS-520S had all of that and more, even if the rx
> wasn't as good.

DXers and contesters weren't buying them though. When Kenwood began
marketing TS-830's, TS-930's and TS-940's, the power user types began
buying them. Kenwood went really well through the TS-850's and

TS-950's, then quite building competitive rigs. The TS-2000 is a dog
with lots of bells and whistles. It does everything from DC to
daylight--poorly.

>>> Digi-Key got its start about the same time as Ten Tec - 1968
>>> or so.
>>> Their name comes from the fact that the company got
>>> started by selling
>>> digital ICs (RTL!) in small quantities to hams so they could build
>>> solid-state Morse Code keyers. Then they just kept
>>> growing, 'but the
>>> name stayed.
>> They've done phenomenally well. Many of the old line distributors
>
>> are just plain gone.
>
> Newark and Allied are still around.

Newark is a first rate outfit. Allied is the bottom of the distribution
barrel. I generally buy from Mouser or Digikey. For bargains, I shop
All Electronics or Ocean State.

>>> Nor are they overly ornate. They are functional and
>>> attractive just as they are.
>> Agreed. I've often wondered if any of the modern gear will be
>> functional/repairable in forty or fifty years. My guess is that i
> t will
>> not.
>
> I think it will be, but in different ways:
>
> The first way will be the renovators, who make a few good rigs from a
> pile of problem sets. This is already starting to happen; look on ebay
> for "TS-940" and you will see lots of parts for sale.

Okay. Gone are the days when you reach into bins of transistor or IC's
and expect to be able to repair much of anything. Large scale
integrations and specialty chips took care of most of that.
Kenwood rigs in particular seem to suffer. The 930's, 850's and 940's
are examples of rigs where the displays and display drivers aren't
available any longer.

>
> The second way will be the rebuilders, who will make replacement PCBs
> using parts available then. A much harder go at first, but given the
> automation possibilities now, who knows what the future could do.

Jim, I just can't see that being profitable.

>>> Look up the stuff made by
>>> one of my Elmers, master homebrewer W2LYH.
>>> (several QST articles).

>> I know a few guys who still operate the W6TC HBR series of
>> receivers that they or others constructed. &#65533;
>
> There are folks still building HBRs today, from scratch.

I'd think that getting some of the parts could be really difficult.

> But with all due respect to those designs, do check out W2LYH's
> designs, such as the 23 tube receiver or the ultrastable Frankling
> VFO. His construction is an art in itself; no ornamentation needed.

I shall check 'em out.

> I often wonder what happened to his rig. I don't think I want to know.

Maybe a collector got it. That'd be best case scenario.

>> I also of quite a number of quality
>> homebrew linear amps which are still put on the air on a regular
>> basis.
>
> Yep. Also a number of SB-200s, SB-220s, L-4s and similar amps are
> pounding out the watts today, often with upgrades and modernizations.

Surely! Softkey circuits, inrush protection and the like have been
added or band have been added. My example of the last model in the
SB-220 line, the HL-2200 (a restyled SB-220 in brown clothing) is doing
a great job as a 6 meter only pair of 3-500Z's at about 900w output.
It has the softkey mod so that any modern transceiver can safely key the
amp.

Dave K8MN

148. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-06 13:39:01 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <2bbacfbb-1cfe-4889-bac4-17bde108f829@47g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3219

On Mar 6, 12:56 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Mar 5, 3:09 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> >> N...@aol.com wrote:
> >>> On Mar 3, 8:23pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:

> > A few years ago, a small company began manufacturing
> > a reduction knob
> > for the 75A-4, machined out of solid brass. Functional and
> > attractive.
>
> I noted them when I saw the ads in Electric Radio.
> The price was very dear.

$125 IIRC.

> > How did it provide PBT?

> I'm going to have to dig out the paperwork
> on the Universal Service unit
> (which I got copies of just a year or two back) and let you know.

Will be good to know.

> The CW filter I have is the 800 Hz unit. One of these days I may
> replace it with an Inrad unit. I'll have to juggle things a bit to
> match the modern Collins mechanical filter to the radio.

I think the same company that made the reduction knob made exact plug-
in filters. Dunno if they made a CW one.

At the University ham shack we had two 75S-3s. One had the
200 Hz filter, aka "the ringmaster". But boy could they hear!

> > IIRC the 1-A predated the S-line and KWM-2.

> I think you'll find that all of them hit the market in '57.

The KWM-2 came after the original S-line (75S-1/32S-1) Check your old
QSTs, you'll see the 1-A advertised well before the KWM-2.

> > It was a revolutionary
> > design; small, light and compact at a time when even
> > inexpensive
> > receivers were big and heavy. Note the tiny, taller-than-it-is-wide
> > front panel and the very deep chassis.
>

> Unfortunately it was built as an SSB-only receiver. • There
> were no provisions for a narrow filter for CW or a wider one for
> AM. • In
> fact, the BFO could not be turned off at all. • I sold a number of rig
s
> after coming back stateside and the Drake 1-A was one of them.

1-A was Drake's entry into the ham receiver market; previously
they had only made things like lowpass filters. Their idea was to
cut the cost of SSB to the bone by making a receiver specific to
the mode and leaving out anything not needed for SSB. Hence no
diode detector, no BFO-off, no narrow filter, etc. But it had PBT,
which also gave sideband selection, an S-meter and AGC that
worked on SSB, and was very stable.

That mode-specific thing inspired many of the Southgate receivers.

> > The 2-A and 2-B are excellent receivers for their price and
> > complexity, and are prized today. But they were a dead end
> > in one way:
> > there was no matching transmitter that could transceive with
> > them.
>
> In the time when they were introduced, many folks were still using
> separates. • I've kept my 2-B because it really is a classic and
> performs
> well today. • The matching 2-BQ adds a lot to the receiver.

About 15 years ago I walked away from a hamfest table that
had a 2-B/2-BQ combo for $75. "To think about it". Oh fer dumb.....

> > What the KWM-2 and S-line did was to make
> > "transceiving" popular.
>
> Well, they made it popular for those with lots of money.

Not just those folks. The idea got wide publicity and led to lots
more rigs at a lot lower prices.

> If I recall correctly, there were identical-looking models with two
> different power output levels.

Cosmophone 35 and Cosmophone 1000.

> > Indeed, a homebrew 40 meter *CW* transceiver built
> > around a surplus
> > BC-453 was described in a 1954 QST, probably the
> > first published use
> > of the idea in amateur radio. It even had full QSK.
> > But it was ahead
> > of its time.
>

> You've aroused my curiosity. &#65533;
> I'll have to dig through the back issues
> and check it out. &#65533; There's a '453 lying about here somewhere.

IIRC the author's last name was Deane. I do not know of any earlier
HF amateur transceiver being described in QST or any other
publication.

> > The KWM-2 and S-line took transceiving to another level. Not only were
> > they smaller and lighter than their predecessors, they had relatively
> > few controls. They made SSB more popular with hams by reducing the
> > cost and size and eliminating the job of zerobeating the transmitter.
> > Tune an SSB station correctly and the transmitter was automatically on
> > the right frequency.
>
> I have to disagree with the reduction of cost. &#65533;
> When the KWM-2 was
> introduced, my dad made a little less than
> $6,000 per year gross pay as
> a Miami Herald reporter. &#65533; That transceiver would have cost about a
> quarter of a year's pay.

And $6000/yr gross income was solid middle class. A family of four
could live very well on $6K, 50 years ago.

What I meant was that a KWM-2 and power supply/speaker cost less than
top-of-the-line separates like a 75A-4 and HT-32B.

Or compare the price of an S-line and a KWM-2.

To get an idea of the influence of the KWM-2, google "LWM-3"...

>&#65533; Fast forward a bit. &#65533; When I bought a Ten-Tec
> Omni VI, the new cost was a small fraction of a year's pay
> and that rig
> offered features only dreamed about at the time of the
> introduction of
> the Collins rig. &#65533; The KWM-2 was smaller and lighter but an HT-
> 32B and an
> HQ-170 would have been cheaper by hundreds of dollars.

Agreed. But the KWM-2 put the idea of the one-box station out
there in a big way. A lot of less-expensive transceivers with
minimal controls followed. People saw the success of the KWM-2
and designed less-expensive alternatives based on the idea.
>
> > Add to this the grounded-grid linear amplifier and things really
> > changed. High power 'phone became not only less expensive
> > but a lot
> > smaller and lighter. Transceivers and matched-pair separates
> > became
> > the new paradigm in HF ham gear; AM wasn't part of that.

>
> There are a couple of "duh" factors buried in there for us to mull
> over.
> It would have been possible for radio amateurs to have built and
> used
> grounded-grid linear amps for use with AM rigs much earlier. A
> rig such
> as the Johnson Ranger would have driven one to a KW AM input
> with ease.

Some hams did that but the big problem was the low efficiency of AM linear without the use of special circuits like the Doherty, which isn't the fastest QSY circuit.

With AM linear you only get 30-35% carrier efficiency. Which means 300-350 watts carrier at the old 1 kW legal limit. Plus your final tubes have to be able to dissipate 650-700 watts! The same results could be had from a 450-watt class plate-modulated AM rig - say, a pair of 812As modulated by a pair of 811As.

AM also required power supplies that could stand the 100% duty cycle of the mode. The low duty cycle of early unprocessed SSB rigs meant a lot of liberty could be taken in PSU design.

The end result was rigs like the NCX-3 and the SB-100, which cost as much as a good receiver but were complete 100-watt SSB stations that you could indeed set up on a card table.

When Heath introduced the SB-200 in 1954, it cost $200. Legal limit on CW, 1200 watts PEP on SSB (input). That was a lot cheaper than the equivalent AM, and would fit on the card table.

IOW, high power AM cost a lot of dough and a lot of space/weight. The SSB transceiver/GG linear paradigm drastically reduced those requirements.

Fun fact: AFAIK only two 1 kW-input-legal-limit plate-modulated AM rigs were ever made for the amateur market: the Collins KW-1 and the Johnson Desk Kilowatt. Total production was very limited - maybe 2000 units combined.

I can't begin to recall the number of models of legal-limit GG amplifiers made. EFJ Thunderbolt, SB-220, Heath KL-1...

More to come...

73 de Jim, N2EY

149. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-06 15:20:31 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <eYTzj.5631$7d1.4709@news01.roc.ny>
Source record: 3220

Dave Heil wrote:

> I'm going to use an old computer tower for a chassis/cabinet for a pair
> of 4-400's I plan to build.

I shouldn't post late at night when I'm tired. What I meant to say was
that I plan to use the old computer tower for the power supply, not the
entire amp.

Dave K8MN

150. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-06 18:53:12 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <4499f1dd-fe31-406a-9bb8-1bca82f6b8e5@n75g2000hsh.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3221

On Mar 6, 12:56 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Mar 5, 3:09 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:

Correction to earlier post: The EFJ Thunderbolt amp wasn't GG. But it could do the legal limit on SSB and CW.

> > But you have to ask "compared to what?" Plus they were almost all
> > "solid state", which was a selling point even if performance suffered.
>
> I suppose you're right, but having a reliable solid state receiver which
> will perform poorly for a long, long time, doesn't seem like much of a
> sales tool.
>
Remember too that in the 1970s US ham radio was growing fast. This was right after the 1968-1969 "incentive licensing" changes which some said were going to destroy amateur radio. The numbers tell a different story.

> > Hallicrafters made the almost-all-solid-state
> > FPM-300 transceiver a few years later, too.
>
> That was a loser from the git go. It offered no CW filters and didn't
> (I don't think) offer 1 KHz readout. I think that was after Bill
> Halligan sold the firm to Wilcox Gay.

Which brings up another point: In that time period, a number of the classic US ham radio manufacturers were losing their founders, either through sale of the company or retirements, etc.

> > Its drum dial inspired the Southgate Type 4 (receiver) and Type 7
> > (transceiver) dials. But they use all-gear-drive.

> That should be quite solid.

It's very solid, and so easily done that I wonder why it hasn't been done more by others. The tuning cap is from a BC-221, and there's none better anywhere.

> I just checked the HQ-215 and a single turn of the tuning knob equals 15
> KHz. That was respectable in its day. My Orion, as I've set it up for
> CW, tunes about 1.65 KHz per knob revolution. If I tap a button, the

> rate changes to about 6 KHz per revolution. • It ratio can be set high
er
> or lower. • At the lowest step setting, one revolution provides about
65 Hz.

All Southgate Radio receivers from the Type 3 onward have had slow
tuning rates - typically 5 to 7 kHz per turn. That's about 1969 to the
present.

> The 6100 was every bit as big and heavy as its
> AM/CW only 5100 and this at a time when others were moving to smaller
> and lighter gear.

Yes but that was the least of it. It cost almost as much as a 75S-3 or
T-4X but there was no matching rx that could transceive with it. And
while the military might have a use for those multiknob synthesizers,
for HF ham radio they're just not the thing to use.

> > The legendary Squires Sanders SS-1R ....

> That receiver was ahead of its time, but nobody came to the party. • A
s a
> result, they're very rare and bring lots of money on today's market.

Very few companies have been able to enter the ham radio market from
the top. Collins did, but they had a reputation from WW2 and before,
and more importantly had a broad base of non-ham products that paid
for much of the research. I have heard that Collins did not expect the
amateur product line to make money; its purpose was to be the best and
keep the company name in view.

About the only company besides Collins that was able to come into the
ham radio market at the top was Signal One - which didn't last.

> > Some folks criticized amateurs for being "slow" to use solid-state HF
> > rigs, but there was a reason for caution. More than one early SS rig
> > had come to grief, like the Hallicrafters FPM-200 of the early 1960s
> > and the EF Johnson Avenger transceiver, of which only about a dozen
> > were made. Avenger was a decent rig but cost so much to make that EFJ
> > never produced more, knowing they wouldn't sell. EFJ never again made
> > an amateur HF transceiver, and was soon not making HF ham gear at all.
>
> We can draw a comparison to those folks who lost out during the battle
> between Panasonic and Sony in the videotape format war. • Those folks
> were slow to change to DVD players and are being even slower still in
> going HD-DVD or Blu-Ray. • It appears that the Blu-Ray format is the
> winner and that people will begin to purchase those units as the prices
> come down.

Agreed. Plus the prices come down too.
>
> > Central Electronics pioneered the no-tune transmitter (with all
> > tubes!) back in the late 1950s, and was poised to market a matching
> > receiver (the 100-R) which was reportedly as good or better than the

> > 75S-3. But the company was bought for some patents and other contracts
> > and was soon out of the amateur market. The sole 100-R prototype
> > survives to this day.
>
> I'll bet that one is worth a fortune.

I don't think it's ever been sold in a competitive situation.

>
> The 100V and 200V transmitters go
> for a great deal and they aren't all that rare. I've never owned one

> but I've had my hands on a few. The only Central Electronics gear I'
ve
> owned have been 10-B's and 20A's along with their small monitor scope
> and a sideband receiving adapter (phasing type like the transmitters).

Yep. There was also the 10A, quite rare now. Some folks claim they
were the origin of the amateur USB/LSB convention, but doing the math
shows that cannot be the case.

> > OTOH, Southgate Radio is still building rigs after 40+ years...

> Heh.

Not just rigs but power supplies, antennas, antenna tuners, test
equipment, shack furniture, cable assemblies, speakers, and more.

> Well, that leaves us discussing what was built vs. what might have been
> built.

Point is, the Japanese rigs put those features in from the get-go,
while the
American rigmakers didn't.

> > Not really. It doesn't have RIT/XIT, and you can't easily add it.
>
> Actually, you can. I've added it to my HW-101A. The mod is app
licable
> to the SB-100 through SB-102. There's a single mini-toggle switch an
d a
> pot (with matching green Heath knob) added to the upper right quadrant
> of the panel. My HW-101 has an added divide by four calibrator as we
ll
> for 25 KHz markers.

How is it done? Varactor in the PTO?

> >> The Drake TR-4CW comes close (6JB6's).
>
> > Only if you get the model that had both RIT and the sharp filter,
> > which was only produced for a short time. Blink and you missed it.
>
> That was the last model variant. Remember that those Drake transceiv

er
> used *three* sweep tubes in the output for a bit more oomph. The C-L
ine
> transmitters used a pair.

Yes, and they were supposed to be matched. Some folks have worked up
mods to use 6146s in those rigs.

> > Plus check the price of a TR4-CW with power supply and speaker. Ouch!
>
> Guys argued with Drake for ages about the inclusion of CW filters and
> RIT in the transceivers. The Drake folks couldn't understand how any
one
> would need such things.

Interesting! I always thought the reason they were left out was so
that folks would buy the separates.

> Amateur radio is much more market driven today.
> The lower end rigs are driven by cost and the upper end gear is driven
> by DXers and contesters demanding performance.

Sherwood has tested the Elecraft K3. Next issue of QST will carry a
Product Review of it too.

> > By comparison, the TS-520S had all of that and more, even if the rx
> > wasn't as good.
>
> DXers and contesters weren't buying them though.

'Course not. But they weren't the target market, either. The SB-101/
HW-101 crowd were.

I remember that towards the end of its run the HW-101 price reached
$449, which was almost double its introductory price less than a
decade earlier. That was without power supply, speaker, mike or sharp
filter. And you had to build it. FT-101/TS-520S took that market!

> When Kenwood began
> marketing TS-830's, TS-930's and TS-940's, the power user types began
> buying them. Kenwood went really well through the TS-850's and
> TS-950's, then quite building competitive rigs. The TS-2000 is a dog

> with lots of bells and whistles. It does everything from DC to
> daylight--poorly.

There are persistent rumors that Kenwood has given up the serious
amateur market. Sad if true,

The TS-570 is also highly regarded.

> > Newark and Allied are still around.

> Newark is a first rate outfit. Allied is the bottom of the distribut
ion
> barrel. I generally buy from Mouser or Digikey. For bargains,
I shop
> All Electronics or Ocean State.

I just look in the Southgate inventory.

> > The first way will be the renovators, who make a few good rigs from a
> > pile of problem sets. This is already starting to happen; look on ebay
> > for "TS-940" and you will see lots of parts for sale.

> Okay. Gone are the days when you reach into bins of transistor or IC
's
> and expect to be able to repair much of anything. Large scale
> integrations and specialty chips took care of most of that.
> Kenwood rigs in particular seem to suffer. The 930's, 850's and 940'
s
> are examples of rigs where the displays and display drivers aren't
> available any longer.

Agreed but there will be some rigs that have other problems but good
displays.

> > The second way will be the rebuilders, who will make replacement PCBs
> > using parts available then. A much harder go at first, but given the
> > automation possibilities now, who knows what the future could do.
>
> Jim, I just can't see that being profitable.

Probably won't be. I suspect some folks will do it just for the heck
of doing it, though.

And consider: $125 for a reduction tuning knob for a receiver that
went out of production more than 45 years ago?

In the bad old days PC fabrication for homebrewing meant doing layout
work, resist, etching, drilling, etc. I've done it and got good at it.
But today you just download some freeware from a PC fabrication house,
put together a circuit, develop a layout and send it by email to the
fabricator. Prices are low for small boards and the quantity is first-
rate. Plus if a couple of hams go together, or you just want spares,
it's a no-brainer. Automated manufacturing does the work.

> > There are folks still building HBRs today, from scratch.
>
> I'd think that getting some of the parts could be really difficult.

You'd be surprised what folks have squirreled away....

In reality the only unobtanium parts are the coil forms and IF cans.
One trick is to use ARC-5 IFTs instead. But I prefer original
Southgate designs.

> > Yep. Also a number of SB-200s, SB-220s, L-4s and similar amps are
> > pounding out the watts today, often with upgrades and modernizations.
>
> Surely! • Softkey circuits, inrush protection and the like have been
> added or band have been added. • My example of the last model in the
> SB-220 line, the HL-2200 (a restyled SB-220 in brown clothing) is doing
> a great job as a 6 meter only pair of 3-500Z's at about 900w output.
> It has the softkey mod so that any modern transceiver can safely key the
> amp.

Exactly. Many are modded for QSK as well.

Yet way back in April 1976 - 32 years ago! - the cover article in QST was for a legal-limit solid-state HF amp. When I saw it, I figured that it wouldn't be too many more years before hams wouldn't have any hollow-state in their shacks....

73 de Jim, N2EY

151. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-06 22:21:45 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <77345738-8522-4dd2-8686-1261e9de250c@q33g2000hsh.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3222

On Mar 5, 3:20 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Mar 3, 2:40 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:

> > Agreed - but in the Triple-F aesthetic (hereafter referred to as
> > "The Southgate School" or TSS), not defeating function isn't enoug
h.
> > All choices must enhance or support functionality.
>
> Gotcha, Jug!

Marcellus? Is that you?

> > IOW, "found objects".
>
> If you're willing to get dirty and are patient, it is possible to save a
> bundle by using other people's castoffs.

Not only that, but make a dent in the enormous waste stream.

> I'm going to use an old computer tower for a chassis/cabinet for

[the power supply of]

> a pair
> of 4-400's I plan to build.

You want a Southgate type number for it?

> If you're building something small, try hobby shops. They often have

> bins of both brass, copper and aluminum sheet in various thicknesses
> along with round and square tubing and rod of the same materials.

Yes, but they want you to *buy* the stuff! My adapters were made from
scraps.

> Wood with a thin sheet of flashing aluminum is one way to get the shieldin
g.

BTDT, except used old litho plates turned print-side-in.

> > TSS is about simplicity and functionality, not minimalism. If staining
> > or finishing improves the functionality, it is done. For example, the
> > shack tabletop consists of a layer of oriented strandboard (for
> > strength) topped by a layer of masonite (for a smooth hard surface).
> > This combination (actually a composite) was chosen because it was the
> > least expensive at the time. The masonite was given a couple of coats

> > of varnish because doing so improved the functionality.
>
> The tempered Masonite, no doubt. • The front panel of W4JBP's 1941
> homebrew transmitter is of that stuff, painted black.

Exactly. Wood prices have changed, though; today a tabletop might be
AC plywood.
Depends what's on the cull cart.

> > Possibly. I've had some experience building speaker cabinets (clones
> > of the Altec A-7 "Voice of the Theater", JBL folded horns, for
> > example) and the trick is to build solid from the beginning.
>
> I've shared the experience and still remember all of the kerfing that
> went into getting those curves right. • Add a 15" Electrovoice SRO
> speaker (which was about 3db better than anything else on the market at
> the time), top is with some massive horn tweeters and you had something.

The ones I helped build in the 1960s are still in service.

> > I've always wondered what the fascination with "antiques" is. I can
> > understand the fascination with craftsmanship, design, practicality
> > and materials, though.
>
> I think there a couple of classes of antique furniture items. • There
are
> those things which can only be viewed and those things which can be
> used. • A small, antique ladies chair might not be something you could

> use, but an antique dining room suite or an antique sideboard can be
> quite utilitarian.

The former belongs in a museum, the latter in a home.

> > The term I would use is "classic" or "timeless". Look at some Mission
> > or Shaker furniture - it does not appear "antique" or dated. That's
> > what TSS is all about, applied to Amateur Radio (and a limited
> > budget!)
>
> I had to grin. • I believe that 2x4's, 4x4's, plywood or hollow core
> doors will never go out of style.

I rip 2x4s in half lengthwise; they're all you need for most shack
furniture. Also do an offset cut that gives one piece 1-1/2" square
and another that's 2x1-1/2" from a single 2x4. Table saw makes it
easy.

I did one table with a hollow core door many years ago (it was free)
but they are too flimsy and too expensive for TSS approval now.

The shack table in the website picture was designed for Field Day use,
25 years ago. The top was the maximum size that would fit in the back
of a VW Rabbit with the rear seat taken out. All the legs and braces

are bolted on in such a way that the whole thing breaks down into one package. Does the job for now but a replacement is in the works. Maybe.

>&#65533; There's no "Captain Nemo walking into
> his cabin on the Nautilus" look here, but the place is attractive and
> utilitarian.

IMHO the true art of a hamshack is having things set up in such a way that you just want to sit down and start operating as soon as you see the place.

73 de Jim, N2EY

152. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1595 - March 7, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-07 12:57:19 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080307014512.02235ea8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 3223
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1595 - March 7, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1595 with a release date of Friday, March 7th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Dayton announces this years award winners. A big

win for a Maryland ham as the states Supreme Court turns away a neighbors appeal in a tower case; the FCC says that Morse testing will not return and

a ham who wants to retire has his business foe sale on eBay. Why eBay you

ask? Find out on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1595 coming your

way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO LAW: MD SUPREME COURT TURNS AWAY TOWER CASE - BIG WIN FOR HAM

The Maryland Supreme Court has declined to hear the case involving a set of

ham radio towers on in the town of Poolesville. That's good news for the

ham who has been fighting to keep them. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, explains:

--

The Maryland Supreme Court has decided against being involved in the case where neighbors of John Evans, N3HBX, had sued after he obtained a permit and installed several 100 foot and higher radio towers as part of a contest

station. The neighbors claimed the installation would devalue their property and that the installation was an eyesore.

The case began back on August 30th, 2004 when neighbors of Evans antenna farm went to the Board of Appeals on Aug. 30, 2004, less than a month after

construction began on the towers. The Board dismissed the neighbors' complaint that the tower permit was issued in error in November 2004. It said that the 30 day window of opportunity to appeal the permit had passed.

The permit had been issued June 23rd, but the neighbors clain they first learned of the project when construction equipment arrived on August 5th .

Two neighbors of Evans 44 acre property, Thomas Burruss and Alan Gaunoux, filed the lawsuit in August 2004. The case eventually wound up in the Maryland Court of Appeals, which upheld the Board's original finding that

the neighbors were too late to contest the permit. It did instruct the appeals board to decide if not notifying the neighbors had denied them of their due process property rights. The board found that the neighbors did

not have any due process rights to Evans' land. This is the decision the

neighbors ultimately took to the Supreme Court.

According to the lower court findings, Evans, who said he has spent $160,000 in legal fees, was within his rights to build the towers and followed the proper procedures. The county permitted the towers as an allowable accessory use, much like a swimming pool, detached garage or shed, according to county Board of Appeals documents and other published reports. His attorney Steven Van Grack says that as a matter of law, the towers were constructed legally.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reporting.

--

Though the Supreme Court ruling was the end of the road for the administrative case, the neighbors also filed a civil lawsuit against Evans

in Circuit Court in August 2004. Its been on hold until the administrative

case concluded. (Gazette.net)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: SPRATLY ISLANDS COMING OIN THE AIR

If you have waited a ham radio lifetime to work the very elusive Spratly Islands, wait no longer. This with word that Ed Sawyer N1UR and his wife Christine, KB1PQN are expected to be active portable 9M6 from the Layang-Layang Island Resort in the Spratly Islands. This, between 0800 UTC

on , March 22nd through midnight UTC on March 30th.

The duo have already received their licenses. Once they get permission from

the Navy, they will apply for a special 9M0 callsign. Activity will be on 160 through 10 meters, on CW and SSB. 100 watts to omnidirectional verticals will be used from the near-by beach and the operators will be moving bands frequently to take advantage of changing band conditions and openings. Sunset on Spratly is 1040 UTC with sunrise at 2240 by the middle

of that week.

QSL cards for either operator go via Bob Tomkovich, Jr., K2RET, 405 Hemlock

Dr., Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734 in the USA. More information is on line at www dot n1urspratly dot com. We will have more DX news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (OPDX)

**

THE BPL WAR: SARL SAYS NO TO PLT / BPL

The South African Radio League will be taking a very tough stance in its fight to stop the proliferation of Broadband over Powerline Internet access

in that nation. According to a society news release, while the draft regulations for the introduction of what they call Powerline Internet Transmission or PLT go some way to protect the High Frequency radio spectrum from interference the general consensus was that the regulations do not go far enough. SARL says that interference limits, the lack of compulsory notching of the Amateur bands and the inadequate mitigation process were identified as some of the issues left open.

The decision was reached following a nationwide net on Sunday, February 24th where the draft PLT regulations and the negative impact the licensing

of Powerline Internet Transmission in South Africa will have on HF communication were discussed. The South African Radio League also received

input from experts in the field and a major assistance from the ARRL laboratory which has been dealing with BPL interference issues for several

years. (SARL)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC SAYS NO TO MORSE RECONSIDERATION REQUESTS

The FCC has said no to a pair of proposals that had asked for the restoration of Morse testing for a qualification to become and hold a United States Amateur Radio license. In a Memorandum Opinion and Order released February 28th, the FCC denied two petitions calling for General or

Amateur Extra license applicants to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code.

In the wake of the FCC's actions to do away with Morse testing, two amateurs submitted separate petitions asking the agency to bring back Morse testing. Anthony Gordon, KG6EQM, objected to the FCC eliminating the

telegraphy examination element as an examination requirement for the Amateur Extra Class operator license. Russell Ward, W4NI, requested the FCC reconsider its decision for strictly procedural reasons.

In denying both requests the FCC reiterated its prior conclusion that an individual's ability to demonstrate Morse code proficiency does not further

the underlying purposes of the Part 97 rules. It appears to be of the opinion that Morse does not accommodate individual contributions to the advancement of the radio art and to enhance the value of the amateur service to the public.

In December 2006, the FCC decided to drop the Morse code requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. At the time the commission decided to drop the Morse Code exam, it said knowing Morse is not necessarily

indicative of an individual's ability to contribute to the advancement of ham radio. The agency also said emergency communication today is performed using voice, data or video modes. The agency claims that all of these are much faster than telegraphy.

The FCC said it received roughly 100 comments on the reconsideration request. It says that most were overwhelmingly negative. (RW, ARRL, FCC)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N6KRV repeater of the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group serving beautiful Lake Isabella, California.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: MARYLAND SENIORS FORM FIRST RESPONSE TEAM

A story in the March 5th edition of Hometown Annapolis dot com proves that you do not have to be young to be an emergency planner. A story titled Heritage Harbour's Detailed Plans Impress County Officials tells the story of how senior citizens in a planned Maryland community have put together a first response unit that includes everything from stockpiling food and medical supplies to communicating with the world using Amateur Radio.

In this case the communications hub is the garage of Heritage Harbour resident Walter Van Gieson, AB4DQ. Van Gieson was a radio operator who served in the military during World War II. According to the news article, in the event a disaster severs power and phone lines, AB4DQ's ham radio will become the lifeline out of Heritage Harbor.

The complete story is truly uplifting example of how those in their 70's and 80's and beyond can provide a valuable service to their communities. You can read all about the Heritage Harbour first response team at
www.hometownannapolis.com/cgi-bin/read/2008/03_02-14/TOP
(HometownAnnapolis.com)

**

RESCUE RADIO: WISCONSIN HAMS HELP SAVE DRIVER WHO RAN OFF THE ROAD

A pair of Wisconsin hams are being lauded for their quick action that likely saved an injured drivers life. We have more from Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM:

--

It happened on Wednesday, February 27th. That's when Robert Stout, WB9ECK,
put out a call for assistance on the Madison 147.150 two meter repeater and

was answered by Brian Sprecher, KC9LCC,. Stout told Sprecher that a car had

gone off the road, broken through a guard rail and stopped just short of a

creek. Stout aid that the driver was injured and trapped in his vehicle. He asked KC9LLC to inform authorities that an ambulance was needed at the scene.

Sprecher then put in a call to the county sheriff's office and relayed the

assistance call. Stout then kept Sprecher apprised of the driver's injuries. KC9LLC used the information to give the sheriff's dispatch updated real time information.

Stout remained at the scene providing aid until local police arrived. Sprecher stayed on the air relaying information from Stout to the

local authorities until they relieved him of duty and sent him on his way.

For the amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM in Reno.

--

The identity of the victim and his medical condition were not known as this

newscast goes to air. (KC9GM, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: CALIFORNIA HONORS DCS VOLUNTEERS

Twenty seven Los Angeles area hams who are members of the Carson Sheriff Station Disaster Communications Service have been honored for their work on

behalf of the community. All received individual and group awards from for

their taking part in a wide range of emergency and public service episodes

including assisting in providing assistance during tactical alerts due to civil unrest. The hams were also lauded for their work during the massive

wildfires that plagued the region last fall.

In expressing support to the volunteers a proclamation was issued. It said

in part that together local ham radio operators provided 7986 hours of service to the agencies. Also that the service provided by the Carson Station Disaster Communications Service volunteers has so far saved the taxpayers of Los Angeles County almost $320,000.

The Carson Station Disaster Communications Service is a volunteers group of radio amateurs who volunteer to provide communication links in the event

that more traditional communication systems are disabled due to natural or

manmade disasters. In addition to the 27 radio amateurs, thirteen deputies, a firefighter, two station volunteers and two citizens were also

recognized at the presentation event. (ARNewsline(tm) from LA Sheriff's Press
Release)

**

ENFORCEMENT: GOVERNMENT SILENCE LEADS TO FIGHT BACK WEBSITES

A new twist on the ham radio regulatory enforcement scene in the United States. This, as some radio amateurs accused of wrong doing by the Federal

Communications Commission take to the World Wide Web to plead their case or denounce the regulatory agency as interfering with their right to free speech.

In the wake of a recent FCC announcement that only final actions in ham radio matters would be made public, some hams accused of Part 97 infractions are taking their story public with websites and on-line blogs of their own. The reason seems to be to let the ham radio public know that they intend to fight the government accusations made against them.

Back on January 15th the FCC announced that due to privacy concerns that it

was dramatically scaling back the amount of information it would make public in regard to it Amateur Service enforcement actions. Up until then

it had been common practice for the agency to release letters to individuals that require a specific response to an allegation of wrong doing, Now the only information made public are Notices of Violation, Notices of Apparent Liability to Monetary Forfeiture and other final actions in a given case.

But in a strange turn of events, this new FCC posture to protect the identifies of those accused has lead at least two or three such people to create cyberspace homes. Places on the web where they have posted the violation notices that they received along with their respective views or responses.

The reason that these sites and blogs appearing is unclear since one would

think that most hams who receive letters of inquiry regarding their on-the-air operating practices would tend to want to keep the matter quiet

and settle the issue well out of the public eye. It will be interesting to

see how many more of these sites show up as ham radio rules enforcement continues and some on the receiving end of FCC notices going public to fight back. (ARNewsline(tm), others)

**

ENFORCEMENT: AMBULANCE COMPANY FINED FOR OPERATING ON AN UNAUTHORIZED FREQUENCY

Even first responders have to comply with the FCC rules as an Oregon company found out recently. The FCC affirms a $3200 monetary against Metro

West Ambulance licensee of station WQBI492, in Hillsboro, Oregon. This, for willful and repeated violation of Section 1.903(a) of the Commission's

Rules by operating on a frequency not authorized for it to use.

On June 11, 2007, the Enforcement Bureau's Portland Resident Agent Office

issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $4,000 to Metro West after determining that the company apparently willfully and repeatedly operated on 463.2875 MHz. This is a frequency not

authorized by its license. Metro West replied to the NAL on July 2, 2007.

In its response the company disputed some of the facts, arguing that the violation was not willful and not repeated, that Metro West took immediate

steps to rectify the situation as soon as it was aware of the violation, and that Metro West has a history of compliance with the Commission's Rules.

In affirming its action, the FCC said that the Communications Act defines "repeated" as "the commission or omission of such act more than once or, if
such commission or omission is continuous, for more than one day. It says

that in this case, the evidence is clear that Metro West operated its station on 463.2875 MHz for more than one day. Therefore, it finds no merit to that argument.

It did however agree that Metro West did have a history of overall compliance with the Commission's Rules. Based on this the FCC did reduce

Metro West's forfeiture amount from $4,000 to $3,200.

Metro West was given the customary 30 days to pay or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

**

HAM FREEWARE: WORKEDGRIDS FROM VE2ZAZ

Bertrand Zauhar, VE2ZAZ, has released his new freeware WorkedGrids, ham log

grid square mapping software. The program runs only under Windows. It displays a map showing the amateur radio grid squares contacted and logged

in using third-party logging program. Up to four bands can be displayed concurrently on the map. The program reads plain-text ASCII log files generated by most logging programs. WorkedGrids is directed towards the VHF and above operators who collect grid squares for contesting or award purposes. More is on-line at ve2zaz.net (ANS, VE2ZAZ)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: RAC ELECTS TWO NEW VP'S

Some names in the news. First up is Jim Hay, VE2VE. Hay has been elected

as Radio Amateur of Canada's Vice-President, for Technical and Administrative Services. This confirms his recent assumption of responsibilities for the organizations information technology requirements.

And John Bartlett, VE1OZ, has been elected as Radio Amateur of Canada's Vice-President for Public Relations. His job is to lead efforts to develop

strategies to improve membership across Canada and to promote Amateur Radio

to the Canadian public. (RAC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: VK2AMD TURNS 100

And words of congratulations to Australian operator Howard Booth, VK2AMD who turned 100 years of age on March 6th. Originally licensed as G2AS of Sheffield England, Booth and his then young family emigrated to Australia

after the bad winters of the late 1940's, settling in Windang, NSW, some 60

miles south of Sydney. Booth, who was a builder and roofer in the U-K built his own house and still lives in it today. He is believed to be one

of the oldest or even the oldest active radio amateur on the Australian continent and possibly world-wide. (WIA)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: QCWA AT STUART FLORIDA HAMFEST - MARCH 15

Ken Simpson, W8EK, says that the Quarter Century Wireless Association will

hold an open forum at the Stuart Florida Hamfest. The date of the event is

Saturday, March 15th at 11:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. The venue is meeting room 2 at the Martin County Fairgrounds in Stuart. More information about the hamfest is on line at www.mcaraweb.com (QCWA)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: CHARLESTON HAMFEST - MARCH 15

And the 24th annual Charleston West Virginia Hamfest also takes place on Saturday March 15th. Its venue is the Coonskin Armory at 1707 Coonskin Drive in Charleston. Talk in is on the W8CHF 145.35 MHz repeater. For more information please contact our own Jim Damron. His e-mail is N8TMW at

arrl dot net. (N8TMW)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: MICROHAMS DIGITAL SEMINAR - MARCH 22

The second annual MicroHAMS Digital Seminar is slated for Saturday, March 22nd on the Microsoft campus in Redmond, Washington. The program includes

a wide variety of topics centered around digital communications and Amateur

radio. Lunch and snacks are included with the price of the conference and

there will be free Internet access. Because of space limitations and parking requirements pre-registering is suggested, More is on line http://www.microhams.com/digitalconference (W7LRD, ANS)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States

of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from

our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM HONORS: 2008 YHOTY NOMINATIONS BEING SOUGHT

In case you have not heard the announcement at the end of the newscast the

past few weeks, the nominating period for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award. The award honors a licensee 18 years old or younger who has used ham radio to significantly contribute to the benefit of the Amateur Radio Service, to the state of the communications art, to the community or the nation.

Any FCC or Industry Canada licensed radio amateur, age 18 or younger, residing in the United States 50 states, plus Puerto Rico and the Canadian

Provinces is eligible to be nominated for this award. To obtain a nominating form, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to 2008 Young Ham

of the Year Award, c/o Newsline, 28197 Robin Ave, Santa Clarita, California, 91350, or download the form from www dot yhoty dot org. Nominations may be electronically submitted at the website, but supporting materials must be submitted separately.

Presentation of the 2008 YHOTY Award will take place in August at the Huntsville Hamfest in Alabama. Again, more information is in cyberspace at

our special website at www.yhoty.org. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: GERMAN PUBLIC RADIO TO ABANDON EUREKA 147

A once prominent digital audio broadcasting format soon could be a technical achievement of the past in one European nation. This, as an oversight organization in Germany says its time to stop supporting Eureka

147. Jim Damron, N8TMW, has the details:

--

The organization responsible for setting fiscal policy for public broadcasting in Germany has deemed the Eureka-147 Digital Audio Broadcasting codec unworthy of further investment. The KEF which oversees

the financial aspect of DAB is calling for the equivalent of about $246 million slated to fund public-service DAB projects from 2009 to 2012 to be

reallocated to other projects.

Since 2001, some $266 million has been allocated to KEF for Digital Audio Broadcasting projects. In explaining its recommendation to halt such funding after 2008, KEF said that receiver options remained limited in Germany and that public support for FM radio and the availability of satellite radio, Internet radio, podcasts and other outlets have changed the nature of radio broadcasting since DAB was first envisioned.

I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW.

--

But there is some strong opposition to such a phase out. A group called the Initiative Marketing Digital Radio is a European consortium of receiver

manufacturers, transmitter network operators, program providers and institutions backing the DAB standard. It warns that Germany moving away from Eureka 147 could cause chaos. It says this is because the digitalization of broadcasting is unstoppable. (RW)

**

WORLDBEAT - UK: BBC CLOSES SHORTWAVE TO EUROPE

The British Broadcasting Company has announced that all its shortwave radio

transmissions to Europe ceased on 18th February 2008. The U-K based broadcaster says that it recognize that this will be a loss to some of their listeners, its managers point out that BBC World Service radio programs are delivered to Europe via other platforms including longwave at night.

The BBC's World Service grew from the original British Empire Service which

was inaugurated in 1932. Last year the BBC celebrated its 75th anniversary

and today boasts an estimated world audience of some 180 million.

According to the announcement, only the analog shortwave transmissions to Europe are affected. The experimental Digital Radio Mondiale or D-R-M transmissions for North East continental Europe will continue

unaffected. Full details of World Service sound broadcasts can be found on

the web at bbc.co.uk/worldservice. (GB2RS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT 2007 SYMPOSIUM DVD RELEASED

AMSAT North America has released its long awaited 2007 AMSAT Symposium DVD. The DVD contains all of the 2007 papers, PowerPoint slide show and audio of the presentations. Additional features include Symposium papers from 2004 and 2005, an International Space Station Columbus module video and much more.

This DVD is a must for anyone that was not able to attend the 2007 AMSAT Symposium or as a club meeting presentation. For pricing or to order a copy please contact Martha Sargovitz at the AMSAT office at telephone area

code 301 589-6062. (ANS)

**

OPERATING NEWS: INTERNATIONAL MUSEUMS WEEKEND ADDS ANOTHER WEEKEND

An update to last weeks story on the International Museums Weekend operating event slatted to place on 14th and 15th June. Due to popular demand, this event has now been extended to two weekends by adding June 21st and 22nd as well. Those intending to take part should register

their museum on the
International Museums Weekend website. (GB2RS)

**

DX

In DX, NZ5N reports that he will be operating the satellites during the upcoming Swan Island Dxpedition as HQ8R from March 15th to the 23rd. Bill

will be taking along an FT-817 and an Arrow antenna to work the birds. Time permitting, he will also try to make a few contacts before and

after the expedition from the Honduran mainland. Weather permitting, he may

also try to give out grid square EK 76 from the boat on the way to and from

the island. QSL as directed by the operator.

The 2007 Equatorial Guinea 3C7Y DXpedition to has been approved for DXCC credit. If you had cards rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL's DXCC Desk to have your record updated.

Beginning on Sunday the 9th of March, a week-long expedition will operate from
various castles and forts on the Isle of Man. Club calls GT4KPT, GT8LED and GT3GWB will used. They expect to activate several Worked All

Britain areas during the week.

And G3RWF is active from Uganda as 5X1NH until March 22nd. His operation will be limited because he is on holiday but he expects to operate all of the High Frequency bands except 160 meters. Modes will be CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. He will run 100 watts to wire antennas. QSL to G3RWF.

Last but by no mean least, F8CHM will be active as FR5EZ from Reunion Island until March 21st. He expects to be active on the High Frequency bands
as well as 6 meters on CW and SSB. QSL to his callbook address.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: LIGHTNING AND ICE FOR SALE

And finally this week, a company that hams and broadcasters have come to rely on for lightning protection devices is up for sale. Its up for sale on eBay. The company is Industrial Communication Engineers. Its located in Indianapolis, Indiana here in the U-S-A and that's where you will also

find Amateur Radio Newsline's Jack Parker, W8ISH:

--

Better up that limit on your Pay Pal account. This business opportunity could cost you a pretty penny. Long time amateur radio operator Mike Koss

W9SU is hanging up his test leads and putting his company on the eBay auction block. Going price is a cool 2-point-7 million dollars. Koss has

spent the past 18 years building up his electronic products business. So why auction the business on eBay?

SOT: "eBay is one way you can advertise anything including a
business. And there are
And it can be seen by the entire world. The total cost of the ad on eBay was 14-dollars".

This may be the first time an electronics manufacturer has been auctioned on eBay. For 2-point-seven-mil, Koss says you get a large product and parts inventory, circuit designs, established customer base, 800 number and

two new patents for electro-magnetic pulse and nuclear electro-pulse arrestors that have not yet been marketed.

So if lightning strikes and he gets an offer, what is this 40 year veteran

of amateur radio going to do now?
Koss: "Becoming somewhat of a semi-professional DXer has always been kind

of a keen interest. Ah, go back and sort of be a kid again",
Mike's world class ham radio station includes six tall towers that make great lightning rods. Its all protected by his patented lightning

protection equipment. It's that ham station that Koss would like to spend

more time operating. He says the stress of running a business and getting

gray hair lead to his decision to auction the business on eBay and enjoy retirement.

Koss: "I'll probably travel a little bit because I haven't done very much
of that in my lifetime and I'd like to write a book".

Koss says the book would detail the finite science of tower installation, lightning protection and proper grounding techniques. It could be a golden idea that earns him enough pocket change to enjoy the best of amateur radio and his well earned retirement.

Reporting from Indianapolis, this is Jack Parker W8ISH.

--

Amateur Radio operators world-wide depend on Industrial Communication Engineers lightning protection equipment to keep their stations safe from Mother Nature. Many hope that Mike Koss, W9SU, is successful in finding someone to keep it going for many years to come while permitting him a lot

more time on the radio. (ARNewsline(tm), W9IND)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the

RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can

also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go we want to remind you that the nominating period for the 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year is now open. Any licensed radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in the United States or Canada is

eligible for the award. Full details and both downloadable and on-line nominating forms are in cyberspace at www dot YHOTY dot org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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153. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 9 (Friday, March 7, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-08 01:08:46 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080307210758.1C25830D04@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 3224
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 9
March 7, 2008
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + ARRL "Antenna Expert" to Retire
* + ARRL Announces Colvin Award Recipients
* + ARRL Soliciting Nominations for 2007 Hiram Percy Maxim Award
* + April QST on the Way to your Mailbox
* + New Edition of "ARRL Instructor's Manual" Now Available
* + FCC Enforcement Actions
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ Larry Scheff, W4QEJ, Wins February QST Cover Plaque Award
+ ARRL to Close in Observance of Good Friday
Nominations Invited for 2008 Young Ham of the Year Award
ARRL DXCC Desk Approves 3C7Y Operation
Daylight Saving Time Begins this Weekend

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========================================================

==> ARRL "ANTENNA EXPERT" TO RETIRE

R. Dean Straw, N6BV, best known to Amateur Radio operators as the "ARRL
antenna expert," has announced his retirement, effective March 31.
Straw's main responsibility at ARRL has been shepherding and shaping
"The ARRL Antenna Book" since he took over as editor in 1993 from Jerry
Hall, K1TD.

"Jerry was one of my Elmers in Hawaii back in the early 1960s. He had
been the editor of "The Antenna Book" for many years, and when he
decided to retire he suggested I put my name in for the position of
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editor," Straw said. "At that time, I had been in the marine electronics industry for more than 20 years and I wanted to 'give something back' to this great hobby we call Amateur Radio. Now, looking back, it's been a gratifying 15 years that I've been privileged to work at ARRL."

While at ARRL, Straw specialized in antennas, transmission lines and propagation. "I have been able to utilize my training as an electronics engineer in other areas where I could help out. I've enjoyed being associated with some remarkable people at ARRL -- folks who are truly dedicated not only to preserving the legacy of Amateur Radio, but to taking Amateur Radio forward in the 21st century."

In his 15 year tenure at ARRL, Straw served as Senior Assistant Technical Editor in the Publications Group. He was Editor of "The ARRL Antenna Book" for five Editions (17th-21st Editions), Editor of "The ARRL Antenna Compendium" series (Volumes 4-7), as well as several editions of "The ARRL Handbook." He was co-author of "Simple and Fun Antennas for Hams" with Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH.

A frequent contributor to QST (he most recently served as the handling editor for the "Hints & Kinks" column) and NCJ, Straw has also been Editor of numerous ARRL books: "ON4UN's Low-Band DXing" (4th Edition), "Low-Profile Amateur Radio," "The ARRL DXCC Handbook," "DXing on the Edge," "Amateur Radio on the Move," "Antenna Zoning for the Radio Amateur" and the ARRL Continuing Education "Antenna Modeling" course.

ARRL Publications Manager and QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, said, "Back when I first joined the HQ staff, Dean Straw was the man who introduced me to the wonders of ladder line. Before I encountered Dean, I had never heard of ladder line, and I had no idea that this strange-looking feedline could be used with an antenna tuner, giving multiband HF operation with one ordinary wire dipole. Needless to say, it worked -- Dean has been my antenna Elmer ever since. Through all his books and QST articles over the years, Dean has fulfilled the same Elmer role for many. He will be greatly missed."

Straw said, "The Lord has been good to me -- how many people can truly say that their vocation has been their beloved avocation too? My wife has consistently maintained over the years: 'You're having entirely too much fun in this job!'"

==> ARRL ANNOUNCES COLVIN AWARD RECIPIENTS

The ARRL has granted Colvin Awards to three 2008 DXpeditions: The recently completed VP6DX Ducie Island DXpedition <http://ducie2008.dl1mgb.com/index.php> and the upcoming operations from the TX5C DXpedition to Clipperton Island <http://www.clipperton2008.org/> and the 9X0R DXpedition to Rwanda <http://www.9x0r.com/>. These three DXCC entities appear high-up on the most-wanted lists.

The VP6DX DXpedition was on the air from February 11-27. Carsten Esch, DL6LAU, and Eric Scace, K3NA, led the 13-member team to the small island

540 kilometers east of Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific. This DXpedition made 183,686 contacts, the largest number of contacts made by any radio DXpedition. The previous record had been held since February 2001 by the Five Star DX Association's DXpedition to the Comoros Island, D68C. Ducie Island was ranked as #25 on the DXCC list of most-wanted entities.

The VP6DX DXpedition broke many other records, including:
* The largest number of RTTY contacts, previously held by the Swains Island N8S DXpedition in April 2007.
* The largest number of SSB (voice) contacts, previously held by the Comoros Island D68C DXpedition.
* The largest number of contacts on 40 meters, previously held by the Libya 5A7A DXpedition in November 2006.
* The largest number of contacts on 30 meters, previously held by the St Brandon Island 3B7C DXpedition in September 2007.
* The largest number of contacts on 17 meters, previously held by the Swains Island N8S DXpedition.
* The largest number of contacts with North America, previously held by the Comoros Island D68C DXpedition.
* The largest number of contacts with South America, previously held by the Peter I Island 3Y0X DXpedition in February 2006.
* The largest number of contacts with Africa, previously held by the Rodrigues Island 3B9C DXpedition in March-April 2004.

An overseas possession of France, Clipperton Island is a coral atoll in the North Pacific. About nine square kilometers, it lies southwest of Mexico and west of Costa Rica and has no permanent inhabitants. Bob Grimmick, N6OX, will lead an international team of 21 amateurs to the atoll for a DXpedition set to begin March 7 for 10 days. Clipperton currently ranks as #21 on the DXCC list of most-wanted entities. Logs will be uploaded to Logbook of the World <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/> once TX5C's official log has been certified.

TX5C plans to operate on 6-160 meters: "We will nearly always be working split and will regularly announce our listening frequencies. Our goal is to make over 100,000 QSOs and will pay special attention to working some of the more difficult areas like Europe and the Middle East." The TX5C bandplan is available at <http://www.clipperton2008.org/dxpedition/bandplan.htm>.

An important goal of the TX5C DXpedition is furthering the knowledge of Clipperton and its ecosystem. As part of the application for the landing permit, the TX5C team agreed that certain scientific studies would be performed during their stay on the atoll, such as setting up a weather station, recording tide times and observation of native bird species. These studies will be conducted under the auspices of Christian Jost, director of the Geographical Research Center of Paul Verlaine University in Metz.

Antonio Gonzalez, EA5RM, will lead a 13-member team to Rwanda, a small landlocked country in the Great Lakes region of east-central Africa. The

9X0R team plans to be on the air from March 16-27. They will operate on 10-160 meters on CW, SSB and digital modes. Rwanda has not been on the air since late 1997 and currently ranks as #45 on the DXCC list of most-wanted entities. The 9X0R bandplan is available at <http://www.9x0r.com/operation/>.

Gonzalez said the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency (RURA) is trying to establish rules regarding Amateur Radio in Rwanda: "Right now there is not an easy way to get an Amateur Radio license here, but in a few months things should be different and ham radio activities will start to be more usual from this country."

According to Gonzalez, a group of Rwandan amateurs, with the help of RURA, are trying to establish the Rwanda Amateur Radio Union (RARU) as the national Amateur Radio society in that country. He said that the RARU will be applying for membership in the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) soon.

The Colvin Award was established in 1994 with the proceeds of a life insurance policy purchased by renowned DXer Lloyd Colvin, W6KG (SK), naming the League as beneficiary. The award is conferred in the form of grants in support of Amateur Radio projects that promote international goodwill in the field of DX. The awards guidelines favor multi-national teams with strong ethics and good QSLing policies including the use of Logbook of the World. From the 1960s into the early 1990s, Lloyd Colvin and his wife Iris, W6QL, activated more than 100 DXCC entities. Lloyd Colvin died in 1993 and Iris Colvin in 1998.

==> ARRL SOLICITING NOMINATIONS FOR 2007 HIRAM PERCY MAXIM AWARD

The ARRL invites nominations for the 2007 Hiram Percy Maxim (HPM) Memorial Award <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/hpm.html>. The League's premier youth recognition, the HPM Memorial Award goes annually to a radio amateur under age 21 in recognition of the recipient's accomplishments and contributions "of the most exemplary nature" to both the Amateur Radio community and the local community during the previous calendar year -- 2007 in this instance.

Nomination criteria may include:

* Participation or leadership in organizational affairs at the local or national level (for example, local radio club, ARES, net control, participation in civic groups).
* Technical achievement (building radios, putting up an antenna and such).
* Operating record (for example, nets, disaster drills, contests, ARRL November Sweepstakes, etc).
* Recruitment and training of new amateurs (for example, helped teach a license class, JOTA, etc).
* Public relations activities (for example, create a ham radio Web page).

To nominate a deserving candidate, submit a completed nomination form <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/hpm.html> to your ARRL Section Manager (SM), along with any supporting information and endorsements of ARRL-affiliated clubs and elected or appointed League officials. SMs make the formal nominations. There is no limit to the number of nominations an individual or club may submit to an SM, and SMs may nominate more than one individual. SMs need to have all information in sufficient time to submit a formal nomination to ARRL Headquarters by March 31. A list of SMs is available on page 16 of any issue of QST or on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/smlist.html>.

Nomination forms and supporting information should document as thoroughly as possible the Amateur Radio achievements and contributions of the nominee during the previous calendar year. ARRL must receive all supporting documentation by April 15. An award panel reviews the nominations and selects the winner.

HPM Memorial Award winners receive a cash award of $1500 and an engraved plaque. For more information, contact Steve Ewald, WV1X <wv1x@arrl.org>, tel 860-594-0265.

==> APRIL QST ON THE WAY TO YOUR MAILBOX

The April issue of QST is jam-packed with all sorts of things today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments to contesting, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

Larry Scheff, W4QEJ, discusses what you need to do to protect your house -- and your shack -- from a lightning strike in "Lightning: Understand it or Suffer the Consequences -- Part 2." ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, takes a look at the first 2008 meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors in her article "ARRL Board Authorizes New Section Positions, Adopts Budget, More, at 2008 Annual Meeting." Paul Pescitelli, K4UJ, and Tom Harwell, N4XP, take readers to a coral reef in the South China Sea in their cover article, "The 2007 DXpedition to Scarborough Reef."

In his monthly column "This Month in Contesting," ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, talks about how those new to radiosport can get their feet wet. He gives his picks for the best contests for those wanting to try out contesting for the first time, especially those new to the digital modes. Read about the results of the 2007 ARRL International EME Competition and go ahead and start planning for the 2008 IARU HF Championship, scheduled for July 12-13. Find out about other upcoming contests in this month's Contest Corral.

ARRL Technical Advisor Bruce Prior, N7RR, reviews the Elecraft K3 HF/6 Meter Transceiver. According to the ARRL Lab test results, "Elecraft's K3/10 modular kit is easy and enjoyable to assemble. Once built, you're rewarded with a feature-laden transceiver with receiver performance rivaling the best available at any price. You can customize your radio with a wide range of options at any time as your interests and needs

change." ARRL Product Contributing Editor Howard Robins, W1HSR, reviews the Kenwood TH-D7A(G) Dual Band Handheld, saying this radio "is a full-featured dual band handheld that works well, is easy to use and expands on the original model's APRS capabilities."

Of course, there are the usual columns you know and love in the April QST: Hints & Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, How's DX, Old Radio, Hamspeak and more. Look for your April issue of QST in your mailbox. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> NEW EDITION OF "ARRL INSTRUCTOR'S MANUAL" NOW AVAILABLE

The fourth edition of the "ARRL Instructor's Manual" <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1263> is designed to coordinate classroom instruction with the current ARRL student manuals for Technician and General Class licensing, "The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual" and "The ARRL General Class License Manual."

The lesson plans and instructional PowerPoint presentations in the new edition of the Instructor's Manual have been developed by ARRL Education & Technology Program Manager Mark Spencer, WA8SME, and are intended to provide an outline for instruction. Instructors can customize these lesson plans and materials to fit their course format, addressing the needs of a particular audience.

ARRL Education Services Manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, said, "We encourage instructors to think of the provided PowerPoint presentations, along with our instruction materials, as teaching aids -- one tool among many in your instructional toolbox." Get your copy today at the ARRL Online Store <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/>.

==> FCC ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth sent a Warning Notice to Amanda F. Spenlinhauer, KB1CQX, of Wells, Maine, reminding her that "the trustees of the N1KMA, N1VAR, KQ1L and the repeaters operating under the WA1ARN call sign have requested in writing that you refrain from use of the repeater." These requests, the Commission, noted, were due to Spenlinhauer's "failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee/control operators of the repeater system for its users and FCC rules." Spenlinhauer had been issued verbal requests to refrain from using the repeaters in the past, but she has, according to the Warning Notices, "apparently ignored both verbal and written requests."

Warned that the FCC would initiate enforcement action against her license -- which can include revocation, monetary forfeiture or a "modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies on which [she] may operate KB1CQX" -- Spenlinhauer was informed by the Commission that she was "expect[ed] to abide by the request to stay off the repeater systems

and any other such request by a repeater licensee, control operator or trustee." Fines normally range from $7500-$10,000.

Hollingsworth also pointed out that Spenlinhauer's Amateur Radio license was set to expire on April 7, 2008. "Please be advised," Hollingsworth said, "that your license will not be routinely renewed unless this matter is resolved."

Hollingsworth also sent a an inquiry into interference from a Part 15 device to a licensee in Holmen, Wisconsin, and a Warning Notice concerning interference on 10 meters from an unlicensed station in Harmony, North Carolina. Two cases were opened by the Commission regarding unlicensed transmissions on non-amateur frequencies by amateur licensees in Zebulon and Pikeville, North Carolina. The Appalachian Power Company in Charleston, West Virginia also received a letter from the FCC regarding radio frequency interference from power line hardware to an Amateur Radio licensee.

Direct all questions concerning the Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions Web postings via e-mail only to Riley Hollingsworth <fccham@fcc.gov> in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "When the flush of a new-born Sun fell first on Eden's green and gold" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Following five days of no sunspots, we saw one (number 984) on March 5 and 6, but it is fading off the west limb of the Earth-facing portion of the Sun. Solar activity is still very low. Sunspot numbers for February 28-March 5 were 12, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 13 with a mean of 3.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 70, 69.8, 68.6, 69.2, 68.4, 68.3 and 69.3 with a mean of 69.1. Estimated planetary A indices were 22, 27, 19, 8, 5, 4 and 8 with a mean of 13.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 17, 18, 13, 8, 4, 3 and 7, with a mean of 10. For next week, NOAA and the US Air Force predict planetary A index of 5, 15, 15, 10, 10, 15 and 10 for March 7-13. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts unsettled to active conditions March 7, active geomagnetic conditions March 8 and unsettled conditions March 9-13. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, the NCCC Sprint is March 7. The AGCW QRP Contest and SOC Marathon Sprint are March 8. The RSGB Commonwealth Contest, the Oklahoma QSO Party, the EA PSK31 Contest and the Idaho QSO Party are March 8-9. The North American Sprint (RTTY), the SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, the UBA Spring Contest (CW) and the NSARA Contest are March 9. The Wisconsin QSO Party is March 9-10 and the CLARA

and Family HF Contest is March 11-12. The RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (CW) is March 12. Next weekend, the NCCC Sprint is March 14. The AGCW VHF/UHF Contest, Feld Hell Sprint and the 10-10 International Mobile Contest are on March 15. The Russian DX Contest is March 15-16 and the Virginia QSO Party is March 15-17. The UBA Spring Contest (6 meters) and the 9K 15 Meter Contest are both March 16. On March 17, look for the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest and the Bucharest Contest. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (SSB) are scheduled for March 20. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, March, 9, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, March, 21, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Larry Scheff, W4QEJ, Wins February QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for February is Larry Scheff, W4QEJ, for his article "Lightning: Understand It or Suffer the Consequences -- Part 1." Congratulations, Larry! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qstvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the March issue by Monday, March 31.

* ARRL to Close in Observance of Good Friday: ARRL Headquarters will be closed in observance of Good Friday on Friday, March 21. There will be no W1AW bulletin or code practice transmissions that day. "The ARRL Letter" will be posted a day early on Thursday, March 20; there will be no "ARRL Audio News" that week. ARRL Headquarters will reopen Monday, March 24 at 8 AM Eastern Daylight Time. We wish everyone a safe and

enjoyable holiday weekend.

* Nominations Invited for 2008 Young Ham of the Year Award: Nominations are now being accepted for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year (YHOTY) Award. The award honors a licensee 18 years old or younger who has used ham radio to significantly contribute to the benefit of the Amateur Radio Service, to the state of the communications art, to the community or the nation. This year, nominations are being accepted for Amateur Radio operators living in the US, Puerto Rico and the 10 Canadian provinces. Nominations and supporting materials must be submitted before May 30, 2008, on an official application. To obtain a nomination form, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to 2006 Young Ham of the Year Award, c/o Newsline, 28197 Robin Ave, Santa Clarita, CA 91350, or download the form from the Internet <http://www.yhoty.org/pdf/YHOTY_2008_Nomination_Form.pdf>. Nominations may electronically submitted using a Web form <http://www.yhoty.org/nomination-form.htm>, but supporting materials must be submitted separately. Presentation of the 2008 YHOTY Award will take place in August at the Huntsville Hamfest in Alabama. There's more information on the YHOTY Web site <http://www.yhoty.org/>.

* ARRL DXCC Desk Approves 3C7Y Operation: ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the 2007 3C7Y DXpedition to Equatorial Guinea has been approved for DXCC credit. "If you had cards rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail <dxcc@arrl.org> to the ARRL DXCC Desk to have your DXCC record updated," Moore said.

* Daylight Saving Time Begins this Weekend: Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour -- daylight saving time begins Sunday, March 9 at 2 AM local time.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!): letter-dlvy@arrl.org

==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call
860-594-0384

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<http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during
registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW
bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including
delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the
"Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify
membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change
your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all
automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You
must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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154. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1595 - March 7, 2008 - Corrected Version

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-08 11:09:09 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080308020809.0218b430@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 3225
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Note: apologies to all. Somehow I managed to send out an earlier version

of the script thanb I meant to. Some of the info in the open and the lead

story was incorrect. This is the correct version. Our opps.
de
Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF

****
****

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1595 - March 7, 2008 (REVISED)

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1595 with a release date of Friday,
March 7th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

A big win for a Maryland ham as the states Supreme Court turns away a
neighbors appeal in a tower case; the FCC says that Morse testing will not

return and a ham who wants to retire has his business foe sale on
eBay. Why eBay you ask? Find out on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report
number 1595 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO LAW: SUPREME COURT TURNS AWAY TOWER CASE - BIG WIN FOR HAM

The Supreme Court has declined to hear the case involving a set of ham
radio towers on in the town of Poolesville. That's good news for the ham

who has been fighting to keep them. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce
Tennant, K6PZW, explains:

--

The Supreme Court has decided against being involved in the case where
neighbors of John Evans, N3HBX, had sued after he obtained a permit and
installed several 100 foot and higher radio towers as part of a contest
station. The neighbors claimed the installation would devalue their
property and that the installation was an eyesore.

The case began back on August 30th, 2004 when neighbors of Evans antenna
farm went to the Board of Appeals on Aug. 30, 2004, less than a month after

construction began on the towers. The Board dismissed the neighbors'
complaint that the tower permit was issued in error in November 2004. It

said that the 30 day window of opportunity to appeal the permit had passed.

The permit had been issued June 23rd, but the neighbors claim they first learned of the project when construction equipment arrived on August 5th .

Two neighbors of Evans 44 acre property, Thomas Burruss and Alan Gaunoux, filed the lawsuit in August 2004. The case eventually wound up in the Maryland Court of Appeals, which upheld the Board's original finding that

the neighbors were too late to contest the permit. It did instruct the appeals board to decide if not notifying the neighbors had denied them of their due process property rights. The board found that the neighbors did

not have any due process rights to Evans' land. This is the decision the

neighbors ultimately took to the Supreme Court.

According to the lower court findings, Evans, who said he has spent $160,000 in legal fees, was within his rights to build the towers and followed the proper procedures. The county permitted the towers as an allowable accessory use, much like a swimming pool, detached garage or shed, according to county Board of Appeals documents and other published reports. His attorney Steven Van Grack says that as a matter of law, the towers were constructed legally.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reporting.

--

Though the Supreme Court ruling was the end of the road for the administrative case, the neighbors also filed a civil lawsuit against Evans

in Circuit Court in August 2004. Its been on hold until the administrative

case concluded. (Gazette.net)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: SPRATLY ISLANDS COMING OIN THE AIR

If you have waited a ham radio lifetime to work the very elusive Spratly Islands, wait no longer. This with word that Ed Sawyer N1UR and his wife Christine, KB1PQN are expected to be active portable 9M6 from the Layang-Layang Island Resort in the Spratly Islands. This, between 0800 UTC

on , March 22nd through midnight UTC on March 30th.

The duo have already received their licenses. Once they get permission from

the Navy, they will apply for a special 9M0 callsign. Activity will be on 160 through 10 meters, on CW and SSB. 100 watts to omnidirectional verticals will be used from the near-by beach and the operators will be moving bands frequently to take advantage of changing band conditions and openings. Sunset on Spratly is 1040 UTC with sunrise at 2240 by the middle

of that week.

QSL cards for either operator go via Bob Tomkovich, Jr., K2RET, 405 Hemlock

Dr., Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734 in the USA. More information is on line at www dot n1urspratly dot com. We will have more DX news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (OPDX)

**

THE BPL WAR: SARL SAYS NO TO PLT / BPL

The South African Radio League will be taking a very tough stance in its fight to stop the proliferation of Broadband over Powerline Internet access

in that nation. According to a society news release, while the draft regulations for the introduction of what they call Powerline Internet Transmission or PLT go some way to protect the High Frequency radio spectrum from interference the general consensus was that the regulations do not go far enough. SARL says that interference limits, the lack of compulsory notching of the Amateur bands and the inadequate mitigation process were identified as some of the issues left open.

The decision was reached following a nationwide net on Sunday, February 24th where the draft PLT regulations and the negative impact the licensing

of Powerline Internet Transmission in South Africa will have on HF communication were discussed. The South African Radio League also received

input from experts in the field and a major assistance from the ARRL laboratory which has been dealing with BPL interference issues for several

years. (SARL)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC SAYS NO TO MORSE RECONSIDERATION REQUESTS

The FCC has said no to a pair of proposals that had asked for the restoration of Morse testing for a qualification to become and hold a United States Amateur Radio license. In a Memorandum Opinion and Order released February 28th, the FCC denied two petitions calling for General or

Amateur Extra license applicants to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code.

In the wake of the FCC's actions to do away with Morse testing, two amateurs submitted separate petitions asking the agency to bring back Morse testing. Anthony Gordon, KG6EQM, objected to the FCC eliminating the

telegraphy examination element as an examination requirement for the Amateur Extra Class operator license. Russell Ward, W4NI, requested the FCC reconsider its decision for strictly procedural reasons.

In denying both requests the FCC reiterated its prior conclusion that an individual's ability to demonstrate Morse code proficiency does not further

the underlying purposes of the Part 97 rules. It appears to be of the opinion that Morse does not accommodate individual contributions to the advancement of the radio art and to enhance the value of the amateur

service to the public.

In December 2006, the FCC decided to drop the Morse code requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. At the time the commission decided to drop the Morse Code exam, it said knowing Morse is not necessarily indicative of an individual's ability to contribute to the advancement of

ham radio. The agency also said emergency communication today is performed

using voice, data or video modes. The agency claims that all of these are

much faster than telegraphy.

The FCC said it received roughly 100 comments on the reconsideration request. It says that most were overwhelmingly negative. (RW, ARRL, FCC)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N6KRV repeater of

the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group serving beautiful Lake Isabella, California.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RECUE RADIO: MARYLAND SENIORS FORM FIRST RESPONSE TEAM

A story in the March 5th edition of Hometown Annapolis dot com proves that

you do not have to be young to be an emergency planner. A story titled Heritage Harbour's Detailed Plans Impress County Officials tells the story

of how senior citizens in a planned Maryland community have put together a

first response unit that includes everything from stockpiling food and medical supplies to communicating with the world using Amateur Radio.

In this case the communications hub is the garage of Heritage Harbour resident Walter Van Gieson, AB4DQ. Van Gieson was a radio operator who served in the military during World War II. According to the news article,

in the event a disaster severs power and phone lines, AB4DQ's ham radio will become the lifeline out of Heritage Harbor.

The complete story is truly uplifting example of how those in their 70's and 80's and beyond can provide a valuable service to their communities. You can read all about the Heritage Harbour first response team at
www.hometownannapolis.com/cgi-bin/read/2008/03_02-14/TOP
(HometownAnnapolis.com)

**

RESCUE RADIO: WISCONSIN HAMS HELP SAVE DRIVER WHO RAN OFF THE ROAD

A pair of Wisconsin hams are being lauded for their quick action that likely saved an injured drivers life. We have more from Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM:

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It happened on Wednesday, February 27th. That's when Robert Stout, WB9ECK,
put out a call for assistance on the Madison 147.150 two meter repeater and

was answered by Brian Sprecher, KC9LCC,. Stout told Sprecher that a car had

gone off the road, broken through a guard rail and stopped just short of a

creek. Stout aid that the driver was injured and trapped in his vehicle. He asked KC9LLC to inform authorities that an ambulance was needed at the scene.

Sprecher then put in a call to the county sheriff's office and relayed the

assistance call. Stout then kept Sprecher apprised of the driver's injuries. KC9LLC used the information to give the sheriff's dispatch updated real time information.

Stout remained at the scene providing aid until local police arrived. Sprecher stayed on the air relaying information from Stout to the

local authorities until they relieved him of duty and sent him on his way.

For the amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM in Reno.

--

The identity of the victim and his medical condition were not known as this

newscast goes to air. (KC9GM, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: CALIFORNIA HONORS DCS VOLUNTEERS

Twenty seven Los Angeles area hams who are members of the Carson Sheriff Station Disaster Communications Service have been honored for their work on

behalf of the community. All received individual and group awards from for

their taking part in a wide range of emergency and public service episodes

including assisting in providing assistance during tactical alerts due to civil unrest. The hams were also lauded for their work during the massive

wildfires that plagued the region last fall.

In expressing support to the volunteers a proclamation was issued. It said

in part that together local ham radio operators provided 7986 hours of service to the agencies. Also that the service provided by the Carson Station Disaster Communications Service volunteers has so far saved the taxpayers of Los Angeles County almost $320,000.

The Carson Station Disaster Communications Service is a volunteers group of radio amateurs who volunteer to provide communication links in the event

that more traditional communication systems are disabled due to natural or

manmade disasters. In addition to the 27 radio amateurs, thirteen deputies, a firefighter, two station volunteers and two citizens were also

recognized at the presentation event. (ARNewsline(tm) from LA Sheriff's Press
Release)

**

ENFORCEMENT: GOVERNMENT SILENCE LEADS TO FIGHT BACK WEBSITES

A new twist on the ham radio regulatory enforcement scene in the United States. This, as some radio amateurs accused of wrong doing by the Federal

Communications Commission take to the World Wide Web to plead their case or denounce the regulatory agency as interfering with their right to free speech.

In the wake of a recent FCC announcement that only final actions in ham radio matters would be made public, some hams accused of Part 97 infractions are taking their story public with websites and on-line blogs of their own. The reason seems to be to let the ham radio public know that they intend to fight the government accusations made against them.

Back on January 15th the FCC announced that due to privacy concerns that it

was dramatically scaling back the amount of information it would make public in regard to it Amateur Service enforcement actions. Up until then

it had been common practice for the agency to release letters to individuals that require a specific response to an allegation of wrong doing, Now the only information made public are Notices of Violation, Notices of Apparent Liability to Monetary Forfeiture and other final actions in a given case.

But in a strange turn of events, this new FCC posture to protect the identifies of those accused has lead at least two or three such people to create cyberspace homes. Places on the web where they have posted the violation notices that they received along with their respective views or responses.

The reason that these sites and blogs appearing is unclear since one would

think that most hams who receive letters of inquiry regarding their on-the-air operating practices would tend to want to keep the matter quiet

and settle the issue well out of the public eye. It will be interesting to

see how many more of these sites show up as ham radio rules enforcement continues and some on the receiving end of FCC notices going public to fight back. (ARNewsline(tm), others)

**

ENFORCEMENT: AMBULANCE COMPANY FINED FOR OPERATING ON AN UNAUTHORIZED FREQUENCY

Even first responders have to comply with the FCC rules as an Oregon company found out recently. The FCC affirms a $3200 monetary against Metro

West Ambulance licensee of station WQBI492, in Hillsboro, Oregon. This, for willful and repeated violation of Section 1.903(a) of the Commission's

Rules by operating on a frequency not authorized for it to use.

On June 11, 2007, the Enforcement Bureau's Portland Resident Agent Office

issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $4,000 to Metro West after determining that the company apparently willfully and repeatedly operated on 463.2875 MHz. This is a frequency not

authorized by its license. Metro West replied to the NAL on July 2, 2007.

In its response the company disputed some of the facts, arguing that the violation was not willful and not repeated, that Metro West took immediate

steps to rectify the situation as soon as it was aware of the violation, and that Metro West has a history of compliance with the Commission's Rules.

In affirming its action, the FCC said that the Communications Act defines "repeated" as "the commission or omission of such act more than once or, if
such commission or omission is continuous, for more than one day. It says

that in this case, the evidence is clear that Metro West operated its station on 463.2875 MHz for more than one day. Therefore, it finds no merit to that argument.

It did however agree that Metro West did have a history of overall compliance with the Commission's Rules. Based on this the FCC did reduce

Metro West's forfeiture amount from $4,000 to $3,200.

Metro West was given the customary 30 days to pay or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

**

HAM FREEWARE: WORKEDGRIDS FROM VE2ZAZ

Bertrand Zauhar, VE2ZAZ, has released his new freeware WorkedGrids, ham log

grid square mapping software. The program runs only under Windows. It displays a map showing the amateur radio grid squares contacted and logged

in using third-party logging program. Up to four bands can be displayed concurrently on the map. The program reads plain-text ASCII log files generated by most logging programs. WorkedGrids is directed towards the VHF and above operators who collect grid squares for contesting or award purposes. More is on-line at ve2zaz.net (ANS, VE2ZAZ)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: RAC ELECTS TWO NEW VP'S

Some names in the news. First up is Jim Hay, VE2VE. Hay has been elected

as Radio Amateur of Canada's Vice-President, for Technical and Administrative Services. This confirms his recent assumption of responsibilities for the organizations information technology requirements.

And John Bartlett, VE1OZ, has been elected as Radio Amateur of Canada's Vice-President for Public Relations. His job is to lead efforts to develop

strategies to improve membership across Canada and to promote Amateur Radio

to the Canadian public. (RAC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: VK2AMD TURNS 100

And words of congratulations to Australian operator Howard Booth, VK2AMD who turned 100 years of age on March 6th. Originally licensed as G2AS of Sheffield England, Booth and his then young family emigrated to Australia

after the bad winters of the late 1940's, settling in Windang, NSW, some 60

miles south of Sydney. Booth, who was a builder and roofer in the U-K built his own house and still lives in it today. He is believed to be one

of the oldest or even the oldest active radio amateur on the Australian continent and possibly world-wide. (WIA)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: QCWA AT STUART FLORIDA HAMFEST - MARCH 15

Ken Simpson, W8EK, says that the Quarter Century Wireless Association will

hold an open forum at the Stuart Florida Hamfest. The date of the event is

Saturday, March 15th at 11:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. The venue is meeting room 2 at the Martin County Fairgrounds in Stuart. More information about the hamfest is on line at www.mcaraweb.com (QCWA)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: CHARLESTON HAMFEST - MARCH 15

And the 24th annual Charleston West Virginia Hamfest also takes place on Saturday March 15th. Its venue is the Coonskin Armory at 1707 Coonskin Drive in Charleston. Talk in is on the W8CHF 145.35 MHz repeater. For more information please contact our own Jim Damron. His e-mail is N8TMW at

arrl dot net. (N8TMW)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: MICROHAMS DIGITAL SEMINAR - MARCH 22

The second annual MicroHAMS Digital Seminar is slated for Saturday, March 22nd on the Microsoft campus in Redmond, Washington. The program includes

a wide variety of topics centered around digital communications and Amateur

radio. Lunch and snacks are included with the price of the conference and

there will be free Internet access. Because of space limitations and parking requirements pre-registering is suggested, More is on line http://www.microhams.com/digitalconference (W7LRD, ANS)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States

of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from

our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM HONORS: 2008 YHOTY NOMINATIONS BEING SOUGHT

In case you have not heard the announcement at the end of the newscast the

past few weeks, the nominating period for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award. The award honors a licensee 18 years old or younger who has used ham radio to significantly contribute to the benefit of the Amateur Radio Service, to the state of the communications art, to the community or the nation.

Any FCC or Industry Canada licensed radio amateur, age 18 or younger, residing in the United States 50 states, plus Puerto Rico and the Canadian

Provinces is eligible to be nominated for this award. To obtain a nominating form, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to 2008 Young Ham

of the Year Award, c/o Newsline, 28197 Robin Ave, Santa Clarita, California, 91350, or download the form from www dot yhoty dot org. Nominations may be electronically submitted at the website, but supporting materials must be submitted separately.

Presentation of the 2008 YHOTY Award will take place in August at the Huntsville Hamfest in Alabama. Again, more information is in cyberspace at

our special website at www.yhoty.org. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: GERMAN PUBLIC RADIO TO ABANDON EUREKA 147

A once prominent digital audio broadcasting format soon could be a technical achievement of the past in one European nation. This, as an oversight organization in Germany says its time to stop supporting Eureka

147. Jim Damron, N8TMW, has the details:

--

The organization responsible for setting fiscal policy for public broadcasting in Germany has deemed the Eureka-147 Digital Audio Broadcasting codec unworthy of further investment. The KEF which oversees

the financial aspect of DAB is calling for the equivalent of about $246 million slated to fund public-service DAB projects from 2009 to 2012 to be

reallocated to other projects.

Since 2001, some $266 million has been allocated to KEF for Digital Audio Broadcasting projects. In explaining its recommendation to halt such funding after 2008, KEF said that receiver options remained limited in Germany and that public support for FM radio and the availability of satellite radio, Internet radio, podcasts and other outlets have changed the nature of radio broadcasting since DAB was first envisioned.

I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW.

--

But there is some strong opposition to such a phase out. A group called the Initiative Marketing Digital Radio is a European consortium of receiver

manufacturers, transmitter network operators, program providers and institutions backing the DAB standard. It warns that Germany moving away from Eureka 147 could cause chaos. It says this is because the digitalization of broadcasting is unstoppable. (RW)

**

WORLDBEAT - UK: BBC CLOSES SHORTWAVE TO EUROPE

The British Broadcasting Company has announced that all its shortwave radio

transmissions to Europe ceased on 18th February 2008. The U-K based broadcaster says that it recognize that this will be a loss to some of their listeners, its managers point out that BBC World Service radio programs are delivered to Europe via other platforms including longwave at night.

The BBC's World Service grew from the original British Empire Service which

was inaugurated in 1932. Last year the BBC celebrated its 75th anniversary

and today boasts an estimated world audience of some 180 million.

According to the announcement, only the analog shortwave transmissions to Europe are affected. The experimental Digital Radio Mondiale or D-R-M transmissions for North East continental Europe will continue unaffected. Full details of World Service sound broadcasts can be found on

the web at bbc.co.uk/worldservice. (GB2RS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT 2007 SYMPOSIUM DVD RELEASED

AMSAT North America has released its long awaited 2007 AMSAT Symposium DVD. The DVD contains all of the 2007 papers, PowerPoint slide show and audio of the presentations. Additional features include Symposium papers from 2004 and 2005, an International Space Station Columbus module video and much more.

This DVD is a must for anyone that was not able to attend the 2007 AMSAT Symposium or as a club meeting presentation. For pricing or to order a copy please contact Martha Sargovitz at the AMSAT office at telephone area

code 301 589-6062. (ANS)

**

OPERATING NEWS: INTERNATIONAL MUSEUMS WEEKEND ADDS ANOTHER WEEKEND

An update to last weeks story on the International Museums Weekend operating event slatted to place on 14th and 15th June. Due to popular demand, this event has now been extended to two weekends by adding June 21st and 22nd as well. Those intending to take part should register

their museum on the
International Museums Weekend website. (GB2RS)

**

DX

In DX, NZ5N reports that he will be operating the satellites during the upcoming Swan Island Dxpedition as HQ8R from March 15th to the 23rd. Bill

will be taking along an FT-817 and an Arrow antenna to work the birds. Time permitting, he will also try to make a few contacts before and

after the expedition from the Honduran mainland. Weather permitting, he may

also try to give out grid square EK 76 from the boat on the way to and from

the island. QSL as directed by the operator.

The 2007 Equatorial Guinea 3C7Y DXpedition to has been approved for DXCC credit. If you had cards rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL's DXCC Desk to have your record updated.

Beginning on Sunday the 9th of March, a week-long expedition will operate from
various castles and forts on the Isle of Man. Club calls GT4KPT, GT8LED and GT3GWB will used. They expect to activate several Worked All Britain areas during the week.

And G3RWF is active from Uganda as 5X1NH until March 22nd. His operation will be limited because he is on holiday but he expects to operate all of the High Frequency bands except 160 meters. Modes will be CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. He will run 100 watts to wire antennas. QSL to G3RWF.

Last but by no mean least, F8CHM will be active as FR5EZ from Reunion Island until March 21st. He expects to be active on the High Frequency bands
as well as 6 meters on CW and SSB. QSL to his callbook address.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: LIGHTNING AND ICE FOR SALE

And finally this week, a company that hams and broadcasters have come to rely on for lightning protection devices is up for sale. Its up for sale on eBay. The company is Industrial Communication Engineers. Its located in Indianapolis, Indiana here in the U-S-A and that's where you will also

find Amateur Radio Newsline's Jack Parker, W8ISH:

--

Better up that limit on your Pay Pal account. This business opportunity could cost you a pretty penny. Long time amateur radio operator Mike Koss

W9SU is hanging up his test leads and putting his company on the eBay auction block. Going price is a cool 2-point-7 million dollars. Koss has

spent the past 18 years building up his electronic products business. So why auction the business on eBay?

SOT: "eBay is one way you can advertise anything including a business. And there are
And it can be seen by the entire world. The total cost of the ad on eBay was 14-dollars".

This may be the first time an electronics manufacturer has been auctioned on eBay. For 2-point-seven-mil, Koss says you get a large product and parts inventory, circuit designs, established customer base, 800 number and

two new patents for electro-magnetic pulse and nuclear electro-pulse arrestors that have not yet been marketed.

So if lightning strikes and he gets an offer, what is this 40 year veteran

of amateur radio going to do now?
Koss: "Becoming somewhat of a semi-professional DXer has always been kind

of a keen interest. Ah, go back and sort of be a kid again",
Mike's world class ham radio station includes six tall towers that make great lightning rods. Its all protected by his patented lightning protection equipment. It's that ham station that Koss would like to spend

more time operating. He says the stress of running a business and getting

gray hair lead to his decision to auction the business on eBay and enjoy retirement.

Koss: "I'll probably travel a little bit because I haven't done very much
of that in my lifetime and I'd like to write a book".

Koss says the book would detail the finite science of tower installation, lightning protection and proper grounding techniques. It could be a golden idea that earns him enough pocket change to enjoy the best of amateur radio and his well earned retirement.

Reporting from Indianapolis, this is Jack Parker W8ISH.

--

Amateur Radio operators world-wide depend on Industrial Communication Engineers lightning protection equipment to keep their stations safe from Mother Nature. Many hope that Mike Koss, W9SU, is successful in finding someone to keep it going for many years to come while permitting him a lot

more time on the radio. (ARNewsline(tm), W9IND)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the

RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can

also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go we want to remind you that the nominating period for the 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year is now open. Any licensed radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in the United States or Canada is

eligible for the award. Full details and both downloadable and on-line nominating forms are in cyberspace at www dot YHOTY dot org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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155. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-09 21:00:47 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <p%XAj.5692$Sa1.5633@news02.roc.ny>
Source record: 3226

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Mar 6, 12:56 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>> On Mar 5, 3:09 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:

>>> But you have to ask "compared to what?" Plus they were almost all
>>> "solid state", which was a selling point even if performance suffered.
>> I suppose you're right, but having a reliable solid state receiver which
>> will perform poorly for a long, long time, doesn't seem like much of a
>> sales tool.
>>
> Remember too that in the 1970s US ham radio was growing fast. This was
> right after the 1968-1969 "incentive licensing" changes which some
> said were going to destroy amateur radio. The numbers tell a different
> story.

They surely do. About the time I first became licensed, I think there
were about 300k radio amateurs in the U.S. and only about 100k in the
entire rest of the world.

>>> Hallicrafters made the almost-all-solid-state
>>> FPM-300 transceiver a few years later, too.
>> That was a loser from the git go. It offered no CW filters and didn'
> t
>> (I don't think) offer 1 KHz readout. I think that was after Bill
>> Halligan sold the firm to Wilcox Gay.
>
> Which brings up another point: In that time period, a number of the
> classic US ham radio manufacturers were losing their founders, either
> through sale of the company or retirements, etc.

Right. The Drake firm stayed in the family and Swan stayed with the
original owner until he sold it to Cubic, circa 1980.

>>> Its drum dial inspired the Southgate Type 4 (receiver) and Type 7
>>> (transceiver) dials. But they use all-gear-drive.
>
>> That should be quite solid.
>
> It's very solid, and so easily done that I wonder why it hasn't been
> done more by others. The tuning cap is from a BC-221, and there's none
> better anywhere.

I agree.

>> I just checked the HQ-215 and a single turn of the tuning knob equals 15
>> KHz. &#65533; That was respectable in its day. &#65533; My Orion, as I've set it
> up for
>> CW, tunes about 1.65 KHz per knob revolution. &#65533; If I tap a button, the
>
>> rate changes to about 6 KHz per revolution. &#65533; It ratio can be set high
> er
>> or lower. &#65533; At the lowest step setting, one revolution provides about
> 65 Hz.
>
> All Southgate Radio receivers from the Type 3 onward have had slow
> tuning rates - typically 5 to 7 kHz per turn. That's about 1969 to the
> present.

...and that's a good tuning rate.

>> The 6100 was every bit as big and heavy as its
>> AM/CW only 5100 and this at a time when others were moving to smaller
>> and lighter gear.
>
> Yes but that was the least of it. It cost almost as much as a 75S-3 or
> T-4X but there was no matching rx that could transceive with it. And
> while the military might have a use for those multiknob synthesizers,
> for HF ham radio they're just not the thing to use.

Nope. Around 1964, National introduced the solid state, synthesized
HRO-500. They were expensive problem children. There have been
numerous problems with the PLL circuitry. I bought one in 1997 and it
had (Surprise!) PLL problems. I sold it.

> About the only company besides Collins that was able to come into the
> ham radio market at the top was Signal One - which didn't last.

Kachina tried it and that didn't last very long.

>> Well, that leaves us discussing what was built vs. what might have been
>> built.
>
> Point is, the Japanese rigs put those features in from the get-go,
> while the
> American rigmakers didn't.

Right. It was a new game. The JA manufacturers recognized that bells
and whistles would lure buyers.

>>> Not really. It doesn't have RIT/XIT, and you can't easily add it.
>> Actually, you can. &#65533; I've added it to my HW-101A. &#65533; The mod is app
> licable
>> to the SB-100 through SB-102. &#65533; There's a single mini-toggle switch an
> d a
>> pot (with matching green Heath knob) added to the upper right quadrant
>> of the panel. &#65533; My HW-101 has an added divide by four calibrator as we
> ll

>> for 25 KHz markers.
>
> How is it done? Varactor in the PTO?

Yep, with a relay switching scheme.

>>>> The Drake TR-4CW comes close (6JB6's).
>>> Only if you get the model that had both RIT and the sharp filter,
>>> which was only produced for a short time. Blink and you missed it.
>> That was the last model variant. Remember that those Drake transceiv
> er
>> used *three* sweep tubes in the output for a bit more oomph. The C-L
> ine
>> transmitters used a pair.
>
> Yes, and they were supposed to be matched. Some folks have worked up
> mods to use 6146s in those rigs.

...and some of us bought up 17JB6's and all of the new 6JB6's we could find.

>>> Plus check the price of a TR4-CW with power supply and speaker. Ouch!
>> Guys argued with Drake for ages about the inclusion of CW filters and
>> RIT in the transceivers. The Drake folks couldn't understand how any
> one
>> would need such things.
>
> Interesting! I always thought the reason they were left out was so
> that folks would buy the separates.

Not exactly. Drake figure that anyone who wanted to use CW *would* buy
the separates. They just didn't figure that there was a market for
transceivers among regular users of CW. The light finally dawned.
Of course that the meager CW features of the TR-4CW gave way to the
advanced features of the TR-5 and TR-7.

>> Amateur radio is much more market driven today.
>> The lower end rigs are driven by cost and the upper end gear is driven
>> by DXers and contesters demanding performance.
>
> Sherwood has tested the Elecraft K3. Next issue of QST will carry a
> Product Review of it too.

Yep. The numbers look very, very good. These days though, the
difference between very good and very, very good is just a smidgen.

>>> By comparison, the TS-520S had all of that and more, even if the rx
>>> wasn't as good.
>> DXers and contesters weren't buying them though.
>
> 'Course not. But they weren't the target market, either. The SB-101/
> HW-101 crowd were.

Uh-huh. It marked the end game for Heath. The company just didn't
realize it right away.

> I remember that towards the end of its run the HW-101 price reached
> $449, which was almost double its introductory price less than a
> decade earlier. That was without power supply, speaker, mike or sharp
> filter. And you had to build it. FT-101/TS-520S took that market!

Right. Don't forget that the JA rigs not only had an inboard,
multi-voltage AC power supply; they included a DC supply for mobile use
as well. Neither of the two rigs mentioned actually came with a CW
filter. Those were optional accessories.

>> When Kenwood began
>> marketing TS-830's, TS-930's and TS-940's, the power user types began
>> buying them. &#65533; Kenwood went really well through the TS-850's and
>> TS-950's, then quite building competitive rigs. &#65533; The TS-2000 is a dog
>
>> with lots of bells and whistles. &#65533; It does everything from DC to
>> daylight--poorly.
>
> There are persistent rumors that Kenwood has given up the serious
> amateur market. Sad if true,

It has to be more than a rumor. The TS-2000 is the top of their line.
The TS-950 hasn't been made in years and years.

> The TS-570 is also highly regarded.

It is a good transceiver, though many don't recognize it. K8MFO used
the variant which included 6m one as his main rig for some time.

>>> Newark and Allied are still around.
>
>> Newark is a first rate outfit. &#65533; Allied is the bottom of the distribut
> ion
>> barrel. &#65533; I generally buy from Mouser or Digikey. &#65533; For bargains,
> I shop
>> All Electronics or Ocean State.
>
> I just look in the Southgate inventory.

I can do that with many items. There are some modern things which I
just have to buy.

>>> The first way will be the renovators, who make a few good rigs from a
>>> pile of problem sets. This is already starting to happen; look on ebay
>>> for "TS-940" and you will see lots of parts for sale.
>
>> Okay. &#65533; Gone are the days when you reach into bins of transistor or IC
> 's
>> and expect to be able to repair much of anything. &#65533; Large scale
>> integrations and specialty chips took care of most of that.

>> Kenwood rigs in particular seem to suffer. • The 930's, 850's and 940'
> s
>> are examples of rigs where the displays and display drivers aren't
>> available any longer.
>
> Agreed but there will be some rigs that have other problems but good
> displays.

Oh yes, but those fluorescent displays, unlike the typical LED displays,
go bad with time and use.

>>> The second way will be the rebuilders, who will make replacement PCBs
>>> using parts available then. A much harder go at first, but given the
>>> automation possibilities now, who knows what the future could do.
>> Jim, I just can't see that being profitable.
>
> Probably won't be. I suspect some folks will do it just for the heck
> of doing it, though.

I knew a guy who once had machinists make him a part for a Cadillac
power seat instead of paying what he considered to be an outrageous
price for the part from GM. I think he spent about four times what GM
wanted.

> And consider: $125 for a reduction tuning knob for a receiver that
> went out of production more than 45 years ago?

But those receivers are apt to be around for another few decades and are
highly prized. As I recall, there's still an outfit making highly
stable digital remote VFOs for the Collins KWM-2 series.

> In the bad old days PC fabrication for homebrewing meant doing layout
> work, resist, etching, drilling, etc. I've done it and got good at it.
> But today you just download some freeware from a PC fabrication house,
> put together a circuit, develop a layout and send it by email to the
> fabricator. Prices are low for small boards and the quantity is first-
> rate. Plus if a couple of hams go together, or you just want spares,
> it's a no-brainer. Automated manufacturing does the work.

That's been a good thing when the previous choice was to lobby FAR
Circuits to make a board or resort to doing it yourself.

>>> There are folks still building HBRs today, from scratch.

>> I'd think that getting some of the parts could be really difficult.
>
> You'd be surprised what folks have squirreled away....

Noooooo, I don't think I would. W9ZR asked in the boatanchors
newsgroup if anyone had the bowl insulator from an ART-13. I sent him one.

> In reality the only unobtanium parts are the coil forms and IF cans.
> One trick is to use ARC-5 IFTs instead. But I prefer original

> Southgate designs.

Those IF transformers are one of the things I was thinking about. I have loads of large and miniature 455KC stuff, but nothing like the higher frequency cans.

>>> Yep. Also a number of SB-200s, SB-220s, L-4s and similar amps are
>>> pounding out the watts today, often with upgrades and modernizations.
>> Surely! Softkey circuits, inrush protection and the like have been
>> added or band have been added. My example of the last model in the
>> SB-220 line, the HL-2200 (a restyled SB-220 in brown clothing) is doing
>> a great job as a 6 meter only pair of 3-500Z's at about 900w output.
>> It has the softkey mod so that any modern transceiver can safely key the
>> amp.
>
> Exactly. Many are modded for QSK as well.

..and that's a fairly easy one. There are a couple of guys selling used vacuum relays. Other folks go with the PIN diode switching.

> Yet way back in April 1976 - 32 years ago! - the cover article in QST
> was for a legal-limit solid-state HF amp. When I saw it, I figured
> that it wouldn't be too many more years before hams wouldn't have any
> hollow-state in their shacks....

Those 1 KW or better, solid state amps are becoming more commonplace but prices are high and the things are still delicate. My pal N8NN runs his FT-1000MP with a Quadra for really easy band changes and computer control.

I'm looking at the Tokyo Hi Power 1.5 KW job, but it is expensive. If the Starkville, Mississippi gang gets their act together, we may see an affordable high power, solid state amp in the near future.

Dave K8MN

156. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-09 21:10:30 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <ImYAj.5820$7d1.2774@news01.roc.ny>
Source record: 3227

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Mar 5, 3:20 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>> On Mar 3, 2:40 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>>> Agreed - but in the Triple-F aesthetic (hereafter referred to as
>>> "The Southgate School" or TSS), not defeating function isn't enoug
> h.
>>> All choices must enhance or support functionality.
>> Gotcha, Jug!
>
> Marcellus? Is that you?

Complete with insignia!

>>> IOW, "found objects".
>> If you're willing to get dirty and are patient, it is possible to save a
>> bundle by using other people's castoffs.
>
> Not only that, but make a dent in the enormous waste stream.

There's no one who can reduce a waste stream like West Africans. The
seams in Coke cans are opened after the tops and bottoms are removed and
the cans are rolled flat. The become roofing material or house siding.
Black trash bags are washed and recycled. Pop bottles become water
bottles and used 55-gallon drums (previous contents unknown) are used
for making palm or cashew wine.

>> I'm going to use an old computer tower for a chassis/cabinet for
>
> [the power supply of]
>
>> a pair
>> of 4-400's I plan to build.
>
> You want a Southgate type number for it?

I think that'd be appropriate.

The upright case has a full metal cover, space for a cooling fan and a
shelf which can hold the rectifier board and electrolytic caps. The
bottles aren't U.S. types, they're Phillips equivalents with graphite
plates. They should hold up for a long time. I'll use Chinese
Coleman-type lantern chimneys.

>> If you're building something small, try hobby shops. • They often have
>
>> bins of both brass, copper and aluminum sheet in various thicknesses
>> along with round and square tubing and rod of the same materials.
>
> Yes, but they want you to *buy* the stuff! My adapters were made from
> scraps.

Some of us would have to buy stuff in order to have scraps. I've found
that the hobby shop stuff is not terribly expensive. They also have
round, square and sheet plastic stock. Some is clear and some is
translucent--ideal for making dial scales.

>> Wood with a thin sheet of flashing aluminum is one way to get the shieldin
> g.
>
> BTDT, except used old litho plates turned print-side-in.

Heck, I wouldn't even know where to find an old lithographic plate these
days. I have leftover aluminum flashing stock from, well--flashing.

>>> TSS is about simplicity and functionality, not minimalism. If staining
>>> or finishing improves the functionality, it is done. For example, the
>>> shack tabletop consists of a layer of oriented strandboard (for
>>> strength) topped by a layer of masonite (for a smooth hard surface).
>>> This combination (actually a composite) was chosen because it was the
>>> least expensive at the time. The masonite was given a couple of coats
>>> of varnish because doing so improved the functionality.

>> The tempered Masonite, no doubt. • The front panel of W4JBP's 1941
>> homebrew transmitter is of that stuff, painted black.
>
> Exactly. Wood prices have changed, though; today a tabletop might be
> AC plywood.

> Depends what's on the cull cart.

I don't have a place with a cull cart. I've sometimes bought
ugly-looking plywood and topped a desk with vinyl floor tile. If you
want to fancy one up, hardwood veneer isn't too pricey.

>>> Possibly. I've had some experience building speaker cabinets (clones
>>> of the Altec A-7 "Voice of the Theater", JBL folded horns, for
>>> example) and the trick is to build solid from the beginning.
>> I've shared the experience and still remember all of the kerfing that
>> went into getting those curves right. • Add a 15" Electrovoice SRO
>> speaker (which was about 3db better than anything else on the market at
>> the time), top is with some massive horn tweeters and you had something.
>
> The ones I helped build in the 1960s are still in service.

I'm pretty sure the ones we did in 1973 are still in use in Cincinnati.
I had a big Jensen folded horn cabinet in Tanzania. It had a dual
voice coil 12" subwoofer in it. That's still in Africa.

>>> I've always wondered what the fascination with "antiques" is. I can
>>> understand the fascination with craftsmanship, design, practicality
>>> and materials, though.
>> I think there a couple of classes of antique furniture items. • There
> are
>> those things which can only be viewed and those things which can be
>> used. • A small, antique ladies chair might not be something you could
>
>> use, but an antique dining room suite or an antique sideboard can be
>> quite utilitarian.
>
> The former belongs in a museum, the latter in a home.

Not everyone lives like us, Jim. Some folks have houses large enough to
be homes *and* museums and the wherewithal to populate the place with
both types of antiques. I can appreciate antiques as art but we don't
have enough room for antiques we can't put to use unless they happen to
be art for the wall or items which can sit on a table for the most part.
>
>>> The term I would use is "classic" or "timeless". Look at some Mission
>>> or Shaker furniture - it does not appear "antique" or dated. That's
>>> what TSS is all about, applied to Amateur Radio (and a limited
>>> budget!)

>> I had to grin. • I believe that 2x4's, 4x4's, plywood or hollow core
>> doors will never go out of style.
>
> I rip 2x4s in half lengthwise; they're all you need for most shack
> furniture. Also do an offset cut that gives one piece 1-1/2" square
> and another that's 2x1-1/2" from a single 2x4. Table saw makes it
> easy.

You're a lightweight! My main operating position is representative of
overkill. The frame is 2x4's; the legs are 4x4's and the top is a
hollow core door. There's a two shelf console with two angled wings,
with enough roof under the first shelf for solid-state brick VHF/UHF
amps, keyers, paddles, DVK and the like.

Did I mention the six foot rack to my right?

> I did one table with a hollow core door many years ago (it was free)
> but they are too flimsy and too expensive for TSS approval now.

They hold up well with the 2x4 frame and 2x4 bracing.

> The shack table in the website picture was designed for Field Day use,
> 25 years ago. The top was the maximum size that would fit in the back
> of a VW Rabbit with the rear seat taken out. All the legs and braces
> are bolted on in such a way that the whole thing breaks down into one
> package. Does the job for now but a replacement is in the works.

Mine will break down too, but I don't think it'll fit in a Rabbit. :-)

> Maybe.
>
>> • There's no "Captain Nemo walking into
>> his cabin on the Nautilus" look here, but the place is attractive and
>> utilitarian.
>
> IMHO the true art of a hamshack is having things set up in such a way
> that you just want to sit down and start operating as soon as you see
> the place.

That's how it is here--unless I get sidetracked by the internet.

Dave K8MN

157. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-10 00:54:32 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net>
Message-ID: <Xns9A5CC688429CBmcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136>
Source record: 3228

Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net> wrote in
news:rdnzj.5462$Sa1.5008@news02.roc.ny:

> Michael Coslo wrote:
>> Dave Heil wrote:

<some snippage>

Sorry for the late reply on this, esp since the thread has taken a
different direction, but I though it deserved a reply....

> Maybe. Another wire, mounted diagonally from the rear would have done
> away with most of the pendulum action. If you're worried about
> buildings shaking, even a steel mounted would have such vibrations
> transfered to the projector. The wires might have even damped those
> types of motion.

Using wires does not work. The reason is that buildings do not shake in
the way most people think. The building may shake in one axis, and not
another, and may shake in multiple directions, but not the same amount in
all axes, or at the same time.

This will have the effect of pulling the entire assembly in one direction
or another, depending on "whats a-shakin'", and which wire is pulling
more at the moment.

However, on a good sturdy ceiling mount, that has a resonance frequency
as high as practical, building movement is not much of a problem, unless
the building is on the verge of shaking itself apart. The reason is that
rapid pendulum damping with little movement gets rid of pendulum moment,
and that most floors tend to shake closely with the ceiling on any given
level, so the people are moving along with the image and screen.

I've never seen a professional design with wires, although I've
seen a few designed by others, and they all have damping problems, all
related to the multifilar pendulums they create. Oddly, the wire systems
I've seen were "designed" and built by engineers who thought they could
remove all the filar pendulum movement by going multifilar. That
inherently creates more complexity in movement. The answer is in that the
projector on the end of that pendulum becomes very similar to a mirror
galvanometer, greatly amplifying the movement by the time the light hits
the wall.

>> Absolutely! This aesthetic is in no way saying "look at me! I'm
>> serious art!" I would go a little further to state that some examples
>> of the genre are downright ridiculous - by design.
>

> ...and I'd go even further in saying that most of it is downright
> ridiculous by design or otherwise.

There is room in this world for a lot of different tastes. Some I
like, some I do not. I am always careful to not call any of them
ridiculous so that I don't indadvertantly insult someone. 8^)

> Kitsch is kitsch no matter who tosses the pillows with a flair.
>
>> That being said, there are examples of great beauty in there, on
>> the
>> workshop page, the telegraph sounder was gorgeous, and the pick guard
>> on the Stratocaster is beautiful.
>
> I own a perfectly good '73 Strat. I'm defacing it for no one.

I have a hard time agreeing that *that* Strat was defaced. I have a white
on white Strat myself, and am happy to keep it that way, but there are a
lot of places who do custom guitar work or design:

http://www.sparrowguitars.com/
http://www.terrapinguitars.com/
http://www.warmoth.com/

Even Fender:

http://www.fender.com/customshop/home/index.php

>> There is actually some of this aesthetic running about in Amateur
>> radio, even if we don't notice it.
>
> It isn't evident here.

I disagree, respectfully, more below.

<snippage>

> Some kind of plating or paint is needed and it isn't practical to
> paint things like the threads of screws. Key's aren't designed to
> look as if they're steam powered.

Precious metal plating is not there because it is practical, all
those keys are quite embellished, and can we tell the difference between
a gold plated and a painted one in operation? They also have unneeded
shapes, and Mister Begali calls them art. I find them to be quite
beautiful, and a magnificent tour de force in mechanical design in the
prosaic function of a telegraph key, but would not try to argue that they
are somehow based on practicality.

That's pretty much my input on the subject until I have the operating are
designed and built. My shack may not be to everyone's tastes, but
hopefully I'll like it! 8^)

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

158. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-10 09:10:34 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <o24Bj.5718$Sa1.4132@news02.roc.ny>
Source record: 3229

Mike Coslo wrote:
> Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net> wrote in
> news:rdnzj.5462$Sa1.5008@news02.roc.ny:
>
>
>
>> Michael Coslo wrote:
>>> Dave Heil wrote:
>
> <some snippage>
>
> Sorry for the late reply on this, esp since the thread has taken a
> different direction, but I though it deserved a reply....
>
>
>> Maybe. Another wire, mounted diagonally from the rear would have done
>> away with most of the pendulum action. If you're worried about
>> buildings shaking, even a steel mounted would have such vibrations
>> transfered to the projector. The wires might have even damped those
>> types of motion.
>
> Using wires does not work. The reason is that buildings do not shake in
> the way most people think. The building may shake in one axis, and not
> another, and may shake in multiple directions, but not the same amount in
> all axes, or at the same time.

Okay, so what you earlier described as the motor fan causing a pendulum
motion wasn't exactly correct then. What you've described could be
described as random orbital in nature or, at times, even multiple pendula.

> This will have the effect of pulling the entire assembly in one direction
> or another, depending on "whats a-shakin'", and which wire is pulling
> more at the moment.

I'm thinking that if you've got a building doing *that much shaking*,
you've got more problems than a projector moving a bit.

> However, on a good sturdy ceiling mount, that has a resonance frequency
> as high as practical, building movement is not much of a problem, unless
> the building is on the verge of shaking itself apart. The reason is that
> rapid pendulum damping with little movement gets rid of pendulum moment,
> and that most floors tend to shake closely with the ceiling on any given
> level, so the people are moving along with the image and screen.

I'm getting dizzy already, Mike.

> I've never seen a professional design with wires, although I've
> seen a few designed by others, and they all have damping problems, all
> related to the multifilar pendulums they create. Oddly, the wire systems
> I've seen were "designed" and built by engineers who thought they could
> remove all the filar pendulum movement by going multifilar. That
> inherently creates more complexity in movement. The answer is in that the
> projector on the end of that pendulum becomes very similar to a mirror
> galvanometer, greatly amplifying the movement by the time the light hits
> the wall.

This is getting really close to becoming a Cecil moment. :-)

>>> Absolutely! This aesthetic is in no way saying "look at me! I'm
>>> serious art!" I would go a little further to state that some examples
>>> of the genre are downright ridiculous - by design.
>> ...and I'd go even further in saying that most of it is downright
>> ridiculous by design or otherwise.
>
> There is room in this world for a lot of different tastes. Some I
> like, some I do not. I am always careful to not call any of them
> ridiculous so that I don't indadvertantly insult someone. 8^)

You must never be so sensitive about what people might think of your
opinion that you become afraid to express it. If you think that a
certain style is kitschy or silly, you're permitted to say so. So am I.

>> Kitsch is kitsch no matter who tosses the pillows with a flair.
>>
>>> That being said, there are examples of great beauty in there, on
>>> the
>>> workshop page, the telegraph sounder was gorgeous, and the pick guard
>>> on the Stratocaster is beautiful.

>> I own a perfectly good '73 Strat. I'm defacing it for no one.
>
> I have a hard time agreeing that *that* Strat was defaced. I have a white
> on white Strat myself, and am happy to keep it that way, but there are a
> lot of places who do custom guitar work or design:
>
> http://www.sparrowguitars.com/
> http://www.terrapinguitars.com/
> http://www.warmoth.com/
>
> Even Fender:
>
> http://www.fender.com/customshop/home/index.php

Sure. Places which will do nearly anything for a buck abound. Some of
the work is skillfully done, but still ends up looking tacky.

>>> There is actually some of this aesthetic running about in Amateur
>>> radio, even if we don't notice it.

>> It isn't evident here.
>
> I disagree, respectfully, more below.
>
> <snippage>
>
>> Some kind of plating or paint is needed and it isn't practical to
>> paint things like the threads of screws. Key's aren't designed to
>> look as if they're steam powered.
>
> Precious metal plating is not there because it is practical, all
> those keys are quite embellished, and can we tell the difference between
> a gold plated and a painted one in operation?

No, we can't. That doesn't stop the gold plated one from looking better
to most of us. Gold doesn't oxidize the same as most other metals. It
doesn't need to be polished often. Gold in contacts is used where low
conact resistance is desired. In the old days, keys usually had
appreciable current running through them. With low current, solid state
circuits, a little oxidation on contacts can result in a keying circuit
malfunctioning.

No keys which are currently produced are made to look as if they're
steam powered.

> They also have unneeded
> shapes, and Mister Begali calls them art.

Some folks think an abstract painting done by a Chimpanzee is art. I
don't agree with them. Begali keys are well made. They're attractive
to some.

> I find them to be quite
> beautiful, and a magnificent tour de force in mechanical design in the
> prosaic function of a telegraph key, but would not try to argue that they
> are somehow based on practicality.

Keys got prosaic function? The Begalis, like all other keyer paddles
are designed to do a certain job. They can be as attractive as one can
make them, but if they cannot do the job reasonably well, they fail.

> That's pretty much my input on the subject until I have the operating are
> designed and built. My shack may not be to everyone's tastes, but
> hopefully I'll like it! 8^)

You're the only guy who needs approve.

Dave K8MN

159. The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-10 22:35:21 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <f48e186f-0668-4b94-b481-5cba90d78d84@s19g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3230

An attempt to send a small, ham-radio equipped balloon across the Atlantic:

http://www.spiritofknoxville.com/

Balloon design by NG0X if I read the info right. Telemetry on 30 meters.

Which brings up a question:

What are the regulations for such a transmitter? Over the USA is one thing, FCC has rules for that, but above international waters and other countries it's a different game, particularly since there's no operator aboard. The website says the transmitter will be turned off over the UK.

Just wondering.

73 es GL de Jim, N2EY

160. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-12 03:12:11 UTC
From: brianburke@juno.com
Message-ID: <1ace11fa-b1ab-48b5-a754-4a7d29fd37e1@h11g2000prf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3231

On Mar 10, 7:35 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> An attempt to send a small, ham-radio equipped balloon across the
> Atlantic:
>
> http://www.spiritofknoxville.com/
>
> Balloon design by NG0X if I read the info right. Telemetry on 30
> meters.
>
> Which brings up a question:
>
> What are the regulations for such a transmitter? Over the USA is one
> thing, FCC has rules for that, but above international waters and
> other countries it's a different game, particularly since there's no
> operator aboard. The website says the transmitter will be turned off
> over the UK.
>
> Just wondering.
>
> 73 es GL de Jim, N2EY

When customs stops the craft at the border, they'll provide further
clarification...

N0iMD

161. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-13 03:17:11 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <19c6b5d5-6df0-4dc7-a658-20479016e479@i12g2000prf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3232

On Mar 11, 8:12 pm, brianbu...@juno.com wrote:
> On Mar 10, 7:35 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
>
> > An attempt to send a small, ham-radio equipped balloon across the
> > Atlantic:
>
> >http://www.spiritofknoxville.com/
>
> > Balloon design by NG0X if I read the info right. Telemetry on 30
> > meters.
>
> > Which brings up a question:
>
> > What are the regulations for such a transmitter? Over the USA is one
> > thing, FCC has rules for that, but above international waters and
> > other countries it's a different game, particularly since there's no
> > operator aboard. The website says the transmitter will be turne
d off
> > over the UK.
>
> When customs stops the craft at the border, they'll provide further
> clarification...
>
> N0iMD

Heh heh. The record was already broken last year for a solo Atlantic crossing by a GPS-guided gas engine powered radio-control model (built by an amateur - not a professional - aircraft builder). Radio control for take off and climb out, then for landing in Ireland (? well, somewhere in the British Isles)
The engine ran throughout the flight!

Heavier-than-air, of course, just hadn't been done by a hobbyist R-C modeler before. Also, R-C has a license-free radio service both in North America and most of Europe. No 'customs' in the usual sense and everything was arranged beforehand at the landing site. Model Airplane News (MAN) had the story. Now THAT took some doing by the builder (a record-setter over land) and several fellow model aircraft hobbyists.

73, Len AF6AY

162. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-13 05:08:42 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <pfdht3hrcovp1n267o2fb9rfrlhsi6ck0v@4ax.com>
Source record: 3233

On Mon, 10 Mar 2008 18:35:21 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>What are the regulations for such a transmitter? Over the USA is one
>thing, FCC has rules for that, but above international waters and
>other countries it's a different game, particularly since there's no
>operator aboard. The website says the transmitter will be turned off
>over the UK.

It's considered an unmanned aircraft and subject to those rules. If
it's registered in some country, it's subject to that country's rules
even if in international airspace. If it's not registered anywhere,
it's fair game to be shot down as target practice by Air Defence
aircraft.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

163. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-13 12:13:15 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <13ti6i3imvqkb46@news.supernews.com>
Source record: 3234

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Mon, 10 Mar 2008 18:35:21 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>
>> What are the regulations for such a transmitter? Over the USA is one
>> thing, FCC has rules for that, but above international waters and
>> other countries it's a different game, particularly since there's no
>> operator aboard. The website says the transmitter will be turned off
>> over the UK.
>
> It's considered an unmanned aircraft and subject to those rules. If
> it's registered in some country, it's subject to that country's rules
> even if in international airspace. If it's not registered anywhere,
> it's fair game to be shot down as target practice by Air Defence
> aircraft.

Thanks, Phil. Very interesting.

Do you have any idea why they're going to the trouble to turn off the transmitter over the UK?

73, Steve KB9X

164. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-13 17:32:13 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <26c75a29-213b-4cd9-a05d-ea8d1c19cfbc@d4g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3235

On Mar 9, 5:00 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Mar 6, 12:56 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> >> N...@aol.com wrote:
> >>> On Mar 5, 3:09 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:

> > > Remember too that in the 1970s US ham radio was growing fast. This was
> > > right after the 1968-1969 "incentive licensing" changes which some
> > > said were going to destroy amateur radio. The numbers tell a different
> > > story.
>
> They surely do. About the time I first became licensed, I think ther
e
> were about 300k radio amateurs in the U.S. and only about 100k in the
> entire rest of the world.

I'm not sure of the exact year you were licensed but if it was in the
1960s the number of US hams was about 250K not 300K. As for the rest
of the world, 100K back then was pretty accurate *except* for Japan's
4th class licenses.

> > In that time period, a number of the
> > classic US ham radio manufacturers were losing their founders, either
> > through sale of the company or retirements, etc.
>
> Right. The Drake firm stayed in the family and Swan stayed with the
> original owner until he sold it to Cubic, circa 1980.

And we see what happened...

> > All Southgate Radio receivers from the Type 3 onward have had slow
> > tuning rates - typically 5 to 7 kHz per turn. That's about 1969 to the
> > present.
>
> ...and that's a good tuning rate.

I used to wonder why most older equipment tuned so fast. One reason
was cost; a simple string or pinch drive cost a lot less than gears.
But even expensive stuff like the HROs had fast tuning by Southgate
standards.

I think the way hams operated in the past was a big reason. Split
operation was pretty standard even before crystal control was common
in ham rigs, so if you called CQ, an answer might be anywhere in the
band.

> Around 1964, National introduced the solid state, synthesized
> HRO-500. • They were expensive problem children. • There have been

> numerous problems with the PLL circuitry. • I bought one in 1997 and i
t
> had (Surprise!) PLL problems. I sold it.

Even with a working PLL, the '500 had bad intermod and dynamic range
problems for such an expensive rx.

> > About the only company besides Collins that was able to come into the
> > ham radio market at the top was Signal One - which didn't last.
>
> Kachina tried it and that didn't last very long.

Kachina had an entirely new concept: the computer-controlled rig
without a front panel. That still hasn't really caught on.

> >> Well, that leaves us discussing what was built vs. what might have been

> >> built.
>
> > Point is, the Japanese rigs put those features in from the get-go,
> > while the
> > American rigmakers didn't.
>
> Right. • It was a new game. • The JA manufacturers recognized that
bells
> and whistles would lure buyers.

Not just bells and whistles but basic things like RIT, sharp filters,
decent dial drives and the ability to turn off the AGC.
Built in or as options, not as mods.

> > Varactor in the PTO?
>
> Yep, with a relay switching scheme.

The Southgate Type 6 and Type 7 achieve RIT without a varactor diode.
In fact, there are no solid state devices at all in either rig except
for two 1N34As in the SWR bridge of the Transmatch.

> >> Guys argued with Drake for ages about the inclusion of CW filters and
> >> RIT in the transceivers. • The Drake folks couldn't understand
how any
> > one
> >> would need such things. •
>
> > Interesting! I always thought the reason they were left out was so
> > that folks would buy the separates.
>
> Not exactly. • Drake figure that anyone who wanted to use CW *would* b
uy
> the separates. • They just didn't figure that there was a market for

> transceivers among regular users of CW. &#65533; The light finally dawned.
> Of course that the meager CW features of the TR-4CW gave way to the
> advanced features of the TR-5 and TR-7.

Which cost a bit more....

> > Sherwood has tested the Elecraft K3. Next issue of QST will carry a
> > Product Review of it too.
>
> Yep. &#65533; The numbers look very, very good. &#65533; These days though, the
> difference between very good and very, very good is just a smidgen.

Point is, you can get a very very good rig, American made, with direct connection to the makers of the rig, for less than a lot of mid-range rigs from Japan.

> > 'Course not. But they weren't the target market, either. The SB-101/
> > HW-101 crowd were.
>
> Uh-huh. &#65533; It marked the end game for Heath. &#65533; The company just did
n't
> realize it right away.

Part of what changed too was the economy of kitbuilding. In the days of point-to-point wiring, a lot of the cost of manufactured electronics was the assembly labor. Kits eliminated that, but added the cost of the assembly manual and the inevitable problems of supporting the kitbuilders. Automated and semiautomated PCB-based manufacturing drastically reduced the assembly-labor cost.

Another factor was alignment cost. Heath had to design their rigs so they could be aligned with minimal test gear. That's one reason for the preassembled LMO in the SB line and the preadjusted, sealed BPFs in them. That limit on design flexibility doesn't exist for a manufacturer who can spread the cost of test equipment over many units.

> > I remember that towards the end of its run the HW-101 price reached
> > $449, which was almost double its introductory price less than a
> > decade earlier. That was without power supply, speaker, mike or sharp
> > filter. And you had to build it. FT-101/TS-520S took that market!
>
> Right. &#65533; Don't forget that the JA rigs not only had an inboard,
> multi-voltage AC power supply; they included a DC supply for mobile use
> as well.

Sort of. The TS-520S required the optional bolt-on DC-5 DC supply adapter for DC operation of the transmitter section. It consisted mostly of power transistors and a heat sink. It would not operate the '520 at full power; you were limited to about half power. In the TS-520SE, the last version, the DC option was eliminated and the rig became AC-mains only.

>&#65533; Neither of the two rigs mentioned actually came with a CW
> filter. &#65533; Those were optional accessories.

Yup - but not an expensive one.

> > I just look in the Southgate inventory.
>
> I can do that with many items. &#65533; There are some modern things which I
> just have to buy.

> >>> The first way will be the renovators, who make a few good rigs from a
> >>> pile of problem sets. This is already starting to happen; look on ebay

> >>> for "TS-940" and you will see lots of parts for sale.
>
> >> Okay. &#65533; Gone are the days when you reach into bins of transisto
r or IC
> > 's
> >> and expect to be able to repair much of anything. &#65533; Large scale

> >> integrations and specialty chips took care of most of that.
> >> Kenwood rigs in particular seem to suffer. &#65533; The 930's, 850's a
nd 940'
> > s
> >> are examples of rigs where the displays and display drivers aren't
> >> available any longer.
>
> > Agreed but there will be some rigs that have other problems but good
> > displays.
>
> Oh yes, but those fluorescent displays, unlike the typical LED displays,
> go bad with time and use.

I have enough #47 pilot lights for the foreseeable future...

> I knew a guy who once had machinists make him a part for a Cadillac
> power seat instead of paying what he considered to be an outrageous
> price for the part from GM. &#65533; I think he spent about four times what G
M
> wanted.

bwaahaahaa

> > And consider: $125 for a reduction tuning knob for a receiver that
> > went out of production more than 45 years ago?
>
> But those receivers are apt to be around for another few decades and are
> highly prized. &#65533; As I recall, there's still an outfit making highly
> stable digital remote VFOs for the Collins KWM-2 series.

You can get almost anything you need for an S-line or the R-390/A.
Including high-quality videos on how to do the work.

> >>> There are folks still building HBRs today, from scratch.
> >> I'd think that getting some of the parts could be really difficult.
>
> > You'd be surprised what folks have squirreled away....
>
> Nooooooo, I don't think I would. W9ZR asked in the boatanchors
> newsgroup if anyone had the bowl insulator from an ART-13. I sent hi
m one.

I bet it wasn't the only one you had.

> > In reality the only unobtanium parts are the coil forms and IF cans.
> > One trick is to use ARC-5 IFTs instead. But I prefer original
> > Southgate designs.
>
> Those IF transformers are one of the things I was thinking about. I
> have loads of large and miniature 455KC stuff, but nothing like the
> higher frequency cans.

A BC-454 (tuning range 3-6 Mc.) has a 1415 kc. IF.

> I'm looking at the Tokyo Hi Power 1.5 KW job, but it is expensive. I
f
> the Starkville, Mississippi gang gets their act together, we may see an
> affordable high power, solid state amp in the near future.

The K3 has put the Elecraft amps on the back burner for a while. I
suspect that will change once the slack runs in.

73 de Jim, N2EY

165. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-13 23:18:29 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <5fdjt3pukn5cb5phkma1jqu53ucs55dugb@4ax.com>
Source record: 3236

On Thu, 13 Mar 2008 08:13:15 EDT, Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:

>
>Do you have any idea why they're going to the trouble to turn off the
>transmitter over the UK?

My WAG is because it doesn't conform to their rules.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

166. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-14 02:08:30 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <63u4hcF25bg8kU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 3237

"Phil Kane" <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote in message
news:5fdjt3pukn5cb5phkma1jqu53ucs55dugb@4ax.com
: On Thu, 13 Mar 2008 08:13:15 EDT, Steve Bonine
: <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
:
: >
: >Do you have any idea why they're going to the trouble to
: >turn off the transmitter over the UK?
:
: My WAG is because it doesn't conform to their rules.

What will the transmitting frequency be..? Don't forget that we have different frequencies in some bands, for example we only get 2 MHz in the 2m band, 144-146 MHz whereas the US has 144-148 MHz.

If it will be transmitting outside of the UK bandplan then that would be a valid reason as the frequency used could be in use for something else over here.

73 Ivor G6URP

167. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1596 - March 14, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-14 09:08:04 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080314003619.02239eb8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 3238
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1596 - March 14, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1596 with a release date of Friday, March 14th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The U-S championship Amateur Radio Direction Finding games are set for May in Texas, a former Novice is fined $4300 and

a look back at ham radio taking to space on a commercial communications satellite. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1596
coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIOSPORTS: THE USA ARDF CHAMPIONSHIP IN TEXAS IN MAY

Hidden transmitter hunters from across the nation are making plans to visit

Texas in May. This, with hopes of going to Korea in the Fall. And its all

in the name of radiosports. Newsline's Joe Moell K0OV tells us why. K0OV report:

--

Registration is now open for the biggest annual on-foot transmitter hunting

event in the Western Hemisphere. The Eighth USA ARDF Championships take place Thursday, May 8 through Saturday, May 10 at Bastrop State Park near Austin, Texas. The best radio-orienteers in the USA will be there, but the

courses will also be open to anyone, from any nation, at any radio foxhunting skill level. There will be practice sessions, a big two-meter hunt and another hunt on 80 meters, following standard international rules.

Excellent maps by the Houston Orienteering Club will be given to competitors before they set out on the course. Deer, raccoon and armadillo

make their home among the tall pines in this park, as well as over 250 bird

species.

National ARDF Championships are for individuals only. No teaming or assistance on the course is permitted. If you're a senior, don't worry about trying to compete against teenagers. Equal medals will be awarded in

five separate
age categories for OM's from under 18 to over 60. There are four similar age categories for the YLs.

Anyone with reasonable physical abilities can participate. You must be able

to run or walk through the forest and carry your DF gear for five to ten kilometers. You might win a medal, and maybe even a spot on Team USA, which

will be traveling to South Korea for the World championships in September.

We can only send a maximum of three people in each age category to Korea, so our national championships determine who gets the invitations.

For everything you need to know about the USA Championships, including schedules and registration forms, point your Web browser to the official site, _www.TexasARDF.org_ (http://www.TexasARDF.org) . That's TexasARDF.org. For a jump-start into the sport of ARDF, with equipment ideas and news of the World
Championships in Korea, go to _www.homingin.com_ (http://www.homingin.com)

, that's homingin.com.

From southern California, this Joe Moell, K0OV, for Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

As far back as the earliest days of Amateur Radio, direction finding has been a part of the hobby. And one can only wonder what the earliest T-hunters would say if they were here now to see the way in which their favorite past time has matured into an international radiosport. (K0OV)

**

RADIO LAW: GRAND TERRACE CA AGREES TO REDRAFT PROPOSED ANTENNA ORDENANCE

You cant call this a win yet, but it could wind up being one in the near future. This as the city of Grand Terrace, California, agrees to re-draft

a controversial proposed antenna ordinance that hams Say could take them off the air.

According to an e-mail bulletin to all ARRL members in the Southwestern Division, Grand Terrace, which is located in San Bernardino County, held a

hearing regarding proposed antenna restrictions on Tuesday evening, March 11th. In response to a letter from Volunteer Counsel, Len Shafer, WA6QHD,

the city did make a few technical changes to the wording of the proposed ordinance. Unfortunately, most of the undesirable proposed limitations remained as originally written.

A dozen or so local hams including ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director

Marty Woll, N6VI, and Orange Section Manager Carl Gardenias, WU6D, attended

the hearing. The amateurs explained the adverse impact of the proposed limitations, the likelihood of frequent and contentious appeals, and possible litigation, the city council.

After hearing the testimony the council members unanimously agreed to a suggestion from Woll that the ordinance be redrafted by a working group that will now include ham radio operators on the panel. No timetable fore

the work to be completed was announced. (SW Division News Release)

**

HAM NUMBERS: GERMANY SAYS ITS HAM RADIO COMMUNITY GROWING

Some good news from overseas. Ham radio continues to grow in Germany.

That nations national society the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club or DARC, says that recent figures show that the overall number of amateur radio callsigns rose from 80,496 in 2006 to 80,927 in 2007.

But the news was not as good for the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club itself. It says that within the same period of time its membership fell from 45,308 to 44,246.

All in all, 75,262 personal amateur radio calls were registered in Germany

throughout 2007. (Deutscher Amateur Radio Club)

**

RESCUE RADIO: D-STAR TO SHINE AT GAREC 08

D-Star will be a prominent player at the upcoming Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference, Also known by the acronym GAREC 0h 8, the event will take place June 26, and 27 in Friedrichshafen, Germany. This, in conjunction with German national HamRadio convention and

exposition.

GAREC-08 will focus on the co-operation among I-A-R-U member societies and

with specialized groups working on emergency communications in the Amateur

Radio Service. Among the items on the program is a session titled 'D-Star

an Advanced Technology in Emergency Communications. The preliminary program for conference can be seen at www.iaru.org/emergency/GAREC2008Program.pdf (Southgate)

**

RESCUE RADIO: CT DRILL BECOMES REAL LIFE DRAMA

Ham radio was part of a recent American Red Cross exercise held by the Mid-Fairfield County Chapter in Connecticut that became a real life emergency operation. The original purpose of the planned operation was to

familiarize non ham members of the local Disaster Action Team members with

the territory serviced by the chapter. Also to gain experience in the use

of GPS to navigate to a destination; learn about the use of radio during a

deployment; and compare the operation of VHF/UHF amateur radio gear and Red

Cross 47.420 MHz radios.

The plan was to deploy five Red Cross vehicles to different destinations within the ten served communities covering over 200 square miles. Each vehicle would have a ham operator carrying a handheld VHF/UHF radio. Four

of the vehicles would have a permanently installed Red Cross 47.420 MHz radio. In order to gain experience, only non-hams were to operate the Red Cross radios. A base station would be situated at the Bridgeport chapter house. The Greater Bridgeport ARC supported the Red Cross with nine fully

qualified and trained Red Cross volunteers.

Just minutes prior to the scheduled start a real incident occurred and the

volunteers responded. It was a fire emergency o the Red Cross Disaster Action Teams were activated. During the emergency radio amateurs were the communications link for the Red Cross which provided canteen supplies, office supplies and water.

Radio contact using the 47.420 MHz frequency was not possible once the vehicles were on scene at the incident site. Amateur radio performed flawlessly using repeaters in Bridgeport and Fairfield. The variety of available repeater locations and their antenna height provided the capability to virtually eliminate communications problems due to terrain or

structural interference. (WE1M)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the K9OQO repeater serving Appleton, Wisconsin

(5 sec pause here)

**

WITH NEWSLINE: LATEST WEB SUPER SUPPORTER ABNNOUNCED

We at Amateur Radio Newsline are happy to announce our latest web super supporter. Our support fund Administrator Andy Jaremea, N6TCQ, has words as to whom it is:

--

The month of February 2008 saw another of our promotions for our web Super

Supporters. This time for an MFJ 2 meter FM monitor receiver to be awarded

to the individual or club donating the most to Amateur Radio Newsline during February.

A longtime supporter of Newsline is the Reading Amateur Radio Club in Pennsylvania, W3BN, and we are pleased to be sending their promotional award out to them in the next week or so. One of the things this club has

the right to be proud of is that their original ARRL charter was signed by

none other than Hirim Percy Maxim.

If you did not receive this support information you need to get on the Newsline Yahoogroups distribution list. Just go to Yahoogroups.com and sign up there. Information on donations I on our website.

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

--

Our thanks to all of you who support the Amateur Radio Newsline. Its you who make these weekly newscast possible. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

ENFORCEMENT: ANOTHER HAM WARNED TO STAY OFF CERTAIN REPEATERS

A Maine radio amateur has been warned by the FCC to stay off certain repeaters or face enforcement action against her license. Receiving the Warning Notice from the FCC's Spectrum Enforcement Division is Amanda Spenlinhauer, KB1CQX, of the town of Wells. In it the FCC states that she must refrain from using any repeater where the trustee says to stay off. The FCC also told to Spenlinhauer that her Amateur Radio license

expires in June. It advises her that it will not be routinely renewed unless this matter is resolved. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC FINES FORMER NOVICE $4300

The FCC has levied a fine against a former ham who operated after his ticket had expired. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:

--

On March 6, the FCC announced that it has issued a Forfeiture Order in the

amount of $4300 to Ronald Mondgock, the ex-KA3OMZ, of Honeybrook, Pennsylvania, for operating radio transmitting equipment on the frequencies

of 439.850 MHz and 147.560 MHz without an FCC issued license to do so.

While he was licensed, Mondgock, held only a Novice class ticket. He was issued his first Advisory Notice in February 2001 after he had been heard operating on the 75 meter band. He was told that he was not authorized to

use that portion of the spectrum and instructed to review the Commission's

rules relating to Amateur Radio Service frequencies.

In July 2004, Mondgock, received a Citation from the FCC's Philadelphia Field Office dealing with several alleged infractions including operating on a frequency not authorized for Novice Class license holders. He did not

reply as directed by the FCC and was issued a Warning Notice in November 2004. He was also told that his license that was scheduled to expire on December 14, 2005 would not be renewed until the matter is resolved.

In February 2006, the Commission sent Mondgock another letter telling him that his application for renewal of his Amateur Radio license could not be

routinely granted and has been referred to the Enforcement Bureau for review. This, because he had never submitted responses to the Commission's

correspondence and never claimed a letter sent via certified mail.

Mondgock was given 20 days to respond. He was also warned that if he chose not to do so that his application for renewal would be dismissed and

a Notice of Apparent Liability for Monetary Forfeiture will be issued against him.

Apparently Mondgock chose to let his license lapse but he did not go away. It fell into the two year grace period where a ham can renew without

taking a test but cannot legally operate. So it was in December 2006, the

FCC's Field Office in Philadelphia sent Mondgock another Letter of Inquiry. This time to as part of its investigation of allegations of Mondgock operating his Amateur Radio Service station on the frequencies 147.560 MHz and 439.850 MHz. Again no response so on August 15, 2007, the

Commission's Philadelphia Field Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $10,000 for unlicensed operation

to Mondgock.

This time Mondgock did write back. In his response he did not deny the FCC's findings. Instead he asked for a cancellation of the proposed fine based on his inability to pay. He also supplied the financial documentation that the FCC said that it required.

After examining Mondgock's financial records the Commission declined to cancel the forfeiture. It did however recognize the financial hardship that a $10,000 fine would cause and reduced the amount to $4300.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

Mondgock was given the usual 30 days to pay or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: UNLICENSED BROADCASTING BRINGS $10000 FINE

The FCC has affirmed a $10,000 monetary forfeiture or fine issued to Pennsylvania resident Michael Stone Campbell. This, for allegedly operating an unlicensed radio transmitter on the frequency 97.7 MHz in the

Philadelphia area.

Back on October 2, 2007, the Commission's Philadelphia Field Office issued

the Notice of Apparent Liability to Campbell. Although Campbell never filed a response he did submit a letter to Senator Arlen Specter, which was

forwarded to the Commission on December 26, 2007. In his letter to Senator

Specter, Campbell claims that the FCC lost his construction permit application, but he never has provided any evidence that he submitted such

an application to begin with. Moreover, even if Campbell had provided such

evidence, the mere filing of an application would not have provided Campbell any authority to operate a radio station.

Based on the information before it the Commission has now affirmed the $10,000 forfeiture. Campbell was given the usual 30 days to pay up or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: TWINS ARRESTED IN CA COPPER THEFT

A first break in the cases of the ongoing copper thefts that have been plaguing telecommunications providers ion the South-West. This with word that twin brothers and a juvenile have been arrested in connection with a series of thefts of copper wire in California. Jim Damron, N8TMW, has more:

--

An under cover investigation by the city of Lancaster's Sheriff's Station began after a report was filed by Verizon that $40,000 worth of copper wire

had been stolen. The investigation in a sparsely populated area lasted nearly 50 hours. Three suspects were taken into custody who were linked to

four thefts of copper from Verizon over two weeks.

The suspects reportedly climbed utility poles to cut the wire down and it was taken to recycling facilities where it was sold for between $1.80 and $2.50 a pound. Authorities a believe that the three suspects may be linked

to at least a dozen similar thefts cross the region.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, reporting.

--

With the price of copper soaring due to demand in overseas markets the theft of wire especially the south-west has become a major issue here in

the United StatesIts also one of the reasons you are paying o much for coax

and rotor cable these days. (Published reports)

**

HAM RADIO ON THE WEB: THREE NEW HAM RADIO ONLY WEBSITES

Several of what can best be described as ham radio clones of existing Internet services have sprung up in recent weeks. First up www dot cqoogle

dot com which calls itself a ham radio specific search engine. Its really

sharp at pulling up and grouping ham radio only information and is far better than its general purpose namesake. This one is a winner from the get-go.

Also now on-line is a ham radio dedicated video sharing site calling itself

www dot cqtube dot com. Its kind of like a youtube where hams can hare videos but that in itself may be why it has only a handful of videos uploaded to it so far. It appear as if most hams who go to the trouble of

producing a video are targeting those outside of the hobby and that's where
the more general purpose youtube dot com truly excels.

Both cqoogle and cqtube are registered to Justin Johnson, G0KSC in Essex, in the United Kingdom who also operates the eBay-like www dot hambid dot com. Johnson described as the Managing Director of Telco Consultants Limited. That company has already seen success with online business in the

such as its A1isp operation and now seems to be extending it's business plan into Amateur Radio. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA TEXAS EVENT 2008

The Second Annual Radio Club of America Texas Event will be held Tuesday, April 29, 2008 in Galveston at the San Luis Resort & Convention Center. This, in conjunction with the Texas APCO State Conference.

Craig M. Jorgensen will be the keynote speaker for this year's Texas Event.

Jorgensen is project director and co-chair of APCO Project 2534, chair of the Project MESA Steering Committee, and a member of the boards of directors of the Radio Club of America and the Public Safety Spectrum Trust. Long associated with standards-development for digital radio communications, Jorgensen is a past president of the Associated Public-Safety Communications Officials International and of the National Association of State Telecommunications Directors.

For more information contact The Radio Club of America, c/o Carroll Hollingsworth, PO Box 5680, Lago Vista, Texas 78645 or by e-mail to dhlago

at aol dot com

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: EASTERN VHF - UHF CONFERENCE IN CT

And the 34th Annual Eastern VHF-UHF Conference will be held on April 18th to the 20th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Enfield, Connecticut. In addition to speakers the gathering will feature an indoor auction to help defray costs of future conferences. An outdoor Flea Market is planned for Sunday April 20th, weather permitting. More information and a registration

form is on line at www.newsvhf.com. (Eastern VHF-UHF Conference)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States

of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from

our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: HARVEY HETLAND N6MM KILLED IN HIT AND RUN ACCIDENT

Longtime Pasadena City College professor Harvey Hetland, N6MM, was killed Wednesday, March 5th in what authorities are calling a hit-and-run

cycling accident in a Los Angeles suburb.

According to a reports in the Star News newspaper and the Westside Bikeside

newsletter, Hetland and a companion cycleist were on their way home after riding up to the town of Montrose. They were descending La Tuna Canyon Road in near-by Sunland where N6MM was passed on his right by an automobile. Hetland swerved the bike into the center of the road and fell

over, got up for a moment, and then collapsed. An exact cause of death has

yet to be determined.

First licensed in 1960, and an Extra class license holder since 1964, Hetland was a member of the DXCC Honor Roll and was certified as a 35 word

per minute Morse operator. He had retired from Pasadena City College in 2007 where had spent 32 years teaching various courses including electronics and applied algebra.

Authorities are still looking for the car and its driver involved in the accident. Funeral services for Harvey Hetland, N6MM, were scheduled for Thursday, March 13, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Pasadena, California. He was age 65. (Star News, Westside Bikeside, K0OV)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: VISUALLY HANDICAPPED EMMCOMS SYSTEM DEVELOPED

Turning to the new technology page, researchers at Georgia Tech's Wireless

Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center say that they have received good

news. This, regarding initial testing of their newly developed Wireless Emergency Communications or W-E-C project for the visually handicapped. Results indicate that 94 percent of blind and visually impaired test subjects found W-E-C to be a significant improvement over their current methods of receiving emergency alerts.

This first field test involved participants from the Georgia Radio Reading

Service in a full-day study to engage the effectiveness and accessibility of this prototype emergency alerting system. Subjects ranged from sight-enhanced individuals to those who are fully blind. Additionally, the

test subjects' level of familiarity and use of wireless technologies ranged

from technically savvy to infrequent users.

WEC tested custom software that runs on a Windows Mobile OS, designed to send accessible emergency alerts to short message service capable handsets. The custom software then presented the content of the text alert

in an audio format. During the test engineers simulated the emergency alerts, employing the Common Alerting Protocol, as if they originated from

the National Weather Service. The mobile phones used had the capability to

recognize an incoming alert of critical importance and override any muted sound or vibration settings to ensure that the critical alarm was delivered.

Some 18 percent of Americans are thought to have some type of disability, and that an estimated 60 percent of Americans use wireless services. The advantage of accessible emergency communications software and devices like

this is that they can reach the user, no matter what their activity or location, with lifesaving information. Once fully functional, it could also assist blind hams involved in Emergency Communications work as well. (KC9RP)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: W1YU D-STAR REPEATER OPS PAGE

Some names in the news. First is Tim Mik, WY1U, in Connecticut, who has created a web page that enables anyone to view activity on a particular D-STAR repeater. All you need to do is select a geographic area, select a

repeater and go click to see whose on the air and who recently has been.

The page is for now centered on U-S operations. As such it only includes

a few of the D-Star repeaters that are available in the other parts of the

world. You can view this new service to D-Star users and those interested

in this emerging mode at
http://home.comcast.net/~timmik/dstarsearch.html (Southgate)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: NEIL PATEL NOMINATED TO HEAD NTIA

The White House has nominated Neil Patel to head the National
Telecommunications and Information Administration, better known as the NTIA.

Patel has been assistant secretary for domestic and economic policy to Vice

President Cheney. Before that, he was staff secretary to the vice president

and is former general counsel at UUNET Technologies.

The NTIA is the President's principal adviser on telecommunications and
information policy.. Meredith Atwell Baker has been heading the program as

acting NTIA chief. she is leaving the agency, but has not publicly given a

timetable for her departure. Patel must be confirmed by the Senate. (RW)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ARISS TRAINING PLANNED FOR THREE NEW ASTRO-HAMS

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station training sessions are
being planned for astronauts Nicole Stott, KE5GJN, Sandy Magnus, KE5FYE,
and Bob Thirsk, VA3CSA. Magnus is expected to be a crewmember of
Expedition 17 and 18, flying to the ISS on STS-126 in September. Stott, a

member of the Expedition 19 crew, will fly on STS-128 in May 2009. Thirsk,

a CSA astronaut, will follow the same month on a Soyuz flight. (ANS)

**

WORELDBEAT - NEW ZEALAND: NZART CLOSES MEMBERSHIP E-MAIL REFLECTORS TO
AVOID LITIGATION

The national society of New Zealand, the NZART has announced the closure of

its Internet reflectors.. This means that all remailers formerly open to

members are being permanently shit down.

The reason given in the Match 5th notice indicates that the action came
about to keep the NZART from becoming embroiled in some future
litigation. This, in case someone posted something another ham did not
like and the matter went to court.

The only NZART e-mail reflectors that will continue to operate are those

for internal use not open to the general membership. These include the Council only, HQ plus Council only, the Officers only and the ARE-C reflectors. All the other NZART sponsored reflectors closed indefinitely effective at 9 p.m. New Zealand time on Friday 7 March 2008. Only more proof that we live in a truly litigious world. (NZART)

**

DX

In D-X word that F5LGE, is active portable FM from Martinique until March 30th. Listen out for him on 160 and 80 meters on CW. Operation seem to take place between 2330 to 0730 UTC. QSL via F5LGE, by the Bureau or direct. to Courgibet Rene, 13 Ruelle Crepion, 51240 ST Germain la Ville, France.

Also, BU2AI, is again active portable 9 from Matsu Island until March 20th. He operates as a mobile station from 1000 to 2300 UTC on low band CW

and SSB. QSL to his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

W6ALC will be in China for three weeks starting on March 17th. Red says that he has permission to operate from the contest station B7P. He also plans to visit the new club station BY7OK in Foshan. QSL as he directs you

on the air.

And WA2YUN is currently on a work assignment on Wake Island operating portable KH9 as time permits. QSL this operation via K2PF.

Above from various DX news sources

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: AUSAT - THE HAM RADIO SATELLITE LINK

And finally this week, the story of ham radio taking to space on a commercial communications satellite. It happened a few years ago down-under. WIA- Newsman Jim Linton, VK3PC, takes on a trip back in time:

--

Recent news that AMSAT-North America had struck a deal with IntelSat to put

an amateur satellite in geosynchronous orbit has rekindled memories of when

VK and ZL radio amateurs had such a satellite.

In the early 1990s Australia's satellite company Aussat opened access to a

spare transponder on one of its three its geostationary satellites, primarily for use during the Jamboree on The Air.

The Aussat link was normally established a week prior to JOTA for testing and for the general amateur community to use.

It was accessible through various amateur repeaters across Australia and the national UHF linked repeater system in New Zealand. There was also the

capability to transmit to all points the annual JOTA opening broadcast.

The Westlakes Amateur Radio Club VK2ATZ north of Sydney also used Aussat for amateur television transmission.

The transmission was downlinked by Peter Cossins VK3BFG who rebroadcast it

across Melbourne via the ATV repeater VK3RTV.

A proposed system called AMLINK, or Amateur Link, was conceived which sought to permanently link a network of 70cm repeaters in Australian capital cities through Aussat.

Approval was granted, a prototype interface unit developed and tested, then

news came through that a replacement Aussat satellite had suffered a launch

failure.

Changing government telecommunications policy ultimately rescinded approval

for the AMLINK project, and sadly the geostationary satellite era for radio

hams down under came to an end.

I'm Jim Linton VK3PC and you're listening to the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Thanks Jim. (WIA News, VK3PC)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the

RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can

also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go we want to remind you that the nominating period for the 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year is now open. Any licensed radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in the United States or Canada is

eligible for the award. Full details and both downloadable and on-line nominating forms are in cyberspace at www dot YHOTY dot org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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168. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-14 09:35:50 UTC
From: crn@NOSPAM.netunix.com
Message-ID: <47da4286$0$513$bed64819@news.gradwell.net>
Source record: 3239

Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote:
>
> "Phil Kane" <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote in message
> news:5fdjt3pukn5cb5phkma1jqu53ucs55dugb@4ax.com
> : On Thu, 13 Mar 2008 08:13:15 EDT, Steve Bonine
> : <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
> :
> : >
> : >Do you have any idea why they're going to the trouble to
> : >turn off the transmitter over the UK?
> :
> : My WAG is because it doesn't conform to their rules.
>
> What will the transmitting frequency be..? Don't forget that we have
> different frequencies in some bands, for example we only get 2 MHz in the
> 2m band, 144-146 MHz whereas the US has 144-148 MHz.
>
> If it will be transmitting outside of the UK bandplan then that would be a
> valid reason as the frequency used could be in use for something else over
> here.

A balloon is an aircraft so that makes it illegal to transmit.
No transmitting equipment may be operated from an aircraft other than
type approved aviation band equipment under the control of the commander.

169. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-14 12:34:19 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <13tks5pd5lrp7be@news.supernews.com>
Source record: 3240

crn@NOSPAM.netunix.com wrote:

> A balloon is an aircraft so that makes it illegal to transmit.
> No transmitting equipment may be operated from an aircraft other than
> type approved aviation band equipment under the control of the commander.

Can you cite any sources that back up this statement?

Weather balloons are launched on a daily basis, using radio to send
their data. I don't think that these are illegal.

I believe that "pilot in command" is the term you want instead of
"commander", and it's my understanding that any equipment that the PIC
approves can be used from the aircraft. I've heard a fair number of
hams signing "aeronautical mobile" and I'm sure that private pilots
routinely use cell phones. Another example is the telephone service
provided on many commercial airliners.

73, Steve KB9X

170. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-14 13:25:40 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <63v0fkF29b8kaU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 3241

<crn@NOSPAM.netunix.com> wrote in message
news:47da4286$0$513$bed64819@news.gradwell.net

[snip]

: A balloon is an aircraft so that makes it illegal to
: transmit.
: No transmitting equipment may be operated from an
: aircraft other than type approved aviation band equipment
: under the control of the commander.

So does that make the whole project is illegal..?

What about amateur radio equipment (which is what we're talking about,
isn't it)..?

It's illegal here in the UK to operate aeronautical mobile but I
understand that in the US and other countries it's allowed with the
permission of the PIC (pilot in command).

But this is an unmanned craft, so where do we stand with that..?

73 Ivor G6URP

171. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-14 13:25:59 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <frdtsjfhe1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3242

crn@NOSPAM.netunix.com wrote:
> Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote:
>> "Phil Kane" <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote in message
>> news:5fdjt3pukn5cb5phkma1jqu53ucs55dugb@4ax.com
>> : On Thu, 13 Mar 2008 08:13:15 EDT, Steve Bonine
>> : <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
>> :
>> : >
>> : >Do you have any idea why they're going to the trouble to
>> : >turn off the transmitter over the UK?
>> :
>> : My WAG is because it doesn't conform to their rules.
>>
>> What will the transmitting frequency be..? Don't forget that we have
>> different frequencies in some bands, for example we only get 2 MHz in the
>> 2m band, 144-146 MHz whereas the US has 144-148 MHz.
>>
>> If it will be transmitting outside of the UK bandplan then that would be a
>> valid reason as the frequency used could be in use for something else over
>> here.
>
> A balloon is an aircraft so that makes it illegal to transmit.
> No transmitting equipment may be operated from an aircraft other than
> type approved aviation band equipment under the control of the commander.
>

I'm not sure where you are getting your info. Lots of hams are sending
up balloons with transmitters all the time. Lots of links can be
googled, but here are two:

http://www.athensarc.org/balloon.asp
http://www.arbonet.net/

At least in the US, the rules are conducive to ballooning for schools,
amateurs and weather forecasters. I'd been planning to do some Amateur
ballooning for several years, but other duties have interfered.

One of the most difficult aspects of trying to get a group started was
the disbelief of many people that we were actually allowed to do this
sort of thing.

There are rules, and they must be followed, but they are commonsense and
not terribly restrictive.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

172. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-14 14:12:32 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.03.14.13.50.33.202657@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 3243

>> : >Do you have any idea why they're going to the trouble to
>> : >turn off the transmitter over the UK?
>
> A balloon is an aircraft so that makes it illegal to transmit.
> No transmitting equipment may be operated from an aircraft other than
> type approved aviation band equipment under the control of the commander.

Some of the other replies are apparently forgetting we're talking about it being illegal **while the balloon is flying over the UK**.

It is indeed legal **under U.S. regulations** to operate aeronautical mobile. But U.S. regulations cease to apply once the balloon enters the airspace of some other country. It would appear British regulations do not allow for aeronautical mobile operation in unmanned aircraft.

173. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-14 16:30:09 UTC
From: crn@NOSPAM.netunix.com
Message-ID: <47da9686$0$630$bed64819@news.gradwell.net>
Source record: 3244

Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
> crn@NOSPAM.netunix.com wrote:
>
> > A balloon is an aircraft so that makes it illegal to transmit.
> > No transmitting equipment may be operated from an aircraft other than
> > type approved aviation band equipment under the control of the commander.
>
> Can you cite any sources that back up this statement?

It will be in an Air Navigation Order or an Avaition Act somewhere.

> Weather balloons are launched on a daily basis, using radio to send
> their data. I don't think that these are illegal.

Radiosondes are a special case, using very low power on an assigned
frequency.

> I believe that "pilot in command" is the term you want instead of
> "commander", and it's my understanding that any equipment that the PIC
> approves can be used from the aircraft. I've heard a fair number of
> hams signing "aeronautical mobile" and I'm sure that private pilots
> routinely use cell phones. Another example is the telephone service
> provided on many commercial airliners.

The Commander of an aircraft is not necessarily the pilot in command.
The commander, who is a qualified pilot but does not necessarily fly
the aircraft, is responsible throughout the flight in the same way
as the captain of a ship. Many long haul flights depart with 2 crews,
one sleeping. It is not unusual for the person sitting in the left hand
seat (and thus pilot in command) to change 3 or more times in the
course of the flight but there is only one commander.
Do you expect the two pilots sitting up front to remain awake and
competant for a 16 hour flight ?.

That may be the case in the USA but it is certainly illegal in the UK
and in the European Union. There are a few type-approved satellite based
telephone systems which ICAO have agreed may be fitted in passenger
aircraft, all of which are permanent fixtures. These remain switched
off until the aircraft reaches cruising altitude and are switched off
again at top of descent to minimise the risk to navigation systems.

g4jci

174. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-14 16:30:24 UTC
From: crn@NOSPAM.netunix.com
Message-ID: <47da98d9$0$630$bed64819@news.gradwell.net>
Source record: 3245

Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam> wrote:
>
> Some of the other replies are apparently forgetting we're talking about it
> being illegal **while the balloon is flying over the UK**.
>
> It is indeed legal **under U.S. regulations** to operate aeronautical
> mobile. But U.S. regulations cease to apply once the balloon enters the
> airspace of some other country. It would appear British regulations do
> not allow for aeronautical mobile operation in unmanned aircraft.

ANY aircraft.

g4jci

175. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-14 16:30:45 UTC
From: crn@NOSPAM.netunix.com
Message-ID: <47da986d$0$630$bed64819@news.gradwell.net>
Source record: 3246

Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote:
> <crn@NOSPAM.netunix.com> wrote in message
>
> It's illegal here in the UK to operate aeronautical mobile but I
> understand that in the US and other countries it's allowed with the
> permission of the PIC (pilot in command).
>
> But this is an unmanned craft, so where do we stand with that..?
>

An aircraft is ruled by the law of its country of registration but
operation is ruled by the authority in whose airspace the aircraft
is currently located. It may thus be legal to fit a transmitter in
the USA to a USA registered aircraft but it must be switched off
before entering european airspace.

g4jci

176. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-14 16:38:28 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <63vmn7F2a2buoU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 3247

"Steve Bonine" <spb@pobox.com> wrote in message
news:13tks5pd5lrp7be@news.supernews.com
: crn@NOSPAM.netunix.com wrote:
:
: > A balloon is an aircraft so that makes it illegal to
: > transmit.
: > No transmitting equipment may be operated from an
: > aircraft other than type approved aviation band
: > equipment under the control of the commander.
:
: Can you cite any sources that back up this statement?
:
: Weather balloons are launched on a daily basis, using
: radio to send their data. I don't think that these are
: illegal.
:
: I believe that "pilot in command" is the term you want
: instead of "commander", and it's my understanding that
: any equipment that the PIC approves can be used from the
: aircraft. I've heard a fair number of hams signing
: "aeronautical mobile" and I'm sure that private pilots
: routinely use cell phones. Another example is the
: telephone service provided on many commercial airliners.

But these are still region-specific. Here in Region 1 we are most definitely *not* allowed to use amateur equipment on board aircraft, even a light aircraft of which the operator might be the sole occupant and therefore his own PIC.

Likewise cellular phones. Although the technical specifications of the systems in use, certainly GSM as used over here, means that once in the air the handset would be unlikely to see many base stations as the transmitting antennas of these would be aimed downwards at ground-based users.

The phone service provided commercially on airliners is satellite based and is specifically licensed for the purpose. Some airlines are (unfortunately IMHO) experimenting with pico-cells inside the cabin to allow passengers to use their own handsets, but the onward transmission from the aircraft is by satellite.

73 Ivor G6URP

177. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-14 16:38:49 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <63vmq6F28absoU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 3248

"Doug Smith W9WI" <w9wi@invalid.nospam> wrote in message
news:pan.2008.03.14.13.50.33.202657@invalid.nospam

[snip]

: Some of the other replies are apparently forgetting we're
: talking about it being illegal **while the balloon is
: flying over the UK**.
:
: It is indeed legal **under U.S. regulations** to operate
: aeronautical mobile. But U.S. regulations cease to apply
: once the balloon enters the airspace of some other
: country. It would appear British regulations do not
: allow for aeronautical mobile operation in unmanned
: aircraft.

Or in manned aircraft come to that.

73 Ivor G6URP

178. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-14 17:33:26 UTC
From: Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
Message-ID: <fast-EAF0CE.09262414032008@netnews.worldnet.att.net>
Source record: 3249

In article <63vmn7F2a2buoU1@mid.individual.net>,
"Ivor Jones" <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote:

> The phone service provided commercially on airliners is satellite based
> and is specifically licensed for the purpose. Some airlines are
> (unfortunately IMHO) experimenting with pico-cells inside the cabin to
> allow passengers to use their own handsets, but the onward transmission
> from the aircraft is by satellite.
>
> 73 Ivor G6URP

It may be in the the UK, but here in the USA, some of the In Plane Phone Communications, is done in the 800 Mhz band from Ground Stations. Our Regulatory Agency, (FCC) setup a Radio Service just for Air Ground Phone Communications. I can't remember the Actual Name offhand, but I am sure that Phil can come up with it.

--
Bruce in alaska
add <path> after <fast> to reply

179. DXCC life cycle of 6O (Somalia)?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-14 17:50:49 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9A6182A5BCADEVeebleFetzer@127.0.0.1>
Source record: 3250

Rumaging through a box of QSLs accumulated over the last 40 years, I see that I have confirmations for about 200 countries, so maybe it's finally time to apply for DXCC :-)

I understand how deleted countries work, but what about Somalia? If memory serves, that country, or parts of it with similar names, has come into and gone out of existence several times since I got a 6O1ND card back in 1963.

Is it just a wash, because a country of that name, in more or less the same place is now on the DXCC list?

--
Bert Hyman W0RSB | St. Paul, MN | bert@iphouse.com

180. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 10 (Friday, March 14, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-14 23:22:38 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080314194507.BE734314D8@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 3151
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 10
March 14, 2008
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + 2008 Global EmComm Conference to Be Held in Friedrichshafen, Germany

* + Idaho Amateurs on Hand for Special Olympics Invitational Winter
Games
* + Texas to Host USA's ARDF Championships
* + Michigan Amateurs Team Up with State
* + FCC Slams Pennsylvania Ham with Forfeiture Order
* + FCC Fixes Typographical Errors in Part 97
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ ARRL to Close in Observance of Good Friday
+ KH6 Incoming QSL Bureau Address Change
"Spirit of Knoxville" Sees Successful Launch
Exhibit Kits Now Available for Field Day
Amateur Radio Exempt from California's New "Hands Free" Law
Notes from the DXCC Desk
Snake Update

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

Reminder: Next week, the ARRL Letter will be posted on Thursday, March
20, one day earlier than usual. There will be no ARRL Audio News on
Friday, March 21.

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> 2008 GLOBAL EMCOMM CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN FRIEDRICHSHAFEN, GERMANY

The fourth annual Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (GAREC)
Conference <http://www.iaru.org/emergency/GAREC2008Program.pdf> is
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scheduled for June 26-27, 2008 in Friedrichshafen, Germany, just prior to HamRadio 2008 <http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/html/en/>. That event, called "the Dayton of Europe," is scheduled for June 27-29. GAREC's schedule is continuously being updated and is subject to change.

Dr Hamadoun Toure, HB9EHT, Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), is scheduled to present the opening remarks at GAREC-08; Dr Toure received his Amateur Radio license in 2007. Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, President of IARU Region 1, is scheduled to participate in the opening remarks, too.

GAREC will take a look at the state of EmComm preparedness in each of the IARU regions, as well as discuss experiences of the 2006 and 2007 EmComm Parties-on-the-Air and the future of the Global Simulated Emergency Test (SET). Delegates will also discuss implementation of the WRC-03 modifications to Article 25 of the Radio Regulations, in respect to third-party traffic during emergencies and exercises. The part of Article 25 concerning Emergency Communications says "Amateur stations may be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties only in case of emergencies or disaster relief. An administration may determine the applicability of this provision to amateur stations under its jurisdiction" (RR 25.3), and "Administrations are encouraged to take the necessary steps to allow amateur stations to prepare for and meet communication needs in support of disaster relief" (RR 25.9A).

GAREC delegates will also have the opportunity to look at and discuss the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), as well as the MOU between the IARU and the ITU. IARU Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, with assistance from IFRC Secretary General Markku Niskala and IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communications Hans Zimmermann, HB9AQS/F5VKP, will lead the discussion. A representative from the ITU will also be on hand.

Each of the three IARU Region Presidents will speak on the status of EmComm in their respective region. Seppo Sisatto, OH1VR, and Juha Hulkko, OH8NC, will present on the possibility of Emergency Communication Centers around the world. There will also be a talk on D-STAR in emergency communications. Case studies of emergency communication practices will also be presented.

Those wishing to attend GAREC-08 are encouraged to register online <http://www.korkee.net/Garec2008/>. For those registering prior to June 12, the fee is 55 euros; after June 12, the fee is 75 euros. GAREC will take place in the Conference Center of the Friedrichshafen Messe in the Oesterreich Room. Travel and lodging information for GAREC and HamRadio 2008 is available online at the HamRadio 2008 Web page.

==> IDAHO AMATEURS ON HAND FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS INVITATIONAL WINTER GAMES

More than 20 Amateur Radio operators wrapped up technical and operational support for the 2008 Special Olympics Invitational Winter Games in Boise, Tamarack and Sun Valley, Idaho the last week in February. Approximately 365 athletes from 10 countries competed in five sports -- Alpine Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Floor Hockey, Snowboarding and Snowshoeing. The Invitational Games were seen as the practice run for the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games to be held in Idaho February 6-13, 2009.

The Department of Defense provided Motorola VHF analog and P25 handheld radios and temporary repeaters to support the Games. Covering all of Southwestern Idaho, the ARES VHF repeater was instrumental in providing Games radio communications and critical communications for athlete transportation to and from Bogus Basin and Boise. Crossband links were used to coordinate and provide communications to the KX7ID Boise ARES repeater from the Tamarack Snowboarding venue near the Cascade/Donnelly area, about 100 miles north of Boise.

"It was a privilege to work with the Idaho State Police, Boise Police, Ada County Sheriff, Ada County EMS, Blaine County Sheriff and others within the Public Safety community," said Chuck Robertson, KX7ID, Technical Director for Games Radio Communications. "We are grateful for the relationships built during these test Games which will improve cooperation and teamwork as we work together toward support of the 2009 Games and public service initiatives beyond the Games."

The 147.380 MHz ARES repeater was the primary system used for the event, but the KX7ID UHF repeater, D-Star VHF simplex and P25 VHF simplex were also used. In addition, D-Star VHF low speed data using D*Chat <http://nj6n.com/dstar/dstar_chat.html> was tested from the Boise National Weather Service to Boise area hospitals.

"Communications are a vital component to any successful event, especially one as complex as the 2008 Special Olympics Invitational Winter Games and the upcoming 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games, which are both multi-sport and multi-venue events with a lot of moving parts," said Kirk Miles, 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games Chief Operating Officer. "We are grateful to all the Amateur Radio operators that have worked or will be working to make the 2009 Games a great success."

The 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games <http://www.2009worldgames.org/> will be held in Idaho, February 6-13, 2009 and will include up to 3000 athletes from as many as 85 countries and 6000 volunteers. Competition will take place in seven winter sports -- Alpine Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing, Figure Skating, Floor Hockey, Snowboarding, Snowshoeing and Speed Skating. Competition and activities will be in communities and venues throughout Idaho, including Bogus Basin, Boise State University, Qwest Arena, Idaho Ice World, Sun Valley Resort and Tamarack Resort.

==> TEXAS TO HOST USA'S ARDF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bastrop State Park in Central Texas will be the site for this year's USA championship of on-foot hidden transmitter hunting. Fans of this international sport -- also called foxhunting or Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) -- are making travel plans now.

Interest and participation in ARDF has been growing every year since stateside hams first competed at the World Championships in 1998. Beginning in 2001, there has been an annual national championship to see who is best at the sport and to select team members for the World Championships. The Texas ARDF group and the Houston Orienteering Club are combining to host this year's events, to be held the second weekend of May.

Thursday, May 8 is scheduled for arrival and equipment testing; 2 and 80 meter transmitters will also be on the air near the event headquarters. There will also be a get-acquainted meeting and drawing for the starting order. The 2 meter contest will take place Friday morning. Competitors will start in small groups made up of different age and gender categories, in the drawn order.

The 80 meter event will be early Saturday morning with starts in reverse order, highest numbers first. After everyone returns from the woods and the results are tallied, medals will be presented for first, second and third place in each category. There will be ample time for everyone to return home in time for Mother's Day activities.

On both bands, each of the five foxes transmits for 60 seconds at a time in numbered order on one frequency, and then the cycle repeats. Fox #1 continuously sends "MOE" in Morse code, then #2 sends "MOI," #3 sends "MOS" and so forth. Knowledge of Morse code isn't necessary, because the number of dits reveals which fox is on. Find your required foxes in any order and then head for the finish, following your map or the continuous beacon transmitter on a second frequency.

As always, the USA ARDF Championships are open to anyone of any age who can safely navigate the woods. A ham radio license is not required, so encourage your unlicensed-but-athletic friends and family members to join in. Each person competes as an individual; there is no teaming or person-to-person assistance allowed on the courses. Using GPS as a navigation aid is also forbidden.

The annual ARDF championships are an ideal opportunity to watch and learn from the best radio-orienteers in the country, as well as visitors from around the world. Previous USA championships have drawn experts from Australia, China, the Czech Republic, England, Germany, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Ukraine.

Registration for the 2008 USA championships is now open. A $70-per-person package includes the practice session, both competitions, Friday dinner and a T-shirt. Check out the Texas ARDF Web site <http://www.texasardf.org/> for detailed schedules, frequencies, lodging information and registration forms. An e-mail reflector <http://lists.texasardf.org/mailman/listinfo/texasardf> is available for

Q&A, as well as for coordinating transportation and arranging equipment loans.

If you have never participated in an international-style transmitter hunt, you will find all the basics at ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator Joe Moell's, K0OV, Web site <http://www.homingin.com/intlfox.html> including the rules and signal parameters. You will get equipment ideas for 2 meters and 80 meters. You can also determine your own age category. The pages of photos from our previous championships will help you decide what gear to carry (the lighter, the better) and what to wear. -- Information provided by ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV

==> MICHIGAN AMATEURS TEAM UP WITH STATE

ARRL Michigan Section Manager Dale Williams, WA8EFK, and Michigan Section Emergency Coordinator John McDonough, WB8RCR, have been working with the Homeland Security Division of the Michigan State Police Emergency Management to align the capabilities of the Amateur Radio Public Service Corps (ARPSC) more closely with the communications needs of the state's public service agencies.

ARPSC -- Michigan's integrated ARES/RACES program -- also participates in the Michigan State Department Emergency Management Coordinators Quarterly meetings at the State Emergency Operating Center. It is here, Williams said, that discussion of the Public Safety communications grants are discussed and their investment justifications are detailed. "We have been afforded the opportunity to discuss Amateur Radio's involvement with communications interoperability, as well as our ability to fill gaps in disparate networks and outages. As a result of these conferences, I was asked to include a list of ARPSC's needs for the next three years."

To further that end, Williams told the ARRL that they have been successful in incorporating the ARPSC Program into the Michigan State Preparedness Priorities. Michigan intends to develop the ARPSC into a fully integrated communications team operating under common standards and procedures, including maintaining and enhancing the statewide Amateur Radio communications system; establishing suggested standards for Amateur Radio capabilities in local Emergency Operations Centers, and developing a public awareness and education program to bolster the ranks of Amateur Radio participants. The hope, Williams said, is to have all this implemented by 2010.

Williams said, "Since the early 1980s, Michigan has operated an integrated ARES, RACES and NTS program referred to as the Michigan Amateur Radio Public Service Corps. By combining the forces of these normally separate structures, these valuable resources are pulled together to form an active trained and unified organization. The Section Emergency Coordinator also holds the positions of Section Traffic Manager and RACES Radio Officer. Membership in ARPSC is open to all amateurs and is structured to allow a beginning ham to progress from an

entry-level position to a RACES-qualified operator by meeting specific training milestones."

"There is no doubt that by presenting a unified organization, the Michigan ARPSC has demonstrated the effective use of resources, training and our unique capabilities so that we have become a well respected public service organization in the state," Williams said.

==> FCC SLAMS PENNSYLVANIA HAM WITH FORFEITURE ORDER

On March 6, the FCC announced that it has issued a "Forfeiture Order" <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-498A1.pdf> in the amount of $4300 to Ronald Mondgock, KA3OMZ, of Honeybrook, Pennsylvania, "for willfully and repeatedly violating Section 301 of the "Communications Act of 1934, as amended" (Act), by operating radio transmitting equipment on the frequencies 439.850 MHz and 147.560 MHz without a license." Section 301 states a federal license is required to "operate any apparatus for the transmission of energy or communications or signals by radio." Mondgock's Amateur Radio license expired in December 2005.

Mondgock, who held a Novice class license, first received an "Advisory Notice" in February 2001 warning that he had been heard operating on the 75 meter band. He was told that he was not authorized to use that portion of the band and to review the Commission's rules relating to Amateur Radio Service frequencies.

In July 2004, Mondgock, received a "Citation" from the FCC's Philadelphia Field Office "related to failure to identify, transmissions involving obscenity and indecency and operating on a frequency not authorized for your Novice Class license." He was issued a "Warning Notice" in November 2004 for not replying to the "Citation" within the 20-day period. In the Warning Notice, Mondgock was warned by the Commission that if "a reply is not received by December 15, 2004, a 'Notice of Apparent Liability for Monetary Forfeiture' will be issued against you. We note also that your license expires December 14, 2005. No renewal or upgrade will be granted until this matter is resolved."

Also in July 2004, Mondgock received a letter from the FCC stating that the Commission "received an anonymous complaint alleging that several operators on the Amateur Radio Service frequency 146.55 MHz were using profane or obscene words or language and were failing to transmit their amateur license call signs. On June 2, 2004, between 7:30 p.m. and 8:45 p.m., an FCC agent with the Philadelphia Office investigated the complaint and monitored radio communications on the frequency 146.550 MHz allegedly between William Chapman (KB3IXS) and you. Based on your alleged radio communications that the FCC agent monitored, you may have violated the following FCC rules: Failing to transmit an amateur license call sign, in violation of Section 97.119(a) of the rules; Transmitting obscene and indecent words and language, in violation of Section 97.113(a) of the rules, and Operating on an unauthorized frequency, in violation of Section 97.301(e) of the rules. (A Novice class amateur

licensee does not authorize operation on any frequency in the 2-meter Amateur Radio Service frequency band, 144-148 MHz, including 146.55 MHz." Mondgock was given 20 days to respond and told that his response "must address each alleged violation and include a statement of the specific actions taken to preclude a recurrence."

In February 2006, the Commission sent Mondgock a letter telling him that his application for renewal of his Amateur Radio license "cannot be routinely granted and has been referred to the Enforcement Bureau for review." He was advised that this was because he had never submitted responses to the Commission's correspondence or never claimed a letter sent via certified mail. Mondgock was given yet another 20 days to respond to this letter, and warned that if he chose not to do so that "your application for renewal will be dismissed and a 'Notice of Apparent Liability for Monetary Forfeiture' will be issued against you."

In December 2006, the FCC's Field Office in Philadelphia sent Mondgock another "Letter of Inquiry" to "follow up on a recent investigation, of the operation of your Amateur Radio Service station, on the frequencies 147.560 MHz and 439.850 MHz. in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As discussed more fully below, agents determined the operation of your Amateur Radio Service station on the frequencies 147.560 MHz and 439.850 MHz violates Section 1.903(a) of the Rules and your operation on those frequencies must cease immediately. In addition, you are required to submit a detailed written response to the questions below regarding the operation of your station."

The FCC received information that Mondgock was operating radio transmitting equipment on the frequencies 147.560 MHz and 439.850 MHz. In response, the Philadelphia Field Office conducted an investigation between August-October 2006. "An agent used direction finding techniques to determine that you apparently operated radio transmitting equipment on the frequency 439.850 MHz from your residence on September 19, 2006, between 8:45 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. and from your vehicle on October 24, 2006, between 5:30 p.m. and 6:02 p.m. In addition, on September 12, 2006, the agent used direction finding techniques to determine that you apparently operated a repeater station on the frequency 147.560 MHz from One Commerce Square in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania."

The FCC asked Mondgock 11 detailed questions concerning his operations, directing him to "provide a complete explanation to the following questions and should provide copies of any relevant documents." He was told that his answers must be accompanied by a signed, sworn statement attesting to the truth and accuracy of the response. He was given 20 days to respond with answers to the questions and provide the sworn statement.

On August 15, 2007, the Commission's Philadelphia Field Office issued a "Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture" (NAL) to Mondgock in the amount of $10,000 for operating radio transmitting equipment on the frequencies 439.850 MHz and 147.560 MHz without a license. Mondgock responded to the NAL and did not dispute the findings of the Commission,

but requested a cancellation of the Forfeiture based on his inability to pay.

In examining Mondgock's response, Section 503(b) of the "Act" requires that the Commission take into account "the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violation and, with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, and other such matters as justice may require." When considering someone's inability to pay a fine, the FCC has determined that, in general, gross revenues are the best indicator of an ability to pay a forfeiture. The FCC examined Mondgock's financial documentation that he provided. The Commission declined to cancel the forfeiture but reduced the amount from the original $10,000 to $4300, based on Mondgock's demonstrated inability to pay the full forfeiture amount.

==> FCC FIXES TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS IN PART 97

On March 12, in an effort to correct typographical errors in the Commission's Rules (including rules affecting Part 97, the Amateur Radio Service), the FCC released a Memorandum Opinion and Order (MOO) <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-530A1.pdf>. According to the FCC, these changes in the MOO are "non-substantive editorial revisions" and do not introduce new rules or change old rules applicable to Amateur Radio operators.

In this MOO, the FCC is updating the Allocation Table and service rules for the Amateur Radio Service with regard to the band 75.5-81 GHz. In 2003, the Commission released a Report & Order (R&O) <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-248A1.pdf>, commonly called the "70/80/90 GHz R&O," that adopted a transition plan for the amateur use of the segment 75.5-76 GHz. The Commission concluded that moving Amateur Radio operations out of the 75.5-76 GHz band would not pose a major inconvenience to the Amateur Radio Service, but would "substantially benefit future fixed services, because it would eliminate the possibility of harmful interference from amateurs." Accordingly, the primary allocations to the Amateur and Amateur Satellite Services in the 75.5-76 GHz band were downgraded from primary to secondary status, with secondary use ceasing on January 1, 2006. After that date, the band 75.5-76 GHz was no longer available for use by the Amateur Service or the Amateur Satellite Service.

This transition plan was codified in footnote US387 and in Section 97.303(r)(3) of the Commission's Amateur Service rules. Because the transition period has concluded, the Commission "removed expired footnote US387 from the list of U.S. footnotes and we are amending Part 97 of the Commission's Rules to reflect this allocation change by: (1) revising the entry "75.5-81.0" GHz in Section 97.301(a) to read "76-81" GHz; (2) removing paragraphs (r)(2) and (r)(3) from Section 97.303; and (3) renumbering paragraph (r)(1) as paragraph (r)."

In October 2006, the FCC released another Report & Order (R&O) <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-149A1.pdf>,

the "Amateur Phone Band Expansion R&O," that expanded the phone bands. With the release of the MOO, the FCC is making two changes.

The first change to the October 2006 R&O is simply a correction of a typographical error in the Rules for the General phone allocation on 15 meters. In the Amateur Phone Band Expansion R&O, the Commission revised 21.30-21.45 MHz to read 21.275-21.45 MHz, but the current codification of the rule does not reflect this change. All the Commission did was to bring the Rules into alignment with the R&O.

The second change fixed an omission in the Novice/Technician allocation on 40 meters. The FCC found that when the Amateur Phone Band Expansion R&O was released, "the Commission expanded the frequency segment authorized for amateur voice communications within the 40 meter band by correspondingly reducing a band segment used for narrowband emission types by 25 kHz, from 7.100-7.150 MHz to 7.100-7.125 MHz." The revised frequency table in Section 97.301(e) of the FCC's Rules that lists authorized frequency bands for Novice and Technician Class inadvertently omitted 7.100-7.125 MHz from Regions 1 and 3. "Because the Amateur Phone Band Expansion R&O addressed the division of amateur frequencies among permissible emission types and not between geographic ITU Regions, we must further amend Section 97.301(e), as set forth in Appendix C, to implement the Commission's decision. Specifically, we are revising the 40 meter band by reinserting the segment '7.100-7.125' MHz in the Region 1 and Region 3 columns."

The FCC also took the opportunity to remove a double negative from Section 97.303(b). Before the release of the MOO, this Section read: "No amateur station transmitting in the 1900-2000 kHz segment, the 70 cm band, the 33 cm band, the 23 cm band, the 13 cm band, the 9 cm band, the 5 cm band, the 3 cm band, the 24.05-24.25 GHz segment, the 76-77.5 GHz segment, the 78-81 GHz segment, the 136-141 GHz segment, and the 241-248 GHz segment SHALL NOT cause harmful interference to, nor is protected from interference due to the operation of, the Federal radiolocation service." The FCC chose to take out the word "NOT" to bring the rule's words in line with the spirit of the rule.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Saw in the Sun a mighty angel stand" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: With just a few scattered sunspots in the past two weeks -- February 28-March 12 -- it isn't meaningful to ponder the change in weekly averages. There were just four days with sunspots during that time: February 28, March 5-6 and March 10. Sunspot numbers for March 6 through 12 were 12, 0, 0, 0, 12, 0 and 0 with a mean of 3.4. The 10.7 cm flux was 70.3, 70.5, 69.8, 69.5, 70.3, 70.2 and 69.4 with a mean of 70. Estimated planetary A indices were 2, 3, 11, 25, 18, 12 and 14 with a mean of 12.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 1, 6, 14, 12, 7 and 9 with a mean of 7.3. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation

Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, the NCCC Sprint is March 14. The AGCW VHF/UHF Contest, Feld Hell Sprint and the 10-10 International Mobile Contest are on March 15. The Russian DX Contest is March 15-16 and the Virginia QSO Party is March 15-17. The UBA Spring Contest (6 meters) and the 9K 15 Meter Contest are both March 16. On March 17, look for the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest and the Bucharest Contest. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (SSB) are scheduled for March 20. Next weekend is the ARLHS Annual Spring Lites QSO Party from March 21-30. Another running of the NCCC Sprint is March 21. The BARTG Spring RTTY Contest is March 22-24. The UBA Spring Contest (2 Meters) is March 23 and the SKCC Sprint is March 26. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, March 23, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, April 4, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001); Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006); Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009); Analog Electronics (EC-012), and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARRL to Close in Observance of Good Friday: ARRL Headquarters will be closed in observance of Good Friday on March 21. There will be no W1AW bulletin or code practice transmissions that day. "The ARRL Letter" will be posted a day early on Thursday, March 20; there will be no "ARRL Audio News" that week. ARRL Headquarters will reopen Monday, March 24 at 8 AM Eastern Daylight Time. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend.

* KH6 Incoming QSL Bureau Address Change: As of April 1, 2008, Barbara Darling, NH7FY, will assume management of the Hawaiian KH6 Incoming QSL Bureau. All card shipments should now be sent to KH6 QSL Bureau, Big Island ARC, Attn: Barbara Darling, NH7FY, PO Box 1938, Hilo, HI 96721-1938. Any concerns regarding this bureau's operation should be directed via e-mail to Barbara Darling, NH7FY <nh7fy@yahoo.com>. The ARRL would like to thank former KH6 Incoming QSL Manager Wayne Jones, NH6K, for his years of service.

* "Spirit of Knoxville" Sees Successful Launch: The trans-Atlantic balloon flight of the "Spirit of Knoxville IV" <http://www.spiritofknoxville.com/> launched into orbit on March 11 at 0200 UTC (10 PM EDT March 10). The balloon, designed to stay aloft for more than 24 hours, was successfully inserted into the current jet stream at normal flight altitudes of 30,000-40,000 feet. On Wednesday, March 12, it had made two-thirds of its journey and crossed the tectonic plate to Europe. Organizers hoped the balloon would make to Europe, but after 40 hours and 3300 miles, the balloon lost altitude late Wednesday and went into the ocean as it neared Ireland. Using radio frequencies, the balloon transmitted data detailing its current location, distance traveled, speed, height and health of the balloon. The balloon's payload consisted of hand-made computers and radios, along with a GPS and self-authored software. The onboard computer gathered such information from the GPS as altitude, speed and temperature; the computer then determined whether the balloon needed to drop weight to maintain its altitude and sent this information, via Amateur Radio frequencies, to volunteers around the globe.

* Exhibit Kits Now Available for Field Day: Please visit our Field Day information page <http://www.arr.org/fieldday> for all the details on Field Day rules, frequencies, forms, pins, logos and T shirts. The complete Field Day packet can be downloaded from the site as well. If you have unanswered questions about Field Day, contact ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, via e-mail <fcinfo@arrl.org> or by phone at 860-594-0236. If you want to order exhibit kits containing printed flyers about Amateur Radio, you may order these materials <http://www.arrl.org/brochures/> on the ARRL Web site. The cost of the exhibit kits ranges from $8-$12 depending on shipping. To make sure you'll have the display material in time for Field Day, your order must be received before June 13.

* Amateur Radio Exempt from California's New "Hands Free" Law: On July 1, the State of California will have new laws on the books to deal with the use of wireless telephones while driving. There has been some confusion as to whether California amateurs who operate in their car will be affected by the new law. According to the California Department of Motor Vehicle's Web site <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/dl208_03cell_phone.pdf>, "the use of dedicated two-way radios such as walkie-talkies or Citizen Band (CB) radios is not affected by the new law" for drivers 18 or older.

* Notes from the DXCC Desk: ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the 2007 ZL1GO/8 DXpedition to Kermadec Island has been approved for DXCC credit. "If you had cards rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail <dxcc@arrl.org> to the ARRL DXCC Desk to have your DXCC record updated," Moore said.

* Snake Update: E-mails to name the W1HQ snake <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/02/21/100/> keep coming in to ARRL HQ. According to ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, more 600 names have been submitted. "I am sorting through the names and soon the W1HQ team will go through all of them and choose the name for our mascot."

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all

automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You
must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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181. Re: The Spirit of Knoxville

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-15 03:51:09 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <hhhmt3h644nsrotmrjve0kemeu4laur6eq@4ax.com>
Source record: 3152

On Fri, 14 Mar 2008 05:35:50 EDT, crn@NOSPAM.netunix.com wrote:

>A balloon is an aircraft so that makes it illegal to transmit.
>No transmitting equipment may be operated from an aircraft other than
>type approved aviation band equipment under the control of the commander.

This may be the case in the UK - I'm not up to speed on that, though -
but as far as US-registered aircraft is concerned, non-aviation radio
equipment, such as amateur radio, common-carrier radio, private mobile
("two-way") radio, and broadcast auxiliary radio is installed and
operated routinely by persons other than the aircraft commander, as
long as the station is authorized either by specific license or by
blanket authorization.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

182. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-15 06:00:08 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1205560800@panix.com>
Source record: 3153
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

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Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.4 2008/03/13 04:38:09
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
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promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. Crossposts of regular discussion articles between rec.radio.amateur.moderated and other discussion newsgroups are not permitted.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/ announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers, and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header, containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the moderators if one is not already provided.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

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2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns, are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true."

"That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html |

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

183. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-15 12:14:04 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <9668385b-b046-4714-9889-676642a49ac5@c33g2000hsd.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3154

On Mar 9, 4:10 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Mar 5, 3:20 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> >> N...@aol.com wrote:
> >>> On Mar 3, 2:40 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:

> >> Gotcha, Jug!
>
> > Marcellus? Is that you?
>
> Complete with insignia!

Almost time to put the blue sweaters away.

> There's no one who can reduce a waste stream
> like West Africans. The
> seams in Coke cans are opened after the tops
> and bottoms are removed and
> the cans are rolled flat. The become roofing material
> or house siding.
> Black trash bags are washed and recycled. Pop bottles
> become water
> bottles and used 55-gallon drums (previous contents
> unknown) are used
> for making palm or cashew wine.

Except for the reuse of possibly-contaminated 55-gal drums it all
sounds good.

The dial drum of the Southgate Type 7 was made from a piece of 6"
diameter plexiglass pipe. It was thoroughly cleaned and about a 2"
long section cut off. A disk 6" in diameter was then cut and the pipe
solvent-welded to the disk using Duco.

The neutralizing-adjustment disk from a BC-375 tuning unit was then
bolted to the bottom so that the dial drum could be mounted on an
extension of the tuning capacitor shaft.

The dial drum is viewed through a Plexiglas window. A piece of paper
wrapped around the drum was calibrated using an LM frequency meter,
then a good copy drawn using a CAD program. The good copy was printed
on translucent Mylar and put on the drum.

A lampholder/reflector assembly is mounted inside the dial drum, with
two pilot lights so the whole thing is illuminated.

> > You want a Southgate type number for it?
>
> I think that'd be appropriate.
>
Indeed! I will speak with Engineering Documentation about it.

> The upright case has a full metal cover, space for a cooling fan and a
> shelf which can hold the rectifier board and electrolytic caps. The
> bottles aren't U.S. types, they're Phillips equivalents with graphite
> plates. They should hold up for a long time. I'll use Chinese
> Coleman-type lantern chimneys.

There's a good discussion over on eham about high power tubes,
gettering and other issues. Unlike receiving tubes with their shiny
flashed getters, high power tubes often use the anode or a coating as
the getter, and need to operate at high temperature to work.

Lots of good info out there free for the download. W5JGV's site has
info from Eimac, RCA, Taylor and other tube makers. Not just the usual
number and data but application notes, recommended practices, etc.

> > Yes, but they want you to *buy* the stuff! My adapters
> > were made from
> > scraps.
>
> Some of us would have to buy stuff in order to have scraps.

Bwaahaahaa

>I've found
> that the hobby shop stuff is not terribly expensive. They also have
> round, square and sheet plastic stock. Some is clear and some is
> translucent--ideal for making dial scales.

See description, above. I gotta take more pics...

> > Exactly. Wood prices have changed, though; today
> > a tabletop might be
> > AC plywood.
> > Depends what's on the cull cart.
>
> I don't have a place with a cull cart. I've sometimes bought
> ugly-looking plywood and topped a desk with vinyl floor tile. If you

> want to fancy one up, hardwood veneer isn't too pricey.

Don't want fancy. Want functional.

Thursday there was the remains of a packing box for some new furniture
by a dumpster near here. The box was corrugated but the base was nice
2x4 and 1x6, nailed together. Cut off the corrugated and saved the
wood.

> > The former belongs in a museum, the latter in a home.
>

> Not everyone lives like us, Jim. • Some folks have houses
> large enough to
> be homes *and* museums and the wherewithal to populate
> the place with
> both types of antiques.

Yep, you're right. Particularly around here!

>• I can appreciate antiques as art but we don't
> have enough room for antiques we can't put to use unless
> they happen to
> be art for the wall or items which can sit on a table for
> the most part.

Same here. All about multiple uses.

> You're a lightweight! • My main operating position is representative >
of
> overkill. • The frame is 2x4's; the legs are 4x4's and the top is a
> hollow core door. • There's a two shelf console with two angled
> wings,
> with enough roof under the first shelf for solid-state brick
> VHF/UHF
> amps, keyers, paddles, DVK and the like.

For me that frame is overkill but the hollow-core door is underkill -
not strong enough.

> Did I mention the six foot rack to my right?

I've had table racks but always wanted a six or seven foot floor rack.
My old Handbook has plans for a wooden one...

> > I did one table with a hollow core door many years ago (it was
> > free)
> > but they are too flimsy and too expensive for TSS approval now.
>
> They hold up well with the 2x4 frame and 2x4 bracing.

Yes but that's not the issue. You can punch right through the surface
with something sharp and heavy enough.
>
> > The shack table in the website picture was designed for Field
> > Day use,
> > 25 years ago. The top was the maximum size that would fit in
> > the back
> > of a VW Rabbit with the rear seat taken out. All the legs and
> > braces
> > are bolted on in such a way that the whole thing breaks down
> >into one
> > package. Does the job for now but a replacement is in the
> > works.
>

> Mine will break down too, but I don't think it'll fit in a Rabbit. :-)

Less than 10 minutes to set up or take down, no tools needed. It's all about multiple uses. No card-tables on FD for me.

73 de Jim, N2EY

184. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-16 08:50:34 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <Ua5Dj.6117$Sa1.5001@news02.roc.ny>
Source record: 3155

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Mar 9, 4:10 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>> On Mar 5, 3:20 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>>>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>>>> On Mar 3, 2:40 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>>>> Gotcha, Jug!
>>> Marcellus? Is that you?
>> Complete with insignia!
>
> Almost time to put the blue sweaters away.

Right you are.

>> There's no one who can reduce a waste stream
>> like West Africans. The
>> seams in Coke cans are opened after the tops
>> and bottoms are removed and
>> the cans are rolled flat. The become roofing material
>> or house siding.
>> Black trash bags are washed and recycled. Pop bottles
>> become water
>> bottles and used 55-gallon drums (previous contents
>> unknown) are used
>> for making palm or cashew wine.
>
> Except for the reuse of possibly-contaminated 55-gal drums it all
> sounds good.

Yeah, I've thought about it a great deal. Some of those drums may have had petroleum products or pesticides or such. You might want to think about getting your beef in a black trash bag which was previously used for garbage. I once bought a loaf of French bread on the street which came wrapped in a letter I'd discarded in the trash. It didn't bother me too much since I'd already gotten used to picking the baked weevils out of the bread.

> The dial drum of the Southgate Type 7 was made from a piece of 6"
> diameter plexiglass pipe. It was thoroughly cleaned and about a 2"
> long section cut off. A disk 6" in diameter was then cut and the pipe
> solvent-welded to the disk using Duco.

> The neutralizing-adjustment disk from a BC-375 tuning unit was then
> bolted to the bottom so that the dial drum could be mounted on an

> extension of the tuning capacitor shaft.
>
> The dial drum is viewed through a Plexiglas window. A piece of paper
> wrapped around the drum was calibrated using an LM frequency meter,
> then a good copy drawn using a CAD program. The good copy was printed
> on translucent Mylar and put on the drum.

That's a pretty inventive way to handle a homebrew dial.

> A lampholder/reflector assembly is mounted inside the dial drum, with
> two pilot lights so the whole thing is illuminated.

It sounds remarkably like the way Hammarlund handled the
dial/illumination in the HQ-215.

>>> You want a Southgate type number for it?
>> I think that'd be appropriate.
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> Indeed! I will speak with Engineering Documentation about it.

I received the data from Engineering.

>> The upright case has a full metal cover, space for a cooling fan and a
>> shelf which can hold the rectifier board and electrolytic caps. • The
>> bottles aren't U.S. types, they're Phillips equivalents with graphite
>> plates. • They should hold up for a long time. • I'll use Chinese
>> Coleman-type lantern chimneys.
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> There's a good discussion over on eham about high power tubes,
> gettering and other issues. Unlike receiving tubes with their shiny
> flashed getters, high power tubes often use the anode or a coating as
> the getter, and need to operate at high temperature to work.

I've read the eham thread and have even participated.

> Lots of good info out there free for the download. W5JGV's site has
> info from Eimac, RCA, Taylor and other tube makers. Not just the usual
> number and data but application notes, recommended practices, etc.

I'm forced to admit that I've got many of the original transmitting and
receiving guides. When I sold industrial electronics for Hughes-Peters,
I rescued an old Eimac three-ring binder from the trash. It contains
the specs for most early and late Eimac bottles along with applications
notes and design info for amateur amplifiers. Quite a number of those
notes and articles were done by Bill Orr W6SAI (SK). I consider Bill's
articles to be excellent.

>> Yes, but they want you to *buy* the stuff! My adapters
>>> were made from
>>> scraps.
>> Some of us would have to buy stuff in order to have scraps.
>
> Bwaahaahaa

I can't tell you how many leftovers I have from buying material for a project. When I lived in Cincy, I used to hit the scrap bins of a plastics distributor so I have quite a bit of scrap teflon, nylon and lucite rod, sheet and tube. Finding it when I want it is the hard part.

>> I've found
>> that the hobby shop stuff is not terribly expensive. They also have
>> round, square and sheet plastic stock. Some is clear and some is
>> translucent--ideal for making dial scales.
>
> See description, above. I gotta take more pics...
>
>>> Exactly. Wood prices have changed, though; today
>>> a tabletop might be
>>> AC plywood.

>>> Depends what's on the cull cart.

>> I don't have a place with a cull cart. I've sometimes bought
>> ugly-looking plywood and topped a desk with vinyl floor tile. If you
>
>> want to fancy one up, hardwood veneer isn't too pricey.
>
> Don't want fancy. Want functional.

Keeping the XYL happy, serves a function. Keeping visiting hams from laughing, serves a function.

> Thursday there was the remains of a packing box for some new furniture
> by a dumpster near here. The box was corrugated but the base was nice
> 2x4 and 1x6, nailed together. Cut off the corrugated and saved the
> wood.

I'm not above that. My last crank up tower from Tashjian/Tri-Ex had a crate built from 22-foot-long California 2x4's and some long, narrow strips of plywood. I kept it all. I'd never even seen 22' pieces of 2x4 stock prior to getting these. They're reddish in color and are of some sort of pine not often found here in the East.

>>> The former belongs in a museum, the latter in a home.
>> Not everyone lives like us, Jim. Some folks have houses
>> large enough to
>> be homes *and* museums and the wherewithal to populate
>> the place with
>> both types of antiques.
>
> Yep, you're right. Particularly around here!

Well, these 3,000 to 5000 square foot mega-homes have been cropping up everywhere in the past decade. They're much cheaper to heat and cool than some of the earlier built homes.

>> • I can appreciate antiques as art but we don't
>> have enough room for antiques we can't put to use unless
>> they happen to
>> be art for the wall or items which can sit on a table for
>> the most part.
>
> Same here. All about multiple uses.

...and the conservation of space.

>> You're a lightweight! • My main operating position is representative >
> of
>> overkill. • The frame is 2x4's; the legs are 4x4's and the top is a
>> hollow core door. • There's a two shelf console with two angled
>> wings,
>> with enough roof under the first shelf for solid-state brick
>> VHF/UHF
>> amps, keyers, paddles, DVK and the like.
>
> For me that frame is overkill but the hollow-core door is underkill -
> not strong enough.

The console is the key to strength.

>> Did I mention the six foot rack to my right?
>
> I've had table racks but always wanted a six or seven foot floor rack.
> My old Handbook has plans for a wooden one...

I remember seeing the plans.

>>> I did one table with a hollow core door many years ago (it was
>>> free)
>>> but they are too flimsy and too expensive for TSS approval now.
>> They hold up well with the 2x4 frame and 2x4 bracing.
>
> Yes but that's not the issue. You can punch right through the surface
> with something sharp and heavy enough.

That's why I mentioned the console. Everything heavy sits on it. The
four supports for it distribute the weight so that nothing can break
through the door. There's one large HF rig, one HF/VHF/UHF rig, four
rotor control boxes, an HF amp, three remote coaxial switches, three
watt meters, two speakers, an antenna tune, a RTTY/digital modem, spare
receiver and a monitor scope on the console. Assorted accessory boxes
sit under the console and there's an LCD computer monitor and a keyboard
on the desk too.

Dave K8MN

185. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-16 18:04:13 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <17a355f9-595c-4625-93b7-6d3718af54a7@n77g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3156

On Mar 16, 3:50 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Mar 9, 4:10 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> >> N...@aol.com wrote:
> >>> On Mar 5, 3:20 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> >>>> N...@aol.com wrote:
> >>>>> On Mar 3, 2:40pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:

> > Except for the reuse of possibly-contaminated 55-gal drums it all
> > sounds good.

> Yeah, I've thought about it a great deal. I once bought a loaf of
> French bread on the street which
> came wrapped in a letter I'd discarded in the trash. It didn't bothe
r
> me too much since I'd already gotten used to picking the baked
> weevils out of the bread.

You owe me a new keyboard for that story.

> > The dial drum of the Southgate Type 7.... The
> > good copy was printed
> > on translucent Mylar and put on the drum.

> That's a pretty inventive way to handle a homebrew dial.

TNX. Not a single new part was used. It's done a good job these past
dozen years.

> It sounds remarkably like the way Hammarlund handled the
> dial/illumination in the HQ-215.

That's what inspired the design, except there's no dial cord in the
Type 7. IIRC, the HQ-215 lamps aren't *inside* the dial drum, are
they?

> I received the data from Engineering.

Good. Ms. Yardley sends greetings.
>
> > Unlike receiving tubes with their shiny
> > flashed getters, high power tubes often
> > use the anode or a coating as
> > the getter, and need to operate at high temperature to work.
>
> I've read the eham thread and have even participated.

Excellent!

> I'm forced to admit that I've got many of the original
> transmitting and
> receiving guides. &#65533; When I sold industrial electronics for
> Hughes-Peters,
> I rescued an old Eimac three-ring binder from the trash.
>&#65533; It contains
> the specs for most early and late Eimac bottles along with
> applications
> notes and design info for amateur amplifiers. &#65533;

Priceless stuff!

> Quite a number of those
> notes and articles were done by Bill Orr W6SAI (SK).
>&#65533; I consider Bill's
> articles to be excellent.

I agree. Those articles and notes often go far beyond mere
specifications and general data, too. They often explain *why*
something is done, not just what to do.

A lot of the info is rather subtle. For example, if one is used to
receiving and low-power transmitting tubes with their silvery flashed
getters, where overheating causes the getter to lose its silvery
appearance, it is counter-intuitive that the gettering action of high
power transmitting tubes can actually depend the plate reaching high
temperatures. Or that, in the case of high-gain glass tetrodes like
the 4-125A, running lightly loaded can cause the glass of the tube to
soften from electron bombardment.

I think that a lot of things were tossed in the 1970s-1990s because
folks thought they'd never be needed again. Can't tell you how many
tubes and tube-related parts I acquired in those years for little or
nothing, because the folks getting rid of it thought nobody would ever
need or want it in the future.

This sort of thing even happens in the aerospace industry. A lot of
documentation was simply dumped as programs ended. Rocket engine
designers are going to museums to see how it was done in the past, and
have the problem of seeing what was done but not why.

> I can't tell you how many leftovers I have from buying material for > a
> project. &#65533; When I lived in Cincy, I used to hit the scrap bins of a
> plastics distributor so I have quite a bit of scrap teflon, nylon and
> lucite rod, sheet and tube. &#65533; Finding it when I want it is the hard
> part.

Same here.

How's this for scrounging:

When this house got new siding back a few years, the antenna mast had to come down so the siding could be put on. But when the mast was to be reinstalled, I needed some spacers to make everything line up correctly.

Machining metal to do the job would have been a big deal. Wood was easy but would be a maintenance job, exposed to the weather. PVC was too soft and not available in the right sizes anyway.

Then I remembered that relatives had redone their kitchen some years earlier, and had gotten white Corian countertops installed. The installers had left some Corian scraps behind. The relatives had kept them, figuring there had to be some use for such wonderful material.

Sure enough, the scraps were still available for the asking. I got some and made the exact spacer blocks needed. Tough, weatherproof, easy to machine, and even the right color.
> > Don't want fancy. Want functional.
>
> Keeping the XYL happy, serves a function.

Agreed.

>
> Keeping visiting hams from
> laughing, serves a function.

They don't laugh when they see the contest scores.

> I'm not above that. Ø My last crank up tower from
> Tashjian/Tri-Ex had a
> crate built from 22-foot-long California 2x4's and
> some long, narrow
> strips of plywood. Ø I kept it all. Ø I'd never even seen 22' piec
es of
> 2x4 stock prior to getting these. Ø They're reddish in color
> and are of
> some sort of pine not often found here in the East.

The only places I've seen such long pieces of 2x4 were in old balloon-framed houses. One reason balloon-framing ended was the availability and cost of such wood.

> Well, these 3,000 to 5000 square foot mega-homes
> have been cropping up
> everywhere in the past decade.

We call them "McMansions" in these parts. But that really applies more to the 4,000-8.000+ sf houses we see.

It is not unusual around here to see a perfectly good house from the 1950s to 1970s bought and torn down by a developer so a McMansion can be built. The value is in the land - often the price of the new place is twice that of the old. The current housing bust has mostly put an

end to that, but not completely. More than a few locals are up in arms because it means less "affordable" housing units.

The amateur radio connection to all of this is that often the house which was torn down had mature trees good for antennas and no CC&Rs. "Development" often removes at least some of the trees, or they don't survive the construction process, and the new place is usually CC&R'd to the max.

>• They're much cheaper to heat and cool
> than some of the earlier built homes.

That depends on two factors: scaling (as a house gets bigger, the interior volume grows faster than the exterior wall/roof area) and how houses are built.

When this house got the work done a couple summers ago, and some walls were opened, it turned out that there was no insulation. Just a thin layer of wallboard, 2x4s, 1x10 sheathing (not plywood yet the house is from 1950) tar paper and mineral siding. Of course insulation and Tyvek were installed, and then the new siding.

> > Same here. All about multiple uses.
>
> ...and the conservation of space.

More on that below.

> The console is the key to strength.

> That's why I mentioned the console. •
> Everything heavy sits on it. • The
> four supports for it distribute the weight so that nothing can break
> through the door. • There's one large HF rig, one HF/VHF/UHF rig,
> four
> rotor control boxes, an HF amp, three remote coaxial switches,
> three
> watt meters, two speakers, an antenna tune, a RTTY/digital
> modem, spare
> receiver and a monitor scope on the console. • Assorted
> accessory boxes
> sit under the console and there's an LCD computer monitor
> and a keyboard
> on the desk too.

Beautiful, just beautiful..

One difference is that your console/desk is purpose-built for the shack. Custom use, IOW. The op desk I use was designed to be multi-purpose, and has been on several Field Days, as have the Southgate rigs.

When a thing is built to do just one thing, it can often be made simple and yet high-performance for that one thing. When it has to do multiple things, there are always more compromises.

73 de Jim, N2EY

186. Secrecy Clause of the Communications Act of 1934

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-16 18:04:27 UTC
From: Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
Message-ID: <fast-4F3464.09404016032008@netnews.worldnet.att.net>
Source record: 3157

Hello Phil, I was wondering if the Secrecy Clause was still a part of the Communications Act of 1934, or if it had been rescinded or replaced by some other Language in some later Act? Does it still apply to any FCC Operator License Holder?

--
Bruce in alaska
add <path> after <fast> to reply

187. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-16 22:53:15 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <WhhDj.6153$Sa1.394@news02.roc.ny>
Source record: 3158

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Mar 16, 3:50 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>> On Mar 9, 4:10 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
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>>> Except for the reuse of possibly-contaminated 55-gal drums it all
>>> sounds good.
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>> Yeah, I've thought about it a great deal. I once bought a loaf of
>> French bread on the street which
>> came wrapped in a letter I'd discarded in the trash. It didn't bothe
> r
>> me too much since I'd already gotten used to picking the baked
>> weevils out of the bread.
>
> You owe me a new keyboard for that story.

Heh. What's funny is that after you've lived in one of those places for a while, these things tend to seem perfectly rational. When the embassy water pump broke, we lived for six weeks with a string of locals hiking the five flights to our flat with a bucket full of water in each hand. They'd dump the buck in a plastic garbage can, turn around and trot down the stairs for another couple of buckets. We lived like that for six weeks--taking bucket baths, doing hand wash and so forth. Keep in mind that all water used for drinking/cooking had to be boiled and filtered before use, whether the pumps were in operation or not.

We had a pipe burst inside a wall of our laundry room once. There was no pipe available in town. Worker dug into the concrete wall, found the break and used rubber tubing and hose clamps to join the broken pieces. With every surge of the water pump, the tubing expanded and contracted, looking like it had a pulse. WAWA--West Africa Wins Again.

>>> The dial drum of the Southgate Type 7.... The
>>> good copy was printed
>>> on translucent Mylar and put on the drum.
>
>> That's a pretty inventive way to handle a homebrew dial.
>
> TNX. Not a single new part was used. It's done a good job these past
> dozen years.

That's the ultimate in junk box building and a good track record for the
finished project.

>> It sounds remarkably like the way Hammarlund handled the
>> dial/illumination in the HQ-215.
>
> That's what inspired the design, except there's no dial cord in the
> Type 7. IIRC, the HQ-215 lamps aren't *inside* the dial drum, are
> they?

Yes, it is. There's only one inside the drum and another for the
S-meter. To the left of the dial window is a calibration adjustment.
To the right is an identical knob which dims the dial lamps if desired.
I desire it a lot since dimming them a bit keeps from having to put in
new lamps very often.

>> I received the data from Engineering.
>
> Good. Ms. Yardley sends greetings.

Heh.

>>> Unlike receiving tubes with their shiny
>>> flashed getters, high power tubes often
>>> use the anode or a coating as
>>> the getter, and need to operate at high temperature to work.
>> I've read the eham thread and have even participated.
>
> Excellent!

I don't know if it is or not. There's been some anger exhibited over
some issues. Quite a bit of erroneous information has been passed.

>> I'm forced to admit that I've got many of the original
>> transmitting and
>> receiving guides. • When I sold industrial electronics for
>> Hughes-Peters,
>> I rescued an old Eimac three-ring binder from the trash.
>> • It contains
>> the specs for most early and late Eimac bottles along with
>> applications
>> notes and design info for amateur amplifiers. •
>
> Priceless stuff!

I've never even seen another of them.

>> Quite a number of those
>> notes and articles were done by Bill Orr W6SAI (SK).
>> • I consider Bill's
>> articles to be excellent.
>
> I agree. Those articles and notes often go far beyond mere
> specifications and general data, too. They often explain *why*

> something is done, not just what to do.

Exactly. I'd never realized until I got the binder that Eimac had even published amateur linear amplifier "how to" articles. A linear amp isn't a difficult thing to design yourself if you understand why a final tank Q within a paricular range is desired and you can use tables published by Orr for translating the plate load impedence of a particular bottle (run at a particular plate voltage) to find the values of C1, C2 and L needed for the tank circuit.

> A lot of the info is rather subtle. For example, if one is used to
> receiving and low-power transmitting tubes with their silvery flashed
> getters, where overheating causes the getter to lose its silvery
> appearance, it is counter-intuitive that the gettering action of high
> power transmitting tubes can actually depend the plate reaching high
> temperatures.

It makes sense. There is a great difference between a receiving-type tube run at relatively low voltages and a high power transmitting tube run at high voltages. Their construction is quite different.

> Or that, in the case of high-gain glass tetrodes like
> the 4-125A, running lightly loaded can cause the glass of the tube to
> soften from electron bombardment.

That sort of thing was also evident in TV horizontal output tubes. As I pointed out in the e-ham forum, Nonex glass was used in some later sweep tubes to help in preventing suck-in.

> I think that a lot of things were tossed in the 1970s-1990s because
> folks thought they'd never be needed again. Can't tell you how many
> tubes and tube-related parts I acquired in those years for little or
> nothing, because the folks getting rid of it thought nobody would ever
> need or want it in the future.

I have enough boat anchor gear that I've taken about anything offered over the years. Having the parts to keep something running isn't the problem. Storage is.

> This sort of thing even happens in the aerospace industry. A lot of
> documentation was simply dumped as programs ended. Rocket engine
> designers are going to museums to see how it was done in the past, and
> have the problem of seeing what was done but not why.

I've read articles stating that NASA is having real problem as those with knowledge of the design of such engines are retiring or have already retired.

>> I can't tell you how many leftovers I have from buying material for > a
>> project. • When I lived in Cincy, I used to hit the scrap bins of a
>> plastics distributor so I have quite a bit of scrap teflon, nylon and
>> lucite rod, sheet and tube. • Finding it when I want it is the hard
>> part.

>
> Same here.
>
> How's this for scrounging:
>
> When this house got new siding back a few years, the antenna mast had
> to come down so the siding could be put on. But when the mast was to
> be reinstalled, I needed some spacers to make everything line up
> correctly.
>
> Machining metal to do the job would have been a big deal. Wood was
> easy but would be a maintenance job, exposed to the weather. PVC was
> too soft and not available in the right sizes anyway.
>
> Then I remembered that relatives had redone their kitchen some years
> earlier, and had gotten white Corian countertops installed. The
> installers had left some Corian scraps behind. The relatives
> had kept them, figuring there had to be some use for such wonderful
> material.

That's one I'd not considered. What I might have considered is that
newer composite decking material which is designed to last for decades.
It can be cut easily and comes in a variety of color. I'd have likely
gone with something like that since nobody hereabouts has put in any
Corian counters lately.

> Sure enough, the scraps were still available for the asking. I got
> some and made the exact spacer blocks needed. Tough, weatherproof,
> easy to machine, and even the right color.

Sometimes you just get lucky.

>>> Don't want fancy. Want functional.

>> Keeping the XYL happy, serves a function.
>
> Agreed.
>
>> Keeping visiting hams from
>> laughing, serves a function.
>
> They don't laugh when they see the contest scores.

That largely depends on who the visitor is.

>> I'm not above that. Keeping My last crank up tower from
>> Tashjian/Tri-Ex had a
>> crate built from 22-foot-long California 2x4's and
>> some long, narrow
>> strips of plywood. Keeping I kept it all. Keeping I'd never even seen 22' piec
> es of
>> 2x4 stock prior to getting these. Keeping They're reddish in color

>> and are of
>> some sort of pine not often found here in the East.
>
> The only places I've seen such long pieces of 2x4 were in old balloon-
> framed houses. One reason balloon-framing ended was the availability
> and cost of such wood.

I'm not familiar with the term "balloon framing". I'm looking it up. I don't think there's anything available from my local lumberyard in lengths exceeding 16'.

>> Well, these 3,000 to 5000 square foot mega-homes
>> have been cropping up
>> everywhere in the past decade.
>
> We call them "McMansions" in these parts. But that really applies more
> to the 4,000-8.000+ sf houses we see.

There are some of 'em in Wheeling, but not many. I think those homes were the product of a booming economy and easy credit. Those days are over for at least the time being.

> It is not unusual around here to see a perfectly good house from the
> 1950s to 1970s bought and torn down by a developer so a McMansion can
> be built. The value is in the land - often the price of the new place
> is twice that of the old. The current housing bust has mostly put an
> end to that, but not completely. More than a few locals are up in arms
> because it means less "affordable" housing units.

I can't really understand the "up in arms" part because we really having a surplus of existing housing in the country. The "tear it down and build a new one" stuff is going on in the Cincinnati area too.

> The amateur radio connection to all of this is that often the house
> which was torn down had mature trees good for antennas and no CC&Rs.
> "Development" often removes at least some of the trees, or they don't
> survive the construction process, and the new place is usually CC&R'd
> to the max.

That IS a problem for radio amateurs. I think a bigger problem is that most of our newer housing is built in subdivisions. Those subdivisions are not radio friendly at all. I'm seeing more and more magazine articles on stealth antennas. I won't consider living in one of those areas.

We're sitting on an acre. If we re-locate, I'd be happier with 2 or 3 acres. I wouldn't object if half of that area happened to be in trees or woods though.

>> • They're much cheaper to heat and cool
>> than some of the earlier built homes.
>
> That depends on two factors: scaling (as a house gets bigger, the

> interior volume grows faster than the exterior wall/roof area) and how
> houses are built.

The "how houses are built" part is what I meant to address. Things like
a geothermal heating/cooling systems are another factor. W8RHM's new
place has one and it is a large house. His heating and cooling bills
are quite reasonable.

> When this house got the work done a couple summers ago, and some walls
> were opened, it turned out that there was no insulation. Just a thin
> layer of wallboard, 2x4s, 1x10 sheathing (not plywood yet the house is
> from 1950) tar paper and mineral siding. Of course insulation and
> Tyvek were installed, and then the new siding.

That had to make a difference.

>>> Same here. All about multiple uses.
>> ...and the conservation of space.
>
> More on that below.
>
>> The console is the key to strength.
>
>> That's why I mentioned the console. &#65533;
>> Everything heavy sits on it. &#65533; The
>> four supports for it distribute the weight so that nothing can break
>> through the door. &#65533; There's one large HF rig, one HF/VHF/UHF rig,
>> four
>> rotor control boxes, an HF amp, three remote coaxial switches,
>> three
>> watt meters, two speakers, an antenna tune, a RTTY/digital
>> modem, spare
>> receiver and a monitor scope on the console. &#65533; Assorted
>> accessory boxes
>> sit under the console and there's an LCD computer monitor
>> and a keyboard
>> on the desk too.
>
> Beautiful, just beautiful..

If not beautiful, at least it isn't ugly. The console and the former
W8YX desk got hauled to each of my Foreign Service postings. The
console is approaching thirty years in age. It gets a new coat of paint
about once per decade.

> One difference is that your console/desk is purpose-built for the
> shack. Custom use, IOW. The op desk I use was designed to be multi-
> purpose, and has been on several Field Days, as have the Southgate
> rigs.

N8NN and I have been using those plastic-topped banquet tables with the
folding legs inside a screen room for FD use. That's because 1) they're

easy to set up and take down and 2) Bert has some.

> When a thing is built to do just one thing, it can often be made
> simple and yet high-performance for that one thing. When it has to do
> multiple things, there are always more compromises.

It is really difficult to buy something which is really ideal for an amateur radio operating position. Computer hutches/desks tend to be a little on the small side and aren't generally as stoutly built as necessary. For some of us, what worked really well at one point might not be as handy years later, when the amount of gear expands to fill all available space. I used to get by with the old W8YX desk with a 3x5' top. The position I now use is 3x7'. If I relocate, I'll consider a homebrew U-shaped operating position. The room I'm in at present does not lend itself to that.

Dave K8MN

188. Re: Secrecy Clause of the Communications Act of 1934

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-17 01:50:53 UTC
From: Richard Knoppow <dickburk@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <13triib2o7jcu0f@corp.supernews.com>
Source record: 3159

"Bruce in alaska" <fast@btpost.net> wrote in message
news:fast-4F3464.09404016032008@netnews.worldnet.att.net...
> Hello Phil, I was wondering if the Secrecy Clause was
> still a part of
> the Communications Act of 1934, or if it had been
> rescinded or replaced
> by some other Language in some later Act? Does it still
> apply to any FCC
> Operator License Holder?
>
> --
> Bruce in alaska
> add <path> after <fast> to reply
>
I am not an attorney or a specialist so I can't answer
this directly. However, you might be able to find what you
want at:
http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/18/usc_sup_01_18_10_I_20_119.html

The entire current communications act is available as a PDF
from the FCC at:
www.fcc.gov/Reports/1934new.pdf

I think what you are asking about is the restriction on
discolosing any private communication one might intercept.
This never applied to amateur communication because it is
not, per se, private. It would apply to any commercial
communication you might overhear other than that clearly
intended for public consumption such as broadcasting.
That is, if you can hear telephone conversations from a
wireless phone or similar you may not disclose them to a
third party.
I suspect that like all law there are all sorts of
convoluted special conditions applying to this.

--

Richard Knoppow
Los Angeles, CA, USA
dickburk@ix.netcom.com

189. MFJ-998 Ant Tuner Question

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-17 06:02:13 UTC
From: "Dr.Ace - WH2T" <WH2T@ISP.com>
Message-ID: <149f4$47de033a$4fc6314$17012@DIALUPUSA.NET>
Source record: 3160

Hi All,
Does anyone have any info, experience, opinions, etc. about the MFJ-998, 1500 watt Intellituner. I am thinking about ordering one for HF operations. BTW, (now I'm bragging) I recently got a mint condition Henry 3002 amp but I haven't installed the 240 V AC wall socket yet. Unless I put up another antenna I will not be able to run it at full output as my cushcraft 215wb is only rated for a KW.
73 all, Ace - WH2T

.

190. Re: Secrecy Clause of the Communications Act of 1934

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-17 19:08:01 UTC
From: Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
Message-ID: <fast-4675FF.08283017032008@netnews.worldnet.att.net>
Source record: 3161

In article <13triib2o7jcu0f@corp.supernews.com>,
"Richard Knoppow" <dickburk@ix.netcom.com> wrote:

> "Bruce in alaska" <fast@btpost.net> wrote in message
> news:fast-4F3464.09404016032008@netnews.worldnet.att.net...
> > Hello Phil, I was wondering if the Secrecy Clause was
> > still a part of
> > the Communications Act of 1934, or if it had been
> > rescinded or replaced
> > by some other Language in some later Act? Does it still
> > apply to any FCC
> > Operator License Holder?
> >
> > --
> > Bruce in alaska
> > add <path> after <fast> to reply
> >
> I am not an attorney or a specialist so I can't answer
> this directly. However, you might be able to find what you
> want at:
> http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/18/usc_sup_01_18_10_I_20_119.html
>
> The entire current communications act is available as a PDF
> from the FCC at:
> www.fcc.gov/Reports/1934new.pdf
>
> I think what you are asking about is the restriction on
> discolosing any private communication one might intercept.
> This never applied to amateur communication because it is
> not, per se, private. It would apply to any commercial
> communication you might overhear other than that clearly
> intended for public consumption such as broadcasting.
> That is, if you can hear telephone conversations from a
> wireless phone or similar you may not disclose them to a
> third party.
> I suspect that like all law there are all sorts of
> convoluted special conditions applying to this.

I was just wondering if that language was still part of the
Communications Act of 1934. I am familiar with all it's ramifications,
as I have been a FCC Resident Field Agent, in the past. Phil
was an FCC Lawyer in California, before he left the Commission,
and I know he will have more current knowledge, about this, than
I have.

--
Bruce in alaska
add <path> after <fast> to reply

191. Re: Secrecy Clause of the Communications Act of 1934

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-17 23:36:34 UTC
From: Richard Knoppow <dickburk@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <13ttv474sb524b8@corp.supernews.com>
Source record: 3162

"Bruce in alaska" <fast@btpost.net> wrote in message
news:fast-4675FF.08283017032008@netnews.worldnet.att.net...
> In article <13triib2o7jcu0f@corp.supernews.com>,
> "Richard Knoppow" <dickburk@ix.netcom.com> wrote:
>
>> "Bruce in alaska" <fast@btpost.net> wrote in message
>> news:fast-4F3464.09404016032008@netnews.worldnet.att.net...
>> > Hello Phil, I was wondering if the Secrecy Clause was
>> > still a part of
>> > the Communications Act of 1934, or if it had been
>> > rescinded or replaced
>> > by some other Language in some later Act? Does it still
>> > apply to any FCC
>> > Operator License Holder?
>> >
>> > --
>> > Bruce in alaska
>> > add <path> after <fast> to reply
>> >
>> I am not an attorney or a specialist so I can't
>> answer
>> this directly. However, you might be able to find what
>> you
>> want at:
>> http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/18/usc_sup_01_18_10_I_20_119.html
>>
>> The entire current communications act is available as a
>> PDF
>> from the FCC at:
>> www.fcc.gov/Reports/1934new.pdf
>>
>> I think what you are asking about is the restriction
>> on
>> discolosing any private communication one might
>> intercept.
>> This never applied to amateur communication because it is
>> not, per se, private. It would apply to any commercial
>> communication you might overhear other than that clearly
>> intended for public consumption such as broadcasting.
>> That is, if you can hear telephone conversations from
>> a
>> wireless phone or similar you may not disclose them to a
>> third party.
>> I suspect that like all law there are all sorts of

>> convoluted special conditions applying to this.
>
> I was just wondering if that language was still part of
> the
> Communications Act of 1934. I am familiar with all it's
> ramifications,
> as I have been a FCC Resident Field Agent, in the past.
> Phil
> was an FCC Lawyer in California, before he left the
> Commission,
> and I know he will have more current knowledge, about
> this, than
> I have.
>
> --
> Bruce in alaska
> add <path> after <fast> to reply

The second link, the one to the FCC, has the complete
text of the current act but does not have an index which
makes it hard to look stuff up. I think it runs some 300
pages, if you know what section to look at you can see if
the language is still there. The privacy act may also apply
here and may provide protections not in the communications
act. All this is complicated by the various homeland
security acts which allow the government to do a lot of
snooping, but that does not apply to individuals.
I am also anxious to have an opinion from a lawyer who
specializes in communications law.

--

Richard Knoppow
Los Angeles, CA, USA
dickburk@ix.netcom.com

192. WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-18 14:44:27 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-F59B6F.10150818032008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3163

I am trying to convert "words per minute" into "bits per second."
Bits per second, in turn, is APPROXIMATELY equal to baud, a common
measure of modem (or other means of data transmission) speed. I need to
quantify one factor: How many letters are in a "word?" If we assume that
there are 5 (five) letters to a word, my calculations look like this:

```
WPM = 50
LPM = WPM * 5 # letters per minute
BPM = LPM * 8 # bits per minute
BPS = BPM / 60 # bits per second
BPS = 33.33
```

I have assumed 8 bits to the byte, which is quite generous
considering that Morse cannot encode an 8 bit character set or, for that
matter, the full ASCII character set, which is only 7 bit.
Can anyone see any obvious errors? Is 50 words per minute really
equal to about 33 baud?

--
Klystron

193. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-18 15:51:50 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <4560325d-d8a3-403f-81d4-fabc2183789b@e6g2000prf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3164

Here is how Morse speed is usually calculated:

If the text is typical plain-language English, the test word "PARIS" is used. WPM is the number of times PARIS can be sent in 1 minute, using proper spacing between dits and dahs, letters, and words.

It turns out that the word PARIS and one word space equals exactly 50 "dit times", with a dit time being the length of time the key is closed for a dit. (A dah is three dit times, the spaces between dits and dahs inside a character are one dit time, the spaces between letters are three dit times and the spaces between words are seven dit times.)

So if the word PARIS is sent 50 times in 1 minute, that minute is divided into 2500 dit times. Which is 41.66 bps.

The reason for the difference is that there are so many different timing issues in Morse Code. The elements, characters and spaces are all different lengths, with the most-common characters (like the letter E) being the shortest.

73 de Jim, N2EY

194. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-18 18:13:33 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <0610u31ag6rvetseaqseg86cp3b7v72611@4ax.com>
Source record: 3165

On Sun, 16 Mar 2008 04:50:34 EDT, Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
wrote:

>I'm forced to admit that I've got many of the original transmitting and
>receiving guides. When I sold industrial electronics for Hughes-Peters,
>I rescued an old Eimac three-ring binder from the trash. It contains
>the specs for most early and late Eimac bottles along with applications
>notes and design info for amateur amplifiers. Quite a number of those
>notes and articles were done by Bill Orr W6SAI (SK). I consider Bill's
>articles to be excellent.

Somewhere in my pile of stuff I have Eimac's "Care and Feeding of
Power Tetrodes". A classic.

Bill Eitel (SK), the "Ei" if Eimac, was a close buddy of my first FCC
boss, Ney Landry (W6UDU, ex-K6RI - but that "ex" is another story) and
I got to meet him several times in the office and at the hamfests that
eventually became Pacificon.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

195. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-18 18:24:32 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <6o10u39pasre4ng8hsb8lto13kacnoeoi1@4ax.com>
Source record: 3166

On Sun, 16 Mar 2008 14:04:13 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>The only places I've seen such long pieces of 2x4 were in old balloon-
>framed houses. One reason balloon-framing ended was the availability
>and cost of such wood.

The glue-lam framing industry uses them quite a bit, with a production line making all sorts of very long "timbers" from 2x4s and 2x6s held together by glue that is RF heat-sealed (13.6 MHz ISM stuff) and a flying-arm saw cutting them to length in a continuous process. I got to visit such a plant once, and marveled that everything worked as well as it did.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

196. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-18 18:30:12 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <6720u396dvlns713v7ufefp54foe5nndu7@4ax.com>
Source record: 3167

On Sun, 16 Mar 2008 14:04:13 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>The current housing bust has mostly put an
>end to that, but not completely. More than a few locals are up in arms
>because it means less "affordable" housing units.

There are homes now being built near here advertised as "golf course
homes starting in the mid-700s". I understand that most of them are a
Mill or more, and were sold even before construction started. For
some people there is no recession.....

Small shacks they are not - and I'll bet that there are CC&Rs against
putting up ham antennas even by folks with that kind of dough.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

197. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-18 18:35:05 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <nh20u3thpcjh3n3qh7thkbcu44hnqucbjh@4ax.com>
Source record: 3168

On Sun, 16 Mar 2008 14:04:13 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>That depends on two factors: scaling (as a house gets bigger, the
>interior volume grows faster than the exterior wall/roof area) and how
>houses are built.

A new mega-room mansion built near here by a developer for his own
family residence necessitated a much larger natural gas line to be put
into the neighborhood just to provide the heating of the place.

Every time I pass the place I envision where I could put up a 100 foot
tower with no real visual impact.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

198. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-18 19:30:11 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <daedne7accWsZELanZ2dnUVZ_tzinZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 3169

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> Here is how Morse speed is usually calculated:
>
> If the text is typical plain-language English, the test word "PARIS"
> is used. WPM is the number of times PARIS can be sent in 1 minute,
> using proper spacing between dits and dahs, letters, and words.
>
> It turns out that the word PARIS and one word space equals exactly 50
> "dit times", with a dit time being the length of time the key is
> closed for a dit. (A dah is three dit times, the spaces between dits
> and dahs inside a character are one dit time, the spaces between
> letters are three dit times and the spaces between words are seven dit
> times.)
>
> So if the word PARIS is sent 50 times in 1 minute, that minute is
> divided into 2500 dit times. Which is 41.66 bps.
>
> The reason for the difference is that there are so many different
> timing issues in Morse Code. The elements, characters and spaces are
> all different lengths, with the most-common characters (like the
> letter E) being the shortest.
>
> 73 de Jim, N2EY
>

Jim,

I'm sure your explanation is correct, but it leaves me confused: I know bps <> baud, but they're close, and the Model 15 Teletype I used to own operated at 45 baud. It seems illogical that Morse would be so high in the bps count.

73, Bill

--
Bill Horne, W1AC

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

199. Re: Secrecy Clause of the Communications Act of 1934

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-18 19:30:31 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <2d30u3pm6jr0m9h3pnle6ah20dr4075425@4ax.com>
Source record: 3170

On Sun, 16 Mar 2008 14:04:27 EDT, Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
wrote:

>Hello Phil, I was wondering if the Secrecy Clause was still a part of
>the Communications Act of 1934, or if it had been rescinded or replaced
>by some other Language in some later Act? Does it still apply to any FCC
>Operator License Holder?

Comes here the Kane tutorial on Communications Privacy / Secrecy......
<ggg>

First - some definition. "Intercept" means to merely receive the
contents of a communication, not necessarily the same meaning as to
"intercept a forward pass" in football. "Divulge" means to pass the
contents in whole or in part or in meaning to an other person not
authorized by law to receive such contents. "Personal use" means "use
for personal benefit or for the benefit of another not entitled to
thereof" although courts are loath to apply that unless there's a
monetary or similar benefit involved.

Now to the law. There are two sections of law that apply.

Section 705 of the Communications Act of 1934 as Amended [Section 605
of Title 47 of the U S Code] provides that no one receiving,
transmitting, or assisting in either may divulge the contents to
someone not authorized to receive such or make personal use of the
contents. with a whole bunch of exceptions and exemptions.

The Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA), part of Chapter 119
of the US Criminal Code [Section 2510 et seq of Title 18 of the U S
Code] provides that no one not authorized by the sender or by the law
may merely intercept certain types of communication. The violation
exists whether divulgence or personal use takes place or not. This is
the section of the law that provides the illusion of secrecy to cell
phone communications, among others. Again, there are a whole slew of
exceptions and exemptions.

Note that both sections exempt transmissions from amateur, CB, marine,
and aviation stations and communications relating to a disaster, as
well as broadcast programming (AM, FM, TV but not "satellite" TV)
intended for direct reception by the general public.

For more information. "inquire within". This is one of my
specialties.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
ARRL Volunteer Counsel

email: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

200. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-18 23:45:09 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <6a4705f0-ea91-43f0-8f4e-96add92b17f6@i12g2000prf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3171
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On Mar 18, 3:30 pm, Bill Horne wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > Here is how Morse speed is usually calculated:

> > It turns out that the word PARIS and one word space equals exactly 50
> > "dit times", with a dit time being the length of time the key is
> > closed for a dit.

> > So if the word PARIS is sent 50 times in 1 minute, that minute is
> > divided into 2500 dit times. Which is 41.66 bps.

> I'm sure your explanation is correct, but it leaves me confused: I know
> bps <> baud, but they're close, and the Model 15 Teletype I used to own
> operated at 45 baud. It seems illogical that Morse would be so high in
> the bps count.

The difference has to do with how the coding is done. The following is all from memory:

60 wpm Morse works out to 3000 bits per minute or 50 bits per second using the "PARIS" formula.

Your 45 baud Model 15 Teletype was in all probability what hams called a "60 wpm 5-level Baudot" machine. We had similar machines at the University. (In this post I use the term "Baudot" to mean the 5-level TTY code US hams used for many years until FCC allowed us other codes like ASCII in the early 1980s)

"Baudot" takes 7 bits to send a character: one start bit, five data bits, one stop bit. A space between words is a character, so to send the word "PARIS" would take six characters including the space character. That's only 42 bits, rather than the 50 bits that Morse requires. Thus the difference - the Baudot machine uses 16% less bits to send the same message. The speed difference works out to about 10% because the Baudot stop bit was longer than the others in the machines US hams typically used.

So you don't get the full 16% advantage that you'd expect from the raw numbers. But since only six of the 42 bits are stop bits, the difference is small.

To make it even more of a sporting course, the above WPM advantage of the Baudot machine is message-dependent, same as for Morse. In Morse, the message-dependency comes from the different characters being of different length; a five-letter word like "TENET" takes a lot less time to send than one like "JUICY", while in Baudot they both take the

same time to send.

But in the Baudot code the numbers and some other characters are sent by shifting from "LTRS" to "FIGS", (letters to figures), so sending mixed groups could take a lot of extra characters that Morse does not require.

For example, in Morse you could just send the group "6A8G7" as 5 characters, but to send it on a Baudot machine you had to send "6A8G7", which is 10 characters.

So the WPM are really approximations, and the BPS/baud measures took over.

73 de Jim, N2EY

201. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-18 23:47:44 UTC
From: haynes@cavern.uark.edu
Message-ID: <13u09usa40io405@corp.supernews.com>
Source record: 3172

In article <daedne7accWsZELanZ2dnUVZ_tzinZ2d@speakeasy.net>,
Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:
>I'm sure your explanation is correct, but it leaves me confused: I know
>bps <> baud, but they're close, and the Model 15 Teletype I used to own
>operated at 45 baud. It seems illogical that Morse would be so high in
>the bps count.
>

Your Model 15 Teletype at the nominal 60 wpm speed, which is actually 368 chars/minute and 45.45 baud works out like this. The character length is 7.42 bits long (for ancient, interesting reasons I won't go into right now) and the bit duration is 22 milliseconds. The character duration is therefore 7.42 * 22 = 163.24 milliseconds, and that works out to 6.12595 characters/sec = 367.55 characters/minute. To convert that to words you have to figure 6 characters per word because the space between words is also a character. So the speed is actually 61.26 words/minute.

Teletype speed is sometimes confusing because there are a couple of other speeds out there. Western Union liked to use a 7.00 unit character rather than 7.42. With 45.45 baud, or 22 ms pulses, this gives 154 milliseconds/character, or 6.49 characters/second, 389.6 character/min and hence 65.9 words/minute. This is completely compatible with 7.42 unit code because the baud rate is 45.45 for both. But then there is European 50 baud Telex using a 7.5 unit code. This is a 20 millisecond bit for a character length of 150 milliseconds, 6.67 characters/second, 402 chars/minute, 67 words per minute. This is not compatible with the other two codes because the baud rate is different; but if you say something like "66 wpm" you could be talking about either scheme.

Now when you get to ASCII, the old Teletype machines transmitted 8 data bits per character and used an 11.0 unit code. This makes 100 wpm work out to 110 baud. Electronic terminals don't need 11 unit code; they can do just fine with 10. Thus the words-per-minute is numerically equal to the baud rate. 100 baud -> 10 ms/bit -> 100 ms/char -> 10 chars/sec -> 600 chars/min -> 100 wpm.

Morse has already been explained. A Morse dot is actually two bits, since there is the dot followed by the space that makes it distinguishable from what comes next. A Morse dash is four bits, counting the space, and the word space is three dot times or 6 bit times. Then the word PARIS contains 50 bit times counting the space. So one word per second is 50 bits per second and 60 wpm. As an aside, the military sends a lot of encrypted 5-letter code groups, so instead

of PARIS the Signal Corps uses CODEZ as a test word more statistically correct for their kind of traffic. And CODEZ contains 60 bits.

202. Re: Secrecy Clause of the Communications Act of 1934

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-18 23:48:20 UTC
From: Richard Knoppow <dickburk@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <13u0gemiuofpbe0@corp.supernews.com>
Source record: 3173

"Phil Kane" <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote in message
news:2d30u3pm6jr0m9h3pnle6ah20dr4075425@4ax.com...
> On Sun, 16 Mar 2008 14:04:27 EDT, Bruce in alaska
> <fast@btpost.net>
> wrote:
>
>>Hello Phil, I was wondering if the Secrecy Clause was
>>still a part of
>>the Communications Act of 1934, or if it had been
>>rescinded or replaced
>>by some other Language in some later Act? Does it still
>>apply to any FCC
>>Operator License Holder?
>
> Comes here the Kane tutorial on Communications Privacy /
> Secrecy......
> <ggg>
>
> First - some definition. "Intercept" means to merely
> receive the
> contents of a communication, not necessarily the same
> meaning as to
> "intercept a forward pass" in football. "Divulge" means
> to pass the
> contents in whole or in part or in meaning to an other
> person not
> authorized by law to receive such contents. "Personal
> use" means "use
> for personal benefit or for the benefit of another not
> entitled to
> thereof" although courts are loath to apply that unless
> there's a
> monetary or similar benefit involved.
>
> Now to the law. There are two sections of law that apply.
>
> Section 705 of the Communications Act of 1934 as Amended
> [Section 605
> of Title 47 of the U S Code] provides that no one
> receiving,
> transmitting, or assisting in either may divulge the
> contents to
> someone not authorized to receive such or make personal
> use of the

> contents. with a whole bunch of exceptions and exemptions.
>
> The Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA), part of
> Chapter 119
> of the US Criminal Code [Section 2510 et seq of Title 18
> of the U S
> Code] provides that no one not authorized by the sender
> or by the law
> may merely intercept certain types of communication. The
> violation
> exists whether divulgence or personal use takes place or
> not. This is
> the section of the law that provides the illusion of
> secrecy to cell
> phone communications, among others. Again, there are a
> whole slew of
> exceptions and exemptions.
>
> Note that both sections exempt transmissions from amateur,
> CB, marine,
> and aviation stations and communications relating to a
> disaster, as
> well as broadcast programming (AM, FM, TV but not
> "satellite" TV)
> intended for direct reception by the general public.
>
> For more information. "inquire within". This is one of
> my
> specialties.
> --
>
> 73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
> ARRL Volunteer Counsel
>
> email: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net
>
Thanks Phil, this pretty much confirms my understanding
of the law.

--

Richard Knoppow
Los Angeles, CA, USA
dickburk@ix.netcom.com

203. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-18 23:54:40 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <ff1de217-4a2d-4062-b115-981c699f84e2@s13g2000prd.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3174

On Mar 16, 6:53 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Mar 16, 3:50 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> >> N...@aol.com wrote:

> What's funny is that after you've lived in one of those places for
> a while, these things tend to seem perfectly rational. When the embassy
> water pump broke, we lived for six weeks with a string of locals hiking
> the five flights to our flat with a bucket full of water in each hand.
> They'd dump the buck in a plastic garbage can, turn around and trot down
> the stairs for another couple of buckets. We lived like that for six
> weeks--taking bucket baths, doing hand wash and so forth. Keep in mind
> that all water used for drinking/cooking had to be boiled and filtered
> before use, whether the pumps were in operation or not.

Thank you for your service to our country, Dave. You did that sort of
thing
for how many years, on top of military service?

> We had a pipe burst inside a wall of our laundry room once. There was
> no pipe available in town. Worker dug into the concrete wall, found the
> break and used rubber tubing and hose clamps to join the broken pieces.
> With every surge of the water pump, the tubing expanded and contracted,
> looking like it had a pulse. WAWA--West Africa Wins Again.

bwaahaahaa!

Around here, "WAWA" means something completely different: Popular
convenience stores.

> > TNX. Not a single new part was used. It's done a good job these past
> > dozen years.

> That's the ultimate in junk box building and a good track record for the
> finished project.

Yet some would look down on it as "junk" and "a kludge".

> > IIRC, the HQ-215 lamps aren't *inside* the dial drum, are
> > they?
>
> Yes, it is. There's only one inside the drum and another for the
> S-meter. To the left of the dial window is a calibration adjustment.
> To the right is an identical knob which dims the dial lamps if desired.
> I desire it a lot since dimming them a bit keeps from having to put in
> new lamps very often.

Perhaps the Type 8 will have a dimmer pot.....

> >> I received the data from Engineering.
>
> > Good. Ms. Yardley sends greetings.
>
> Heh.

As Richard Thompson says:

"Red hair and black leather, my favorite colour scheme..."

It's all about the curls....

> >> I've read the eham thread and have even participated.
>
> > Excellent!
>
> I don't know if it is or not. There's been some anger exhibited over
> some issues. Quite a bit of erroneous information has been passed.

No matter; the important thing is that knowledgeable folks have
presented valid data.

> > I agree. Those articles and notes often go far beyond mere
> > specifications and general data, too. They often explain *why*
> > something is done, not just what to do.

> Exactly. I'd never realized until I got the binder that Eimac had even
> published amateur linear amplifier "how to" articles. A linear amp
> isn't a difficult thing to design yourself if you understand why a final
> tank Q within a paricular range is desired and you can use tables
> published by Orr for translating the plate load impedence of a
> particular bottle (run at a particular plate voltage) to find the values
> of C1, C2 and L needed for the tank circuit.

I found "The Care And Feeding of Power Tetrodes" free for the
download,
along with lots more Eimac stuff at the BAMA mirror site.

They also have quite a few of the GE Ham News periodicals scanned.

> There is a great difference between a receiving-type
> tube run at relatively low voltages and a high power transmitting tube
> run at high voltages. Their construction is quite different.

Until relatively recently, oxide-coated cathodes could not withstand
high plate voltages,
so tubemakers continued to use thoriated-tungsten filaments for
transmitting tubes
beyond 100-200 W or so. Tube size is another factor; a 3-500Z can
handle more than
ten times the watts of a 6146 but is not ten times the size, so other
methods have
to be employed.

> > Or that, in the case of high-gain glass tetrodes like
> > the 4-125A, running lightly loaded can cause the glass of the tube to
> > soften from electron bombardment.

> That sort of thing was also evident in TV horizontal output tubes. As I
> pointed out in the e-ham forum, Nonex glass was used in some later sweep
> tubes to help in preventing suck-in.

I think the horizontal output suck-in problem was simply caused by
excessive heat
from the plate, in a poorly-ventilated TV.

What is described by Eimac in "Care And Feeding" was the glass being
softened
by electron bombardment of the glass, caused by running the tube
lightly loaded (low
plate current).

> Having the parts to keep something running isn't the
> problem. Storage is.

I could tell ya stories about *storage*....

> I've read articles stating that NASA is having real problem as those
> with knowledge of the design of such engines are retiring or have
> already retired.

Or are dead. Consider that someone who was, say, 40 years old in 1964
and working on the Apollo project would be 84 today.

> What I might have considered is that
> newer composite decking material which is designed to last for decades.

The composite deck material is great stuff but it's softer than
Corian, and
I didn't have any. Plus I don't think it comes in white. (Note to self
- raid
relative's basement for the rest of the Corian before they decide to
toss it.)

> I'm not familiar with the term "balloon framing". I'm looking it up. I
> don't think there's anything available from my local lumberyard in
> lengths exceeding 16'.

We used to be able to get up to 20 foot 2x4s but you paid a premium
per
foot and the quality wasn't as good.

> > We call them "McMansions" in these parts.
>
> There are some of 'em in Wheeling, but not many. I think those homes
> were the product of a booming economy and easy credit. Those days are
> over for at least the time being.

Yes, that's exactly what caused them. Some folks are left holding the
bag.

> > It is not unusual around here to see a perfectly good house from the
> > 1950s to 1970s bought and torn down by a developer so a McMansion can
> > be built. The value is in the land - often the price of the new place
> > is twice that of the old. The current housing bust has mostly put an
> > end to that, but not completely. More than a few locals are up in arms
> > because it means less "affordable" housing units.
>
> I can't really understand the "up in arms" part because we really having
> a surplus of existing housing in the country.

What they're up in arms about is that houses in the $300,000 -
$500,000
range are being replaced by houses worth double that or more, on the
same lots. That drastically reduces the number of people who can
afford
to even think about buying them. During a downturn those houses become
unsellable.

On top of that, they tend to increase the impervious surface
percentage of
the lot, so there's more stormwater runoff when it rains. Which floods
the
folks downhill, who were never flooded before, and increases erosion
issues.

> > The amateur radio connection to all of this is that often the house
> > which was torn down had mature trees good for antennas and no CC&Rs.
> > "Development" often removes at least some of the trees, or they don't
> > survive the construction process, and the new place is usually CC&R'd
> > to the max.
>
> That IS a problem for radio amateurs. • I think a bigger problem is th
at
> most of our newer housing is built in subdivisions. • Those subdivisio
ns
> are not radio friendly at all. • I'm seeing more and more magazine
> articles on stealth antennas. • I won't consider living in one of thos
e
> areas.

I hope and pray I will never have to consider living in one of those
places, but
as time goes on and more old houses are torn down and replaced by
radio-
unfriendly CC&R'd places, the options decrease.

> We're sitting on an acre. • If we re-locate, I'd be happier with 2 or
3
> acres. • I wouldn't object if half of that area happened to be in tree
s

> or woods though.

I've seen the pix; I hope for such a location someday. Non-radio factors
keep me on my little patch of Radnor Township.

> The "how houses are built" part is what I meant to address. &#65533; Things l
ike
> a geothermal heating/cooling systems are another factor. &#65533; W8RHM's new

> place has one and it is a large house. &#65533; His heating and cooling bills

> are quite reasonable.

Because he's not really paying for heating or cooling; he's paying to run pumps.
A few of the locals here have gone to geothermal; it works. The main problem
is the first cost.

> > Beautiful, just beautiful..
>
> If not beautiful, at least it isn't ugly. &#65533;

Beauty in both form and function.

>The console and the former
> W8YX desk got hauled to each of my Foreign Service postings. &#65533; The
> console is approaching thirty years in age. &#65533; It gets a new coat of pa
int
> about once per decade.

What is this "paint" of which you speak?

> > One difference is that your console/desk is purpose-built for the
> > shack. Custom use, IOW. The op desk I use was designed to be multi-
> > purpose, and has been on several Field Days, as have the Southgate
> > rigs.
>
> N8NN and I have been using those plastic-topped banquet tables with the
> folding legs inside a screen room for FD use. &#65533; That's because 1) they
're
> easy to set up and take down and 2) Bert has some.

I have considered those. If they will fit flat in the current vehicle they have
possibilities. And again they are multi-use; they won't just be for FD.

> It is really difficult to buy something which is really ideal for an
> amateur radio operating position. &#65533; Computer hutches/desks tend to be
a
> little on the small side and aren't generally as stoutly built as

> necessary. &#65533; For some of us, what worked really well at one point migh
t
> not be as handy years later, when the amount of gear expands to fill all
> available space. &#65533; I used to get by with the old W8YX desk with a 3x5'

> top. &#65533; The position I now use is 3x7'. If I relocate, I'll consider a
> homebrew U-shaped operating position. &#65533; The room I'm in at present doe
s
> not lend itself to that.

I don't think anything off-the-shelf is really suited for more than a
very small
ham shack. One problem is depth; the equipment needs to sit pretty far
from the op
but the usual 24-30 inch table or computer desk isn't deep enough.

It really is time for new shack/shop furniture for me. The Southgate
Radio team is
on it....

73 de Jim, N2EY

204. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-19 03:51:28 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <hQZDj.124$NU2.64@news01.roc.ny>
Source record: 3175

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Mar 16, 6:53 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>> On Mar 16, 3:50 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>>>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>
>> What's funny is that after you've lived in one of those places for
>> a while, these things tend to seem perfectly rational. When the embassy
>> water pump broke, we lived for six weeks with a string of locals hiking
>> the five flights to our flat with a bucket full of water in each hand.
>> They'd dump the buck in a plastic garbage can, turn around and trot down
>> the stairs for another couple of buckets. We lived like that for six
>> weeks--taking bucket baths, doing hand wash and so forth. Keep in mind
>> that all water used for drinking/cooking had to be boiled and filtered
>> before use, whether the pumps were in operation or not.
>
> Thank you for your service to our country, Dave. You did that sort of
> thing
> for how many years, on top of military service?

Sixteen or so, Jim. Whenever one of my Foreign Service colleagues would
gripe about one or another of the African privations, I'd usually add,
"well, at least they aren't shooting at us."

>> We had a pipe burst inside a wall of our laundry room once. There was
>> no pipe available in town. Worker dug into the concrete wall, found the
>> break and used rubber tubing and hose clamps to join the broken pieces.
>> With every surge of the water pump, the tubing expanded and contracted,
>> looking like it had a pulse. WAWA--West Africa Wins Again.
>
> bwaahaahaa!

> Around here, "WAWA" means something completely different: Popular
> convenience stores.

I'm almost afraid to ask for details.

>>> TNX. Not a single new part was used. It's done a good job these past
>>> dozen years.
>
>> That's the ultimate in junk box building and a good track record for the
>> finished project.
>
> Yet some would look down on it as "junk" and "a kludge".

I don't see how that view could be taken. I always had nothing but
admiration for the fellow who homebrewed all or part of his rig.
One of the OT's from Cincinnati had a great station consisting of a
solid-stated National HRO-50 and homebrew SSB transceiver and homebrew
amp. G2FIX's copy of the Collins S-line was some of the most beautiful
homebrew work I've ever seen. I have photos of it somewhere on the web.
If you Google "G2FIX" you may find it on the site of an ex-G living in
5-land.

>>> IIRC, the HQ-215 lamps aren't *inside* the dial drum, are
>>> they?
>> Yes, it is. There's only one inside the drum and another for the
>> S-meter. To the left of the dial window is a calibration adjustment.
>> To the right is an identical knob which dims the dial lamps if desired.
>> I desire it a lot since dimming them a bit keeps from having to put in
>> new lamps very often.
>
> Perhaps the Type 8 will have a dimmer pot.....

Heh. Pick a resistor and solder it in.

>>>> I received the data from Engineering.
>>> Good. Ms. Yardley sends greetings.
>> Heh.
>
> As Richard Thompson says:
>
> "Red hair and black leather, my favorite colour scheme..."
>
> It's all about the curls....

I love it!

>>>> I've read the eham thread and have even participated.
>>> Excellent!

>> I don't know if it is or not. There's been some anger exhibited over
>> some issues. Quite a bit of erroneous information has been passed.
>
> No matter; the important thing is that knowledgeable folks have
> presented valid data.

Tom Rauch W8JI has presented quite a bit of excellent data. He's been
designing linear amps for several companies for quite a number of years.
He once helped me troubleshoot I was having with a burned up plate choke
in an AL-1200 Ameritron amp via telephone from 5,000 miles away.

>>> I agree. Those articles and notes often go far beyond mere
>>> specifications and general data, too. They often explain *why*
>>> something is done, not just what to do.
>
>> Exactly. I'd never realized until I got the binder that Eimac had even
>> published amateur linear amplifier "how to" articles. A linear amp
>> isn't a difficult thing to design yourself if you understand why a final

>> tank Q within a paricular range is desired and you can use tables
>> published by Orr for translating the plate load impedence of a
>> particular bottle (run at a particular plate voltage) to find the values
>> of C1, C2 and L needed for the tank circuit.
>
> I found "The Care And Feeding of Power Tetrodes" free for the
> download,
> along with lots more Eimac stuff at the BAMA mirror site.

There's lots of good material there.

> They also have quite a few of the GE Ham News periodicals scanned.

I found those. I think that's where I found a pdf of the vintage
Hammarlund clock face. I bought a nice looking HQ-180 a few years back
from the newspaper classifieds. It never had a clock installed. I
printed the clock face from the pdf and bought an inexpensive 24 hour
battery powered movement with appropriate hands from some web site.
Of course it won't turn the rig on as the original clock, but those
movements are pretty hard to find these days.

>> There is a great difference between a receiving-type
>> tube run at relatively low voltages and a high power transmitting tube
>> run at high voltages. Their construction is quite different.
>
> Until relatively recently, oxide-coated cathodes could not withstand
> high plate voltages,
> so tubemakers continued to use thoriated-tungsten filaments for
> transmitting tubes
> beyond 100-200 W or so. Tube size is another factor; a 3-500Z can
> handle more than
> ten times the watts of a 6146 but is not ten times the size, so other
> methods have
> to be employed.

Yep, and unlike 6146's, those bottles will show red when run within
their designed ratings.

>>> Or that, in the case of high-gain glass tetrodes like
>>> the 4-125A, running lightly loaded can cause the glass of the tube to
>>> soften from electron bombardment.
>
>> That sort of thing was also evident in TV horizontal output tubes. As I
>> pointed out in the e-ham forum, Nonex glass was used in some later sweep
>> tubes to help in preventing suck-in.
>
> I think the horizontal output suck-in problem was simply caused by
> excessive heat
> from the plate, in a poorly-ventilated TV.

I think a Doug DeMaw amplifier article (later reprinted in the Handbook)
showed how the same problem could crop up in a sweep tube amplifier.

> What is described by Eimac in "Care And Feeding" was the glass being
> softened
> by electron bombardment of the glass, caused by running the tube
> lightly loaded (low
> plate current).

Right. I don't think anyone could argue that Eimac knew power bottles
inside and out.

>> Having the parts to keep something running isn't the
>> problem. Storage is.
>
> I could tell ya stories about *storage*....

The radio overflow here is in a 16x30 foot Amish barn we had built. It
isn't inconvenient unless it is snowing or, like today, raining heavily.

>> I've read articles stating that NASA is having real problem as those
>> with knowledge of the design of such engines are retiring or have
>> already retired.
>
> Or are dead. Consider that someone who was, say, 40 years old in 1964
> and working on the Apollo project would be 84 today.

Dead works too.

>> What I might have considered is that
>> newer composite decking material which is designed to last for decades.
>
> The composite deck material is great stuff but it's softer than
> Corian, and
> I didn't have any. Plus I don't think it comes in white. (Note to self
> - raid
> relative's basement for the rest of the Corian before they decide to
> toss it.)

I don't think I've seen the composite decking in white and yes, grab the
Corian scraps.

>> I'm not familiar with the term "balloon framing". I'm looking it up. I
>> don't think there's anything available from my local lumberyard in
>> lengths exceeding 16'.
>
> We used to be able to get up to 20 foot 2x4s but you paid a premium
> per
> foot and the quality wasn't as good.

Yeah, I recall early handbook articles about 20 foot California Redwood
1x2's or 2x4's. Here in the East, I never saw any of that stuff in
lumberyards.

>>> We call them "McMansions" in these parts.

>> There are some of 'em in Wheeling, but not many. I think those homes
>> were the product of a booming economy and easy credit. Those days are

>> over for at least the time being.
>
> Yes, that's exactly what caused them. Some folks are left holding the
> bag.

Well, I consider that a bag of their own making. They tried to buy more
house than they were really able to afford and they opted for those
variable-rate loans. They seemed to have forgotten that the rates could
go up as well as down.

>>> It is not unusual around here to see a perfectly good house from the
>>> 1950s to 1970s bought and torn down by a developer so a McMansion can
>>> be built. The value is in the land - often the price of the new place
>>> is twice that of the old. The current housing bust has mostly put an
>>> end to that, but not completely. More than a few locals are up in arms
>>> because it means less "affordable" housing units.

>> I can't really understand the "up in arms" part because we really having
>> a surplus of existing housing in the country.
>
> What they're up in arms about is that houses in the $300,000 -
> $500,000
> range are being replaced by houses worth double that or more, on the
> same lots. That drastically reduces the number of people who can
> afford
> to even think about buying them. During a downturn those houses become
> unsellable.

I'm used to living in an area where there aren't enough people to buy up
the houses which are already available. At the same time, more new
houses are being built.

> On top of that, they tend to increase the impervious surface
> percentage of
> the lot, so there's more stormwater runoff when it rains. Which floods
> the
> folks downhill, who were never flooded before, and increases erosion
> issues.

I can see that as a legitimate gripe.

>>> The amateur radio connection to all of this is that often the house
>>> which was torn down had mature trees good for antennas and no CC&Rs.
>>> "Development" often removes at least some of the trees, or they don't
>>> survive the construction process, and the new place is usually CC&R'd
>>> to the max.

>> That IS a problem for radio amateurs. [illegible] I think a bigger problem is th
> at
>> most of our newer housing is built in subdivisions. Those subdivisions
>> are not radio friendly at all. I'm seeing more and more magazine
>> articles on stealth antennas. I won't consider living in one of those
>> areas.

>
> I hope and pray I will never have to consider living in one of those
> places, but
> as time goes on and more old houses are torn down and replaced by
> radio-unfriendly CC&R'd places, the options decrease.

That's too bad. That's perhaps one of the reasons why I don't want to
live too near a larger city.

>> We're sitting on an acre. If we re-locate, I'd be happier with 2 or 3
>> acres. I wouldn't object if half of that area happened to be in trees
>> or woods though.
>
> I've seen the pix; I hope for such a location someday. Non-radio
> factors keep me on my little patch of Radnor Township.

I think we've been spoiled by living out here. It is incredibly
quiet--especially in the evenings/nights. The radio quiet is
phenomenal. The dark skies make for some really great astronomical views.

>> The "how houses are built" part is what I meant to address. Things like
>> a geothermal heating/cooling systems are another factor. W8RHM's new
>> place has one and it is a large house. His heating and cooling bills
>> are quite reasonable.

> Because he's not really paying for heating or cooling; he's paying to
> run pumps.
> A few of the locals here have gone to geothermal; it works. The main
> problem
> is the first cost.

I think the things typically run about $10k or so additional over the
cost of a new house with conventional heat.

>>> Beautiful, just beautiful..

>> If not beautiful, at least it isn't ugly.
>
> Beauty in both form and function.

It's nice when you can combine the two.

>> The console and the former
>> W8YX desk got hauled to each of my Foreign Service postings. The
>> console is approaching thirty years in age. It gets a new coat of paint
>> about once per decade.
>
> What is this "paint" of which you speak?

You never use paint?

>>> One difference is that your console/desk is purpose-built for the
>>> shack. Custom use, IOW. The op desk I use was designed to be multi-
>>> purpose, and has been on several Field Days, as have the Southgate

>>> rigs.

>> N8NN and I have been using those plastic-topped banquet tables with the
>> folding legs inside a screen room for FD use. That's because 1) they're
>> easy to set up and take down and 2) Bert has some.
>
> I have considered those. If they will fit flat in the current vehicle
> they have
> possibilities. And again they are multi-use; they won't just be for
> FD.

They make fine picnic tables, seating for additional dinner guests,
craft tables and garage sale tables.

>> It is really difficult to buy something which is really ideal for an
>> amateur radio operating position. Computer hutches/desks tend to be a
>> little on the small side and aren't generally as stoutly built as
>> necessary. For some of us, what worked really well at one point might
>> not be as handy years later, when the amount of gear expands to fill all
>> available space. • I used to get by with the old W8YX desk with a 3x5'
>> top. The position I now use is 3x7'. If I relocate, I'll consider a
>> homebrew U-shaped operating position. The room I'm in at present does
>> not lend itself to that.
>
> I don't think anything off-the-shelf is really suited for more than a
> very small
> ham shack. One problem is depth; the equipment needs to sit pretty far
> from the op
> but the usual 24-30 inch table or computer desk isn't deep enough.

Yep. I consider 36" to be a minimum.

> It really is time for new shack/shop furniture for me. The Southgate
> Radio team is
> on it....

Check out PAINT this time. It keeps the grime from getting into the
wood fibers.

Dave K8MN

205. Re: Secrecy Clause of the Communications Act of 1934

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-19 13:55:33 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <13u244968t53c7@news.supernews.com>
Source record: 3176

I know you said "inquire within" but I hope that this is a short, general-interest question with perhaps a one-word answer. (Except I don't think I've ever seen Phil give anything approximating a one-word answer <grin>).

Phil Kane wrote:

> Note that both sections exempt transmissions from amateur, CB, marine,
> and aviation stations and communications relating to a disaster, as
> well as broadcast programming (AM, FM, TV but not "satellite" TV)
> intended for direct reception by the general public.

What does "exempt" mean in this context? Does it mean that the provisions do not apply at all if the information is transmitted by amateur radio? I'm assuming that this is the case, since it's not unusual for material that we relay to appear in news articles.

73, Steve KB9X

206. Re: Secrecy Clause of the Communications Act of 1934

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-19 18:22:41 UTC
From: Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
Message-ID: <fast-C0A096.09281519032008@netnews.worldnet.att.net>
Source record: 3177

In article <2d30u3pm6jr0m9h3pnle6ah20dr4075425@4ax.com>,
Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:

> On Sun, 16 Mar 2008 14:04:27 EDT, Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
> wrote:
>
> >Hello Phil, I was wondering if the Secrecy Clause was still a part of
> >the Communications Act of 1934, or if it had been rescinded or replaced
> >by some other Language in some later Act? Does it still apply to any FCC
> >Operator License Holder?
>
>
snipped for brevity, but not for content.....
>
> For more information. "inquire within". This is one of my
> specialties.
> --
>
> 73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
> ARRL Volunteer Counsel
>
> email: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

Thanks, Phil... I was sure that you would have the information.
Now the final question, that everyone wants to know, BUT was afraid to
ask.....

Have you ever heard of ANYONE, ever being prosecuted for Violation
of Section 705 of the Communications Act of 1934.......

--
Bruce in alaska
add <path> after <fast> to reply

207. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-19 18:25:44 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <181071e1-8111-4b8a-8717-17fc0ceb5c67@d4g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3178

On Mar 18, 11:51 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Mar 16, 6:53 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> >> N...@aol.com wrote:
> >>> On Mar 16, 3:50 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:

> > Thank you for your service to our country, Dave. You did that sort of
> > thing
> > for how many years, on top of military service?
>
> Sixteen or so, Jim. Whenever one of my Foreign Service colleagues wo
uld
> gripe about one or another of the African privations, I'd usually add,
> "well, at least they aren't shooting at us."

They did, however, do things like bombing the embassy....

> > Around here, "WAWA" means something completely different: Popular
> > convenience stores.
>
> I'm almost afraid to ask for details.

"Wawa" is the local Native American word for what we call a Canada
goose, aka "water pigeon".

Wawa started as a dairy, and to this day there's a small herd of dairy
cows at corporate Hq, in Wawa, PA.
They were big in the milkman/delivery biz in this area.

But in the 1960s, even though business was good, they realized those
days of direct delivery were ending, so they transformed the company
and began opening stores. Originally they handled mostly dairy and a
few related products, but over time the branched out into other
convenience products like hot coffee, made-to-order hoagies (ordered
from a touchscreen) and hot sandwiches, breakfast stuff, deli, etc.

Latest New Thing is the addition of gas pumps where they can get the
land and permits. The gasoline plaza is adequately separated from the
store for good traffic flow, yet not too far to walk easily.

It is not unusual for a vehicle to pull up to a gas pump, and while
the driver fills up, the passenger goes into the store to order
hoagies, get coffee, etc. Service is so good that the passenger is
usually out of the store and back in the vehicle with the goodies
before the driver is done pumping gas - even at rush times like
morning and lunchtime.

The ham radio connection to all this is that the stores are designed
and operated for maximum customer convenience and speed. I have gotten
several ideas for the shack/shop from Wawa stores.

> > Yet some would look down on it as "junk" and "a kludge".
>
> I don't see how that view could be taken.

Nor I, but it happens. Says more about the critic than the work...

>&#65533; I always had nothing but
> admiration for the fellow who homebrewed all or part of his rig.
> One of the OT's from Cincinnati had a great station consisting of a
> solid-stated National HRO-50 and homebrew SSB transceiver and homebrew
> amp. &#65533; G2FIX's copy of the Collins S-line was some of the most beautif
ul
> homebrew work I've ever seen. &#65533; I have photos of it somewhere on the w
eb.
> If you Google "G2FIX" you may find it on the site of an ex-G living in
> 5-land.

I found them, and they are amazing! Beautiful work!

Sadly, it says G2FIX is now a Silent Key.

> > Perhaps the Type 8 will have a dimmer pot.....

> Heh. &#65533; Pick a resistor and solder it in.

I like the pot idea better - just like the BC-348...

> > As Richard Thompson says:
>
> > "Red hair and black leather, my favorite colour scheme..."
>
> > It's all about the curls....
>
> I love it!

A true master performer is RT. I have a recording of "Bee's Wing".
You'd
think it was a studio recording from the performance and sound
quality,
and that they must have picked the best out of a dozen takes. Yet it's
from
the Philly Folk Festival, live and outdoors.

Truly great performers and operators have a lot in common...

> > No matter; the important thing is that knowledgeable folks have
> > presented valid data.

> Tom Rauch W8JI has presented quite a bit of excellent data. &#65533;

Agreed. Not only that, but in easily-understood form, with data to
back it up.

> He's been
> designing linear amps for several companies for quite a number of years.

I did not know that! He's not one to brag, though.

> He once helped me troubleshoot I was having with a burned up plate choke
> in an AL-1200 Ameritron amp via telephone from 5,000 miles away.

Simply because he could, I bet.

He's also a very skilled operator, to grossly understate the case.

> > I found "The Care And Feeding of Power Tetrodes" free for the
> > download,
> > along with lots more Eimac stuff at the BAMA mirror site.
>
> There's lots of good material there.

All free.

> > They also have quite a few of the GE Ham News periodicals scanned.

> I found those. • I think that's where I found a pdf of the vintage
> Hammarlund clock face. • I bought a nice looking HQ-180 a few years ba
ck
> from the newspaper classifieds. • It never had a clock installed. •
I
> printed the clock face from the pdf and bought an inexpensive 24 hour
> battery powered movement with appropriate hands from some web site.
> Of course it won't turn the rig on as the original clock, but those
> movements are pretty hard to find these days.

And when you do find them, they are often worn out. Hallicrafters was
way ahead of its time, putting a clock in a receiver. Now it's common
- even my K2 does it.

> > Tube size is another factor; a 3-500Z can
> > handle more than
> > ten times the watts of a 6146 but is not ten times the size, so other
> > methods have
> > to be employed.
>
> Yep, and unlike 6146's, those bottles will show red when run within
> their designed ratings.

Of course; I've seen that many times.

> > I think the horizontal output suck-in problem was simply caused by
> > excessive heat
> > from the plate, in a poorly-ventilated TV.
>
> I think a Doug DeMaw amplifier article (later reprinted in the Handbook)

> showed how the same problem could crop up in a sweep tube amplifier.

Yes, and they showed how to design for maximum cooling using a simple
fan. Forced-air was a must.

They liked the Compactron-based tubes like the 6KD6 because they had
the suppressor/BF plates
brought out to a pin, so they could run grounded-grid without doing
the kind of surgery needed by
1625s and such. Those sweep tubes *were* also plentiful, inexpensive,
and worked well with
low voltage/high current B+. The article I remember used a link-
coupled output tank (!) instead of
a pi-net because the output impedance was so low.
>
> > What is described by Eimac in "Care And Feeding" was the glass being
> > softened
> > by electron bombardment of the glass, caused by running the tube
> > lightly loaded (low
> > plate current).
>
> Right. • I don't think anyone could argue that Eimac knew power bottle
s
> inside and out.

Some will argue such points anyway.

> >> Having the parts to keep something running isn't the
> >> problem. • Storage is.
>
> > I could tell ya stories about *storage*....
>
> The radio overflow here is in a 16x30 foot Amish barn we had built. •
It
> isn't inconvenient unless it is snowing or, like today, raining heavily.

At one point I had stuff in the attic, the garage, the shack, the
shack ceiling,
under the deck, and in three different remote storage sites (only one
of which
charged me rent). That's been greatly simplified in the past few
years.

> > We used to be able to get up to 20 foot 2x4s but you paid a premium
> > per foot and the quality wasn't as good.
>
> Yeah, I recall early handbook articles about 20 foot California Redwood
> 1x2's or 2x4's. • Here in the East, I never saw any of that stuff in
> lumberyards.

You have to remember that before WW2 lumber was quite a different
commodity; it

was inexpensive and plentiful compared to today. A "2x4" was a lot
closer to 2" by 4" then,
too.

> > Yes, that's exactly what caused them. Some folks are left holding the
> bag.
>
> Well, I consider that a bag of their own making. &#65533; They tried to buy m
ore
> house than they were really able to afford and they opted for those
> variable-rate loans. &#65533; They seemed to have forgotten that the rates co
uld
> go up as well as down.

The problem IMHO is that, in the old days, lenders and lending
regulations
were very conservative and would protect the homeowner from him/
herself.
That's all changed now, but a lot of folks don't/didn't realize it.

The big problem right now is that the *lenders* dug themselves a great
big hole
and now can't figure a way out. They bet on constantly-rising RE
prices, so
that they'd make money even if a house foreclosed. Then the market
changed...

> > What they're up in arms about is that houses in the $300,000 -
> > $500,000
> > range are being replaced by houses worth double that or more, on the
> > same lots. That drastically reduces the number of people who can
> > afford
> > to even think about buying them. During a downturn those houses become
> > unsellable.
>
> I'm used to living in an area where there aren't enough people to buy up
> the houses which are already available.

Which keeps prices way down.

>&#65533; At the same time, more new
> houses are being built.

Ah, but in what price ranges?

> > I hope and pray I will never have to consider living in one of those
> > places, but
> > as time goes on and more old houses are torn down and replaced by
> > radio-unfriendly CC&R'd places, the options decrease.
>
> That's too bad. &#65533; That's perhaps one of the reasons why I don't want t
o

> live too near a larger city.

They are no longer limited to cities. Acquaintance of mine went
looking for the dream-retirement location, found a developer building
custom homes in Colorado. Perfect setup for ham radio, lots of three
acres and up. And a ton of CC&Rs, including no antennas.

> >> We're sitting on an acre. If we re-locate, I'd be happier with 2 or 3
> >> acres. I wouldn't object if half of that area happened to be in trees
> >> or woods though.
>
> > I've seen the pix; I hope for such a location someday. Non-radio
> > factors keep me on my little patch of Radnor Township.
>
> I think we've been spoiled by living out here. • It is incredibly
> quiet--especially in the evenings/nights. • The radio quiet is
> phenomenal. • The dark skies make for some really great astronomical v
iews.

I used to live just north of the Finger Lakes region of New York
State. (That's why
I have a 2-land call). I owned 46 feet of
the original Erie Canal at one point. I know what you mean.

> I think the things typically run about $10k or so additional over the
> cost of a new house with conventional heat.

Depends on how deep they have to drill to get the needed groundwater,
and what they have to drill through.
But such is the future, for those who will look.

> > What is this "paint" of which you speak?
>
> You never use paint?

I prefer varnish.

73 de Jim, N2EY

208. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-19 23:10:58 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <a6fEj.139$Cn4.127@news02.roc.ny>
Source record: 3179

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Mar 18, 11:51 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>> On Mar 16, 6:53 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>>>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>>>> On Mar 16, 3:50 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:

>> Sixteen or so, Jim. Whenever one of my Foreign Service colleagues wo
> uld
>> gripe about one or another of the African privations, I'd usually add,
>> "well, at least they aren't shooting at us."
>
> They did, however, do things like bombing the embassy....

Right. That happened in Dar es Salaam in 1998. I was here, between
assignments and arrived three weeks after the bombing. The only
shooting which went on at the site of the temporary embassy site was
when a drunken Tanzanian soldier fired three or four rounds from an
AK-47 into the ground. The Tanzanian army was detailed to protect the
temporary embassy after the company of U.S. Marines departed. I never
did get very comfortable coming up the drive with a sleeping Tanzanian
soldier manning the tripod-mounted machine gun in the front yard of the
place.

>>> Around here, "WAWA" means something completely different: Popular
>>> convenience stores.
>> I'm almost afraid to ask for details.
>
> "Wawa" is the local Native American word for what we call a Canada
> goose, aka "water pigeon".
>
> Wawa started as a dairy, and to this day there's a small herd of dairy
> cows at corporate Hq, in Wawa, PA.
> They were big in the milkman/delivery biz in this area.

Okay. I wasn't sure which direction this was heading.

>>> Yet some would look down on it as "junk" and "a kludge".
>> I don't see how that view could be taken.
>
> Nor I, but it happens. Says more about the critic than the work...

Anyone can criticize anything.

>> I always had nothing but
>> admiration for the fellow who homebrewed all or part of his rig.

>> One of the OT's from Cincinnati had a great station consisting of a
>> solid-stated National HRO-50 and homebrew SSB transceiver and homebrew
>> amp. G2FIX's copy of the Collins S-line was some of the most beautif
> ul
>> homebrew work I've ever seen. I have photos of it somewhere on the w
> eb.
>> If you Google "G2FIX" you may find it on the site of an ex-G living in
>> 5-land.
>
> I found them, and they are amazing! Beautiful work!
>
> Sadly, it says G2FIX is now a Silent Key.

I ran across the web site and e-mailed the fellow who put it up. I told
him that I'd met Bert in the 70's while vacationing in Salisbury and
that I had more photos of him. He asked if I would be willing to send
the scans to him and allow him to post them on his site. Bert was a
fine fellow and heavily involved in the Royal Signals club, mobile
rallies, FOC and, as you've seen, in homebrewing.

>>> Perhaps the Type 8 will have a dimmer pot.....
>
>> Heh. Pick a resistor and solder it in.
>
> I like the pot idea better - just like the BC-348...

Yeah! I have a Q model of that one. I have it paired with a Lafayette
Preselector/converter so it'll hit 15 and 10m.

>>> No matter; the important thing is that knowledgeable folks have
>>> presented valid data.
>
>> Tom Rauch W8JI has presented quite a bit of excellent data.
>
> Agreed. Not only that, but in easily-understood form, with data to
> back it up.
>
>> He's been
>> designing linear amps for several companies for quite a number of years.
>
> I did not know that! He's not one to brag, though.

Dentron, Ameritron and perhaps a couple of others.

>> He once helped me troubleshoot I was having with a burned up plate choke
>> in an AL-1200 Ameritron amp via telephone from 5,000 miles away.
>
> Simply because he could, I bet.
>
> He's also a very skilled operator, to grossly understate the case.

...assisted by an antenna farm to die for.

>>> I found "The Care And Feeding of Power Tetrodes" free for the
>>> download,
>>> along with lots more Eimac stuff at the BAMA mirror site.
>> There's lots of good material there.
>
> All free.

There's another site--something about technical books online--where I
was able to download pdf's of old GE, Sylvania and RCA tube manuals
(including a '38 RCA transmitting tube manual) along with early editions
of the Radio Handbook and the ARRL Handbook.

>>> They also have quite a few of the GE Ham News periodicals scanned.
>
>> I found those. • I think that's where I found a pdf of the vintage
>> Hammarlund clock face. • I bought a nice looking HQ-180 a few years ba
> ck
>> from the newspaper classifieds. • It never had a clock installed. •
> I
>> printed the clock face from the pdf and bought an inexpensive 24 hour
>> battery powered movement with appropriate hands from some web site.
>> Of course it won't turn the rig on as the original clock, but those
>> movements are pretty hard to find these days.
>
> And when you do find them, they are often worn out. Hallicrafters was
> way ahead of its time, putting a clock in a receiver. Now it's common
> - even my K2 does it.

My Omni VI had one but the Orion does not. I have a 24 hour clock atop
the amp, one in the computer and one of those "atomic clock" things
hanging on the shack wall.

>>> Tube size is another factor; a 3-500Z can
>>> handle more than
>>> ten times the watts of a 6146 but is not ten times the size, so other
>>> methods have
>>> to be employed.
>> Yep, and unlike 6146's, those bottles will show red when run within
>> their designed ratings.
>
> Of course; I've seen that many times.

Yep, and the carbon anode versions of the bottles will show at least a
dull red.

>>> I think the horizontal output suck-in problem was simply caused by
>>> excessive heat
>>> from the plate, in a poorly-ventilated TV.
>> I think a Doug DeMaw amplifier article (later reprinted in the Handbook)
>> showed how the same problem could crop up in a sweep tube amplifier.
>
> Yes, and they showed how to design for maximum cooling using a simple
> fan. Forced-air was a must.

Heath and Drake were able to use simple fans to cool the SB-220 and the L-7 with air blown laterally across the tubes, even at the kilowatt level. I prefer Eimac Air System sockets and chimneys or variations thereof.

> They liked the Compactron-based tubes like the 6KD6 because they had
> the suppressor/BF plates
> brought out to a pin, so they could run grounded-grid without doing
> the kind of surgery needed by
> 1625s and such. Those sweep tubes *were* also plentiful, inexpensive,
> and worked well with
> low voltage/high current B+. The article I remember used a link-
> coupled output tank (!) instead of
> a pi-net because the output impedance was so low.

Yep. Quite a number of manufacturers were making sweep tube amps during the period when tube-type televisions abounded. P&H, WRL/Galaxy, SBE and Yaesu come to mind. A couple of others (Dentron and Ameritron) continued well past the time when those tubes were being used in TV sets. It is hard to find finals for those amps these days and the current "cheapy" amps are using Russian or Chinese copies of 811A's or 572B's.

>>> What is described by Eimac in "Care And Feeding" was the glass being
>>> softened
>>> by electron bombardment of the glass, caused by running the tube
>>> lightly loaded (low
>>> plate current).
>> Right. &#65533; I don't think anyone could argue that Eimac knew power bottle
> s
>> inside and out.
>
> Some will argue such points anyway.

There's arguing and there is successfully arguing.

>>>> Having the parts to keep something running isn't the
>>>> problem. &#65533; Storage is.
>>> I could tell ya stories about *storage*....
>> The radio overflow here is in a 16x30 foot Amish barn we had built. &#65533;
> It
>> isn't inconvenient unless it is snowing or, like today, raining heavily.
>
> At one point I had stuff in the attic, the garage, the shack, the
> shack ceiling,
> under the deck, and in three different remote storage sites (only one
> of which
> charged me rent). That's been greatly simplified in the past few
> years.

I had everything in the basement when I lived in Cincy. Prior to that, I'd generally have a corner of a room as a shack or a part of a basement, with parts stuffed into a closet. My current shack consists

of two rooms in the old part of the house. I have a separate staircase
and the main shack (about 16x16') and an adjacent room (about 16x12').

>>> We used to be able to get up to 20 foot 2x4s but you paid a premium
>>> per foot and the quality wasn't as good.

>> Yeah, I recall early handbook articles about 20 foot California Redwood
>> 1x2's or 2x4's. &#65533; Here in the East, I never saw any of that stuff in
>> lumberyards.
>
> You have to remember that before WW2 lumber was quite a different
> commodity; it
> was inexpensive and plentiful compared to today. A "2x4" was a lot
> closer to 2" by 4" then,
> too.

That's right. There's a lot of the full dimensional lumber used in this
place. Some of it is even oak. Our main staircase is an open design
using full dimensional oak 4x4 stock with oak planks.

>>> Yes, that's exactly what caused them. Some folks are left holding the
> > bag.
>> Well, I consider that a bag of their own making. &#65533; They tried to buy m
> ore
>> house than they were really able to afford and they opted for those
>> variable-rate loans. &#65533; They seemed to have forgotten that the rates co
> uld
>> go up as well as down.
>
> The problem IMHO is that, in the old days, lenders and lending
> regulations
> were very conservative and would protect the homeowner from him/
> herself.
> That's all changed now, but a lot of folks don't/didn't realize it.

If they didn't realize it then, they certainly do *now*.

> The big problem right now is that the *lenders* dug themselves a great
> big hole
> and now can't figure a way out. They bet on constantly-rising RE
> prices, so
> that they'd make money even if a house foreclosed. Then the market
> changed...

Did it ever!

>>> What they're up in arms about is that houses in the $300,000 -
>>> $500,000
>>> range are being replaced by houses worth double that or more, on the
>>> same lots. That drastically reduces the number of people who can
>>> afford
>>> to even think about buying them. During a downturn those houses become

>>> unsellable.
>> I'm used to living in an area where there aren't enough people to buy up
>> the houses which are already available.
>
> Which keeps prices way down.
>
>> • At the same time, more new
>> houses are being built.
>
> Ah, but in what price ranges?

In this area there are still many homes in the $150-170k range being
built. One can find many existing homes in the 50-90k range. Out here
near Cameron, it is possible to buy a perfectly good house for under 30k.

>>> I hope and pray I will never have to consider living in one of those
>>> places, but
>>> as time goes on and more old houses are torn down and replaced by
>>> radio-unfriendly CC&R'd places, the options decrease.
>> That's too bad. • That's perhaps one of the reasons why I don't want t
> o
>> live too near a larger city.
>
> They are no longer limited to cities. Acquaintance of mine went
> looking for the dream-retirement location, found a developer building
> custom homes in Colorado. Perfect setup for ham radio, lots of three
> acres and up. And a ton of CC&Rs, including no antennas.

That's not *my idea* of a dream. I'm sure there are plenty of spots
within that state where it is possible to buy some land and built a
house, not that I'd want to.

>>>> We're sitting on an acre. If we re-locate, I'd be happier with 2 or 3
>>>> acres. I wouldn't object if half of that area happened to be in trees
>>>> or woods though.
>>> I've seen the pix; I hope for such a location someday. Non-radio
>>> factors keep me on my little patch of Radnor Township.

>> I think we've been spoiled by living out here. • It is incredibly
>> quiet--especially in the evenings/nights. • The radio quiet is
>> phenomenal. • The dark skies make for some really great astronomical v
> iews.
>
> I used to live just north of the Finger Lakes region of New York
> State. (That's why
> I have a 2-land call). I owned 46 feet of
> the original Erie Canal at one point. I know what you mean.

"I've got a mule and her name is Saaaal..."
That has to be pretty territory.

My guess is that not many folks have the opportunity to do terribly much about choosing a home based upon amateur radio until they retire. It'd be tough to find yourself interersted in becoming a radio amateur after you'd already bought a place in one of those developments under covenants and restrictions.

>> I think the things typically run about $10k or so additional over the
>> cost of a new house with conventional heat.
>
> Depends on how deep they have to drill to get the needed groundwater,
> and what they have to drill through.
> But such is the future, for those who will look.

I may be mistaken, but I don't think any groundwater is used at W8RHM's place. His is a horizontal system and I believe it uses air. I'll have to ask. It surely doesn't cost much to heat air fifteen or sixteen degrees higher or cool it up to thirty or forty degrees lower than ambient Earth temperature.

>>> What is this "paint" of which you speak?
>> You never use paint?
>
> I prefer varnish.

Ahhh! Well if you have crappy-looking stock to begin with, you can fill the blems, sand it smooth and, after painting, you'll have an attractive piece. If you just cover the blems with varnish, you'll be able to look right through it and see the blemishes.

Dave K8MN

209. Re: Secrecy Clause of the Communications Act of 1934

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-20 00:13:49 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <bva3u3plt9q1htuovmrfd6hfljmckmpjen@4ax.com>
Source record: 3180

On Wed, 19 Mar 2008 09:55:33 EDT, Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:

>What does "exempt" mean in this context? Does it mean that the
>provisions do not apply at all if the information is transmitted by
>amateur radio? I'm assuming that this is the case, since it's not
>unusual for material that we relay to appear in news articles.
>
That is correct. (Short enough? <ggg>)
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

210. Re: Secrecy Clause of the Communications Act of 1934

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-20 04:12:01 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <lco3u3hkr8ghsosved5k20umam4qj14lum@4ax.com>
Source record: 3181

On Wed, 19 Mar 2008 14:22:41 EDT, Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
wrote:

>Have you ever heard of ANYONE, ever being prosecuted for Violation
>of Section 705 of the Communications Act of 1934.......

There are a lot of cases brought under Section 705, most having to do
with theft of satellite TV programming or bootleg cable TV
descramblers which are covered by other subsections of Section 705.
One curious case involved a subscription-TV provider who enabled
Canadian providers to intercept its signals as opposed to a Canadian
program supplier competitor, the case being brought on complaint of
the Canadian government because the violator and the site of the
violation was in the US.

Most of the cellphone or cordless phone interception cases are brought
under the Wiretap Act (the ECPA) of the U S Criminal Code, Title 18.

The most famous case of off-the-air interception and divulgence
involved a conversation between certain officials of the Republican
party which was passed to "others", but long before that there were a
few cases of taxicab radio interception by competing cab companies
whose drivers "jumped" calls.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

211. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-20 04:39:44 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <437e3eb9-4185-41c4-b84e-6d398021dc13@e39g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3182

On Mar 19, 6:10 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Mar 18, 11:51 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> >> N...@aol.com wrote:
> >>> On Mar 16, 6:53 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> >>>> N...@aol.com wrote:

> > They did, however, do things like bombing the embassy....

> Right. That happened in Dar es Salaam in 1998. I was here, bet
ween
> assignments and arrived three weeks after the bombing. The only
> shooting which went on at the site of the temporary embassy site was
> when a drunken Tanzanian soldier fired three or four rounds from an
> AK-47 into the ground. The Tanzanian army was detailed to protect th
e
> temporary embassy after the company of U.S. Marines departed. I neve
r
> did get very comfortable coming up the drive with a sleeping Tanzanian
> soldier manning the tripod-mounted machine gun in the front yard of the
> place.

You were there a couple of years, as I recall.

> > Sadly, it says G2FIX is now a Silent Key.
>
> I ran across the web site and e-mailed the fellow who put it up. I t
old
> him that I'd met Bert in the 70's while vacationing in Salisbury and
> that I had more photos of him. He asked if I would be willing to sen
d
> the scans to him and allow him to post them on his site. Bert was a
> fine fellow and heavily involved in the Royal Signals club, mobile
> rallies, FOC and, as you've seen, in homebrewing.

There's a certain British approach to engineering and craftsmanship
that is underappreciated on this side of the pond IMHO.

For example, the BBC was doing regular scheduled electronic TV
broadcasting in 1936-37, and only shut down when WW2 broke out.

They invented things like the re-entrant multiple cavity magnetron,
practical jet engines, the dambuster bomb and delivery system (fly a
Lancaster 50 feet off the water at night? No problem!) and much more.

I have an RSGB handbook from the 1960s. It's quite different from the ARRL Handbooks of the time - more technical, more projects, more advanced and varied stuff. But nothing on operating, history, licensing, or the RSGB.

For example, the phenomenal G2DAF receivers, particularly the last version. Incredible sophistication and performance.

Of course part of that was the different economics of homebrewing in Europe at the time.

> > I like the pot idea better - just like the BC-348...

> Yeah! • I have a Q model of that one. I have it paired with a
> Lafayette
> Preselector/converter so it'll hit 15 and 10m.

For years I had a BC-348R, and the book. Took it many places, acquired two parts units. Sold 'em when I moved from the house on RadioTelegraph Hill.

I kept the BC-342-N that I bought for two dollars at a hamfest in Wrightstown many years ago.

> >> Tom Rauch W8JI has presented quite a bit of excellent data. •
>
> > Agreed. Not only that, but in easily-understood form, with data to
> > back it up.
>
> >> He's been
> >> designing linear amps for several companies for quite a number of years
.

> > I did not know that! He's not one to brag, though.

> Dentron, Ameritron and perhaps a couple of others.

Good stuff!

> > He's also a very skilled operator, to grossly understate the case.

> ...assisted by an antenna farm to die for.

Yes but even the best rig and antenna will not make up for a lack of operator skill.

> There's another site--something about technical books online--where I
> was able to download pdf's of old GE, Sylvania and RCA tube manuals
> (including a '38 RCA transmitting tube manual) along with early editions
> of the Radio Handbook and the ARRL Handbook.

Pete Millett's site. All kinds of stuff. There's also Frank's Tube Data Pages.

> • I have a 24 hour clock atop
> the amp, one in the computer and one of those "atomic clock" things

> hanging on the shack wall.

I have a classic Numechron Tymeter 24 hour digital clock for the shack. It was made from parts of three junkers back in the 1980s and runs perfectly today. I might have three dollars invested in it.

> > They liked the Compactron-based tubes like the 6KD6 because they had
> > the suppressor/BF plates
> > brought out to a pin, so they could run grounded-grid without doing
> > the kind of surgery needed by
> > 1625s and such. Those sweep tubes *were* also plentiful, inexpensive,
> > and worked well with
> > low voltage/high current B+. The article I remember used a link-
> > coupled output tank (!) instead of
> > a pi-net because the output impedance was so low.
>
> Yep. Quite a number of manufacturers were making sweep tube amps dur
ing
> the period when tube-type televisions abounded. P&H, WRL/Galaxy, SBE

> and Yaesu come to mind.

What did P&H make? The only product of theirs I remember was the LA-400, which used four surplus 1625s doctored so the BF plates had their own base pin and could be grounded. Not all brands of 1625 could be converted like that, but some could.

>A couple of others (Dentron and Ameritron)
> continued well past the time when those tubes were being used in TV
> sets. It is hard to find finals for those amps these days and the
> current "cheapy" amps are using Russian or Chinese copies of 811A's or
> 572B's.

Yup. There are also conversions of those old amps to use other tubes, mostly Soviet types. Some amps like the Heath SB-230 can often be had for a song because the tube they use is so expensive and hard to find.

Back in the 1960s the ARRL Handbook had a single 3-1000Z amp that still looks good today. In inflation-adjusted dollars it probably costs less now than it did then.

> > Some will argue such points anyway.

> There's arguing and there is successfully arguing.

True!

> > At one point I had stuff in the attic, the garage, the shack, the
> > shack ceiling,
> > under the deck, and in three different remote storage sites (only one
> > of which
> > charged me rent). That's been greatly simplified in the past few
> > years.

>
> I had everything in the basement when I lived in Cincy. Prior to tha
t,
> I'd generally have a corner of a room as a shack or a part of a
> basement, with parts stuffed into a closet. My current shack consist
s
> of two rooms in the old part of the house. I have a separate stairca
se
> and the main shack (about 16x16') and an adjacent room (about 16x12').

NICE!

In the house on RadioTelegraph Hill, everything was in the basement.
But it was a big basement. (sigh) Less room here.

> > You have to remember that before WW2 lumber was quite a different
> > commodity; it
> > was inexpensive and plentiful compared to today. A "2x4" was a lot
> > closer to 2" by 4" then,
> > too.
>
> That's right. There's a lot of the full dimensional lumber used in t
his
> place. Some of it is even oak. Our main staircase is an open d
esign
> using full dimensional oak 4x4 stock with oak planks.

My house in Palmyra NY was built in 1900. It's still there, looking
good.

> > The problem IMHO is that, in the old days, lenders and lending
> > regulations
> > were very conservative and would protect the homeowner from him/
> > herself.
> > That's all changed now, but a lot of folks don't/didn't realize it.
>
> If they didn't realize it then, they certainly do *now*.

Hopefully. IMHO, too often folks do not know history, and repeat it.

> > The big problem right now is that the *lenders* dug themselves a great
> > big hole
> > and now can't figure a way out. They bet on constantly-rising RE
> > prices, so
> > that they'd make money even if a house foreclosed. Then the market
> > changed...
>
> Did it ever!

And they may drag down much of the econimy with it.

> >> • At the same time, more new
> >> houses are being built.
>
> > Ah, but in what price ranges?
>
> In this area there are still many homes in the $150-170k range being
> built. • One can find many existing homes in the 50-90k range. • O
ut here
> near Cameron, it is possible to buy a perfectly good house for under 30k.

Boy do I want to move! But one has to go where the jobs are.

> > They are no longer limited to cities. Acquaintance of mine went
> > looking for the dream-retirement location, found a developer building
> > custom homes in Colorado. Perfect setup for ham radio, lots of three
> > acres and up. And a ton of CC&Rs, including no antennas.
>
> That's not *my idea* of a dream. • I'm sure there are plenty of spots
> within that state where it is possible to buy some land and built a
> house, not that I'd want to.

He looked elsewhere. Point is, you'd have thought places like that
would not be CC&R'd but they were.

> > I used to live just north of the Finger Lakes region of New York
> > State. (That's why
> > I have a 2-land call). I owned 46 feet of
> > the original Erie Canal at one point. I know what you mean.
>
> "I've got a mule and her name is Saaaal..."

"Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal."

Centerport - Port Byron - Lock Berlin - Port Gibson - Wayneport -
guess where those place names came from?

> That has to be pretty territory.

The best. Plus to the south are the drumlins and the lakes. Winters
are tough but the folks there are used to them.

> My guess is that not many folks have the opportunity to do terribly much
> about choosing a home based upon amateur radio until they retire.

If then!

>• It'd
> be tough to find yourself interersted in becoming a radio amateur after
> you'd already bought a place in one of those developments under
> covenants and restrictions.

That is one of the major challenges facing amateur radio today. If
someone is already a ham, they should know enough to avoid buying a
restricted place. But how many people will move just to have an

outdoor antenna?

> >> I think the things typically run about $10k or so additional over the
> >> cost of a new house with conventional heat.
>
> > Depends on how deep they have to drill to get the needed groundwater,
> > and what they have to drill through.
> > But such is the future, for those who will look.
>
> I may be mistaken, but I don't think any groundwater is used at W8RHM's
> place. &#65533; His is a horizontal system and I believe it uses air. &#65533; I
'll have
> to ask. &#65533; It surely doesn't cost much to heat air fifteen or sixteen
> degrees higher or cool it up to thirty or forty degrees lower than
> ambient Earth temperature.

I did some research and found there are several types of system.
Groundwater is only one type, popular on small lots where there's no
room horizontally.

Where there is enough land, what is done is to bury a field of pipes
and run water through them.

> > I prefer varnish.
>
> Ahhh! &#65533; Well if you have crappy-looking stock to begin with, you can f
ill
> the blems, sand it smooth and, after painting, you'll have an attractive
> piece. &#65533; If you just cover the blems with varnish, you'll be able to l
ook
> right through it and see the blemishes.

I don't use crappy-looking stock where it will show....

The first table I built, way back in the early 1970s, was made from
the wood in old shipping pallets. These were *old* pallets, and the
wood in them was incredible. I had access to a radial arm saw and a
planer, and made my own stock.

73 de Jim, N2EY

212. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-20 06:54:34 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <9tmEj.184$Cn4.176@news02.roc.ny>
Source record: 3183

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Mar 19, 6:10 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>> On Mar 18, 11:51 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>>>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>>>> On Mar 16, 6:53 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>>>>>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>
>>> They did, however, do things like bombing the embassy....
>
>> Right. That happened in Dar es Salaam in 1998. I was here, bet
> ween
>> assignments and arrived three weeks after the bombing. The only
>> shooting which went on at the site of the temporary embassy site was
>> when a drunken Tanzanian soldier fired three or four rounds from an
>> AK-47 into the ground. The Tanzanian army was detailed to protect th
> e
>> temporary embassy after the company of U.S. Marines departed. I neve
> r
>> did get very comfortable coming up the drive with a sleeping Tanzanian
>> soldier manning the tripod-mounted machine gun in the front yard of the
>> place.
>
> You were there a couple of years, as I recall.

Yes--1998-2000.

>>> Sadly, it says G2FIX is now a Silent Key.
>> I ran across the web site and e-mailed the fellow who put it up. I t
> old
>> him that I'd met Bert in the 70's while vacationing in Salisbury and
>> that I had more photos of him. He asked if I would be willing to sen
> d
>> the scans to him and allow him to post them on his site. Bert was a
>> fine fellow and heavily involved in the Royal Signals club, mobile
>> rallies, FOC and, as you've seen, in homebrewing.
>
> There's a certain British approach to engineering and craftsmanship
> that is underappreciated on this side of the pond IMHO.
>
> For example, the BBC was doing regular scheduled electronic TV
> broadcasting in 1936-37, and only shut down when WW2 broke out.
>
> They invented things like the re-entrant multiple cavity magnetron,

> practical jet engines, the dambuster bomb and delivery system (fly a
> Lancaster 50 feet off the water at night? No problem!) and much more.

Somewhere here in the shack, I have a little green hardbound book on
Baird's work.

> I have an RSGB handbook from the 1960s. It's quite different from the
> ARRL Handbooks of the time - more technical, more projects, more
> advanced and varied stuff. But nothing on operating, history,
> licensing, or the RSGB.

You can make up for that lack of info if you can find a wonderful book
from the 70's called, "The World at Their Fingertips".

> For example, the phenomenal G2DAF receivers, particularly the last
> version. Incredible sophistication and performance.

Really great designs. He kept at it for a long time. He provided many
mods for commercial rigs like the Yaesu FT-101 series.

> Of course part of that was the different economics of homebrewing in
> Europe at the time.

...and that went on through the 70's too. Taxes on imported equipment
were very high throughout most of Europe.

>>> I like the pot idea better - just like the BC-348...
>
>> Yeah! • I have a Q model of that one. I have it paired with a
>> Lafayette
>> Preselector/converter so it'll hit 15 and 10m.
>
> For years I had a BC-348R, and the book. Took it many places, acquired
> two parts units. Sold 'em when I moved from the house on
> RadioTelegraph Hill.
>
> I kept the BC-342-N that I bought for two dollars at a hamfest in
> Wrightstown many years ago.

That's another worthy receiver. My old pal K8IP had the '348Q. It's a
real keeper. Over the years I've had a number of the 342's, 312's and
348's.

>>>> Tom Rauch W8JI has presented quite a bit of excellent data. •
>>> Agreed. Not only that, but in easily-understood form, with data to
>>> back it up.
>>>> He's been
>>>> designing linear amps for several companies for quite a number of years
> .
>
>>> I did not know that! He's not one to brag, though.
>
>> Dentron, Ameritron and perhaps a couple of others.

>
> Good stuff!

...and affordable--sort of the everyman's amp series from both companies.

>>> He's also a very skilled operator, to grossly understate the case.
>
>> ...assisted by an antenna farm to die for.
>
> Yes but even the best rig and antenna will not make up for a lack of
> operator skill.

...not by themselves, but they'll surely put a dent in it. It's not
easy to establish a run if you can't be heard.

>> There's another site--something about technical books online--where I
>> was able to download pdf's of old GE, Sylvania and RCA tube manuals
>> (including a '38 RCA transmitting tube manual) along with early editions
>> of the Radio Handbook and the ARRL Handbook.
>
> Pete Millett's site. All kinds of stuff. There's also Frank's Tube
> Data Pages.

I'll check that one out.

>> • I have a 24 hour clock atop
>> the amp, one in the computer and one of those "atomic clock" things
>> hanging on the shack wall.
>
> I have a classic Numechron Tymeter 24 hour digital clock for the
> shack. It was made from parts of three junkers back in the 1980s and
> runs perfectly today. I might have three dollars invested in it.

I used to have one of those and would love to find another. They're
getting rather pricey these days. I'm happy to report that I have less
in my atomic clock than you have in your tymeter. My neighbor bought it
new and gave it to me when the outside temperature transmitter quit
working. I found a web site where I can order the transmitter for ten
bucks postpaid.

>>> They liked the Compactron-based tubes like the 6KD6 because they had
>>> the suppressor/BF plates
>>> brought out to a pin, so they could run grounded-grid without doing
>>> the kind of surgery needed by
>>> 1625s and such. Those sweep tubes *were* also plentiful, inexpensive,
>>> and worked well with
>>> low voltage/high current B+. The article I remember used a link-
>>> coupled output tank (!) instead of
>>> a pi-net because the output impedance was so low.
>> Yep. • Quite a number of manufacturers were making sweep tube amps dur
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>> the period when tube-type televisions abounded. • P&H, WRL/Galaxy, SBE

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>> and Yaesu come to mind. &#65533;
>
> What did P&H make? The only product of theirs I remember was the
> LA-400, which used four surplus 1625s doctored so the BF plates had
> their own base pin and could be grounded. Not all brands of 1625 could
> be converted like that, but some could.

That's right. P&H's later offering was a low profile, chrome plated
until called the P&H Spitfire--the LA-500M. It used six 12JB6's at 500w
input and was introduced in the early 60's.

>> A couple of others (Dentron and Ameritron)
>> continued well past the time when those tubes were being used in TV
>> sets. &#65533; It is hard to find finals for those amps these days and the
>> current "cheapy" amps are using Russian or Chinese copies of 811A's or
>> 572B's.
>
> Yup. There are also conversions of those old amps to use other tubes,
> mostly Soviet types. Some amps like the Heath SB-230 can often be had
> for a song because the tube they use is so expensive and hard to find.

One of the most modified is the old Dentron MLA-2500 which used
expensive and hard to find metal ceramics. Svetlana published a mod
using a pair of their modestly priced metal ceramics.

> Back in the 1960s the ARRL Handbook had a single 3-1000Z amp that
> still looks good today. In inflation-adjusted dollars it probably
> costs less now than it did then.

Those bottles are hard to come buy these days. I think it is hard to
beat a pair of 3-500's for legal limit or near legal limit power.
They're relatively inexpensive, can be used with or without the air
system chimneys and sockets and the graphite anode variants are quite
rugged.

>>> Some will argue such points anyway.
>
>> There's arguing and there is successfully arguing.
>
> True!

Heh.

>>> At one point I had stuff in the attic, the garage, the shack, the
>>> shack ceiling,
>>> under the deck, and in three different remote storage sites (only one
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>> and the main shack (about 16x16') and an adjacent room (about 16x12').
>
> NICE!
>
> In the house on RadioTelegraph Hill, everything was in the basement.
> But it was a big basement. (sigh) Less room here.

It is a sad state of affairs when it won't all fit in two rooms.

>>> You have to remember that before WW2 lumber was quite a different
>>> commodity; it
>>> was inexpensive and plentiful compared to today. A "2x4" was a lot
>>> closer to 2" by 4" then,
>>> too.
>> That's right. &#65533; There's a lot of the full dimensional lumber used in t
> his
>> place. &#65533; Some of it is even oak. &#65533; Our main staircase is an open d
> esign
>> using full dimensional oak 4x4 stock with oak planks.
>
> My house in Palmyra NY was built in 1900. It's still there, looking
> good.

We have a goodly number of those in this area, on both sides of the
river and into Greene County, Pennsylvania. Many of them have been
updated, insulated and look good. Many others haven't.

>> In this area there are still many homes in the $150-170k range being
>> built. &#65533; One can find many existing homes in the 50-90k range. &#65533; O
> ut here
>> near Cameron, it is possible to buy a perfectly good house for under 30k.
>
> Boy do I want to move! But one has to go where the jobs are.

...right up until retirement time rolls around. Then you're free to
live where you like.

>>> They are no longer limited to cities. Acquaintance of mine went
>>> looking for the dream-retirement location, found a developer building
>>> custom homes in Colorado. Perfect setup for ham radio, lots of three
>>> acres and up. And a ton of CC&Rs, including no antennas.
>> That's not *my idea* of a dream. &#65533; I'm sure there are plenty of spots
>> within that state where it is possible to buy some land and built a
>> house, not that I'd want to.
>
> He looked elsewhere. Point is, you'd have thought places like that

> would not be CC&R'd but they were.

I've been going through realtors listings for the southern part of this
state, getting an idea of what's available and what prices are
like--this for our eventual sale of this place to the approaching
longwall coal mine. I'm not bookmarking any homes which are in
subdivisions.

>>> I used to live just north of the Finger Lakes region of New York
>>> State. (That's why
>>> I have a 2-land call). I owned 46 feet of
>>> the original Erie Canal at one point. I know what you mean.
>> "I've got a mule and her name is Saaaal..."
>
> "Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal."
>
> Centerport - Port Byron - Lock Berlin - Port Gibson - Wayneport -
> guess where those place names came from?

Gee, Jim, I don't know--the Eric Canal?

>> That has to be pretty territory.
>
> The best. Plus to the south are the drumlins and the lakes. Winters
> are tough but the folks there are used to them.

I think you mean that they've learned to put up with them.

>> My guess is that not many folks have the opportunity to do terribly much
>> about choosing a home based upon amateur radio until they retire.
>
> If then!

Most but "stay putters" have the option. You needn't sell the XYL on an
antenna farm. Practice saying things like, "plenty of room for a
garden" and "park-like setting".

>> &#65533; It'd
>> be tough to find yourself interersted in becoming a radio amateur after
>> you'd already bought a place in one of those developments under
>> covenants and restrictions.
>
> That is one of the major challenges facing amateur radio today. If
> someone is already a ham, they should know enough to avoid buying a
> restricted place. But how many people will move just to have an
> outdoor antenna?

There are always guys like me. *grin*

>>>> I think the things typically run about $10k or so additional over the
>>>> cost of a new house with conventional heat.
>>> Depends on how deep they have to drill to get the needed groundwater,
>>> and what they have to drill through.

>>> But such is the future, for those who will look.
>> I may be mistaken, but I don't think any groundwater is used at W8RHM's
>> place. &#65533; His is a horizontal system and I believe it uses air. &#65533; I
> 'll have
>> to ask. &#65533; It surely doesn't cost much to heat air fifteen or sixteen
>> degrees higher or cool it up to thirty or forty degrees lower than
>> ambient Earth temperature.
>
> I did some research and found there are several types of system.
> Groundwater is only one type, popular on small lots where there's no
> room horizontally.
>
> Where there is enough land, what is done is to bury a field of pipes
> and run water through them.

Okay.

>>> I prefer varnish.
>> Ahhh! &#65533; Well if you have crappy-looking stock to begin with, you can f
> ill
>> the blems, sand it smooth and, after painting, you'll have an attractive
>> piece. &#65533; If you just cover the blems with varnish, you'll be able to l
> ook
>> right through it and see the blemishes.
>
> I don't use crappy-looking stock where it will show....
>
> The first table I built, way back in the early 1970s, was made from
> the wood in old shipping pallets. These were *old* pallets, and the
> wood in them was incredible. I had access to a radial arm saw and a
> planer, and made my own stock.

There's an idea for a guy who needs a sturdy but inexpensive table for
the shack. A couple of local outfits near here have so many pallets
that they are constantly running ads in the local paper for "free wooden
pallets".

Dave K8MN

213. Any Civil War reenactors on here?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-20 14:07:40 UTC
From: rramQRM@timesucker.homelinux.org
Message-ID: <E1Jc5F8-0003DQ-Uu@billhorne.homelinux.org>
Source record: 3184

Thanks for reading this.

I have a number of Sounders, some old keys, and some relays from the American Morse landline era. It occured to me that I might take up reenacting as another hobby, but when I asked my sister, who makes clothing for reenactors, "What does it cost?", she casually mentioned "Less than a thousand".

So, I'm looking for a discount version: I've got enough invested in _this_ hobby. ;-)

Please answer these questions:

1. Would I have to have perfect replicas of the clothes, etc.? I'm just interested in the telegraphy, and civilians used to do that as well as the military, so reenacting as a civilian would be fine.

2. Does all the telegraph gear have to be authentic to the period? I'd tend to doubt it, simply because instruments _that_ old would be too valuable for use in the field.

3. Who can I talk to for help without spending a day doing research online?

Thanks for any information.

73, Bill W1AC

(Filter QRM from my address for direct replies)

214. LQQKING for some info

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-20 17:41:14 UTC
From: Howard W3CQH <hsgorden@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <7ZmdnYr6pYo0A3_anZ2dnUVZ_tqtnZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 3185

I am looking for a small portable laptop about the size of a DVD player, with minimum Hard drive size and some memory, something I can load XP on, and that has a USB port, has a close to possible full size keybd, a sound card, and runs on 12v battery and/or on a 12v power cord I can plug into a cigarette lighter.

I want to be able to run some of the HAM digital modes while in the field and don't want to schlep a heavy laptop around.

I heard that something like this might be available, for a street price of less than or around $250.00, but I have lost the reference page to it.

73's

215. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 11 (Thursday, March 20, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-20 20:15:33 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080320201151.2E27530873@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 3186
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

****
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 11
March 20, 2008
****

IN THIS EDITION:

* Hams on Hand as Tornados Sweep through Georgia, Downtown Atlanta
* Station Locator Service New for Field Day 2008
* "The Doctor Is IN" the ARRL Letter
* ARRL Membership Newsletters, Bulletins and Notifications
* National Hurricane Conference Set for April
* EMCOMMWEST Coming to Reno in May
* Emmett Freitas, AE6Z (SK)
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration

Reminder: The ARRL Letter is posting one day early, Thursday, March 20, due to the ARRL closing in observance of Good Friday. There will be no ARRL Audio News on Friday, March 21.

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, <k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========

==> HAMS ON HAND AS TORNADOS SWEEP THROUGH GEORGIA, DOWNTOWN ATLANTA

When tornados swept through Georgia this past weekend, Amateur Radio operators were on hand to assist where needed. On Friday, March 14, an EF-2 tornado touched down in downtown Atlanta at 9:38 PM (local time). The National Weather Service said the twister was 6 miles long and 200 yards wide. Downtown Atlanta was a busy place that evening; not only was there a professional basketball game, college basketball fans were in town for the Southeast Conference tournament at the Georgia Dome. Due to the tornados, the final college game of the day was postponed until the next day. According to reports, the tornado blew off portions of the roof of the Georgia Dome.

An EF-2 tornado has wind speeds from 111-135 MPH. In such a tornado, roofs are torn off well-constructed houses, foundations of frame homes are shifted, mobile homes can be completely destroyed, large trees are snapped or uprooted, light-object missiles are generated and cars can be lifted off the ground.

ARRL Georgia Section Manager Susan Swiderski, AF4FO, said "William Chandler, KG4JTK, went from house to house in the wind and the rain checking for any injuries in the homes that had sustained damage by falling trees and debris. At the same time, he issued reports via radio to Barry Kanne, W4TGA, the Emergency Coordinator for neighboring DeKalb County, regarding fallen trees, billboards, power lines and other threats to public safety. Barry relayed this information to the Atlanta 911 center and to the Grady Hospital Emergency Operations Center." DeKalb County is directly to the east of Fulton County; Atlanta is the county seat of Fulton County.

The City of Atlanta Web site reported that "[e]xtensive damage has been reported to a number of landmark buildings in downtown, including the Omni Hotel, Georgia World Congress Center, CNN Building, the Georgia Dome and Phillips Arena and homes and businesses in nearby neighborhoods." The Red Cross opened a shelter at Central Recreation Center. There was "no external damage" to Hartsfield International Airport.

Eyewitness accounts said that "huge hunks of metal and broken glass were everywhere [in Atlanta], as well as overturned cars and benches in the road. Olympic Centennial Park is a mess." The high winds caused major damage to several other landmarks including the Georgia World Congress Center. Many hotels and office buildings had their windows blown out. Grady Memorial Hospital, the major trauma center for the Atlanta metro area, had its 100 foot tall communications tower blown off the hospital roof, disabling communications with emergency medical personnel.

ARRL Georgia Section Traffic Manager Charles Pennington, K4GK, served as Net Manager during the storms: "After several hours of recovery and damage assessment, it became obvious that while Atlanta had received major damage to downtown area, there were no fatalities reported and amazingly only 21 persons were treated for injuries." Two fatalities were reported in northwest Georgia.

In Effingham County, near Savannah on Georgia's coastline, Swiderski said a tornado "took down six power towers during the annual St Patrick's Day celebrations," thrusting the community into "total blackout conditions."

"A local 2 meter SKYWARN net, with Greg Tillman, N4VAD, serving as NCS, provided a vital link with the staff at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah. Dr Ra Meguiar, N4RVM, a physician and senior hospital administrator, later sent a letter of appreciation in recognition of the local hams 'for staying with us through the weather and the power outage.' He said that this was his first experience in participating in a severe weather net and the 'support was invaluable,'"

Swiderski said.

According to Swiderski, reports came mostly through the linked repeater system, "usually from a liaison from one of the many local nets that were going on in county after county, but there were also reports from stand-alone hams who had the misfortune of being in an affected area. There were reports of wall clouds, funnel clouds and hailstones -- large hailstones, sometimes as large as baseballs."

Tillman said that two mobile homes were completely destroyed and one was "tossed like a rag doll, rolling over numerous times 100 feet from its foundation where the anchors were pulled up from the ground." Nearly a dozen other homes and automobiles were damaged; five people from Effingham were transported to the local hospital for treatment and evaluation, he said.

"In some of the counties, this event was a true 'baptism under fire' for brand new Emergency Coordinators," Swiderski said. "I'm pleased to say that they all conducted themselves and all of the challenges admirably."

==> STATION LOCATOR SERVICE NEW FOR FIELD DAY 2008

This year, for the first time, the ARRL has put together a Station Locator to help amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day site near them. According to ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, many amateurs have been asking for something like this for many years.

If your group would like to be a part of the Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started. Just go to the Field Day Station Locator Web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php> and follow the instructions.

To help you out, Henderson has prepared a FAQ for the Field Day Station Locator.

Q) How does our Field Day site get listed on the map?
A) A club official or Field Day Chairman needs to go to the Web site. Once there, click on the link for "Add a Station" and follow the instructions.

Q) I put in the name of the park where we will be holding Field Day but got the message that the program can't find it. What do I do?
A) You should use a street address for the location. Unfortunately, the mapping program doesn't have a 100 percent complete database of park names and public site names. You may use a latitude/longitude -- enter the values separated by a comma (e.g. 42.345N, 85.445W) and set the city to NONE).

Q) I put in a street address but the map locator put me it in a wrong location on the street. What do I do?
A) While in the data input or edit screen, use your cursor to move the red "pin" to the correct location on the map.

Q) What if I put in the wrong information or something about our Field Day operation changes?
A) The person who input the data will be able to edit the entry. Simply follow the "Add a Station" link and then select "Edit this entry" next to the one to correct.

Q). I tried to enter my club's information, but I was denied access. What do I do?
A) To help ensure that only one person is managing a club's entry, you must be logged onto the site with your ARRL member ID and password. If you are not an ARRL member, ask a member of the club who is to be responsible for adding the club's information to the site.

Q) I am looking for a Field Day operation to attend. How do I use the site?
A) Begin by typing in the city and state where you would like to search, something like "Brooklyn, New York" or "Anaheim, California." Depending on the geographic location, the map will take you to the area you list. If a Field Day operation has been registered for that general area, a red "pin" will show on the map. If you click on the red pin, the details for that site will appear in the box on the right hand side of the screen. If you don't see a red pin, scroll out a level to find one near the location you listed. It is also possible to drag the map to other areas by holding down the left button on your mouse and then moving the map around. You can also scroll in and out using the +/- buttons on the left side of the map. You may also zoom in and center by double-clicking with the mouse near the red pin.

Q) I found a red pin near where I will be. Where do I find the information on that site?
A) Each entry has a contact person with either an e-mail address or phone number who should be able to help you. It will appear on the right side of the box when you click on the red pin for an entry.

Q) I found an entry with wrong information. What should I do?
A) Please contact the person whose name appears as the contact person for that site. ARRL HQ does not have detailed information on the site.

Q) I want to check on our club's information. What should I do?
A) Type in the call sign that will be used and you will be taken to the location and club information.

ARRL Field Day will be held June 28-29. For more information, please visit the Field Day Web page <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>.

==> "THE DOCTOR IS IN" THE ARRL LETTER

This week, ARRL Letter readers are in luck! The ARRL's very own Doctor, author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is IN," answers a question from his mailbag:

Question -- Jeff Otto, WA1QYW, of Framingham, Massachusetts, asks: I have a new SSB transceiver, and I noticed something peculiar. When I tune to an empty frequency, say on 20 meters, with absolutely no signals

and only noise, and I switch the mode between USB and LSB, the received "tone" of the background noise changes. On one position, it sounds like it consists of more high frequency components, and on the other position it sounds like more low frequency components. I would have thought that white noise would sound the same, regardless of which sideband is being received. In normal SSB operation, this effect is not really noticed. I'm wondering if there is some sort of a misalignment in the radio.

The Doctor Answers -- Jeff, I agree with your diagnosis. Switching between USB and LSB switches the "BFO" or injected carrier frequency from one side of the SSB filter bandwidth to the other. There are a few exceptions, notably the early RL Drake tube transceivers that kept the same BFO frequency but switched the filters. Switching the BFO frequency is generally cheaper than having two filters.

There are two possibilities: One, that the shape of the filter passband is not flat. If it's higher on one side than the other, that will translate to stronger high frequency response on one sideband and stronger low on the other.

The other, and I would say more likely, possibility is that the BFO oscillators are not spaced the same distance from the edge of filter bandwidth. In one case you might have (with a 2.1 kHz filter, for example) with 200 Hz offset, an audio response from 200 to 2300 Hz, while the other sideband if spaced 400 Hz will have a response from 400 Hz to 2500 Hz. The usual design response is from 300 Hz to 300 + the filter bandwidth.

You can test this by using a good low-level audio generator in the microphone input (set to the same level as the mic audio), and checking the response at the audio monitor jack, if your radio has one. You could also check with another receiver, but unless it is very wideband, you would really be measuring the combination of offsets and filters in both radios.

If your transceiver has a PASSBAND TUNING or IF SHIFT control, you can move it to make the receive audio sound the same on either sideband, but that won't help on the transmit side. If it's not very different, and if you get good audio reports on both sidebands, you could also just pretend you hadn't noticed!
==> ARRL MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTERS, BULLETINS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than just The ARRL Letter? One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the ARES E-Letter (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News, the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter and the IARU E-Letter.

You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate

to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplerian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service to members, letting them know when their membership and license are due to expire.

Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>.

==> NATIONAL HURRICANE CONFERENCE SET FOR APRIL

The 30th Annual National Hurricane Conference <http://www.hurricanemeeting.com> begins on March 31, running through April 4 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. This annual event brings together many disciplines in the Emergency Management field to address tropical events that impact the United States.

Once again, Amateur Radio is being highlighted on Tuesday, April 1 in a 4.5 hour training session. ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, is the Chairman of the Amateur Radio Committee of the NHC, and has put together what he calls "a worthwhile learning experience for the attendees."

Leading off the afternoon will be a presentation on Amateur Radio and the National Hurricane Center (NHC) Station WX4NHC <http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw> by John McHugh, K4AG, and Julio Ripoll, WD4R, the Amateur Radio Coordinators at the NHC <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>. The VoIP Hurricane Net <http://www.voipwx.net> will then be highlighted in a presentation by Rob Macedo, KD1CY, Director of Operations.

The final formal presentation of the afternoon will be the subject of Macedo's and Dura's "Emergency Management's use of Amateur Radio for Situational Awareness and Disaster Intelligence." This discussion is focused on the Emergency Managers and their staff to give them clear concepts to include Amateur Radio in their operational plans beyond the more traditional uses of emergency traffic handling. As time permits, the afternoon will conclude with an open forum on current issues in Amateur Radio's response to tropical events.

==> EMCOMMWEST COMING TO RENO IN MAY

EMCOMMWEST 2008 -- an ARRL specialty convention devoted entirely to emergency communications -- is coming to the Circus Circus Hotel Resort in Reno, Nevada May 2-4.

ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, will host an Emergency Communications forum and deliver the keynote address. Gordon West, WB6NOA, will be the special guest for the Saturday night banquet; West will also bring his mobile communication unit and present an "Introduction to Emergency Communications" forum on Saturday. Special Counsel of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth had been scheduled to make an in-person appearance, but instead will attend EMCOMMWEST via a special video presentation.

The Reno Spring Hamswap will be held on Saturday, May 3 starting at 6 AM, adjacent to the hotel (corner of Sixth and Sierra). Everyone is invited to swap and sell. Unlike last year, there are no charges for buyers or sellers. Bring your own tables or swap out of the back of your vehicle.

There are four tracks of programs currently scheduled for EMCOMMWEST: General/Technical EmComm (covering public relations, hazmat awareness, recruiting EmComm teams and more), EmComm 101 (including an introduction to Emergency Communications, Net Control Station training, message handling training, EmComm go-kits and a message handling competition), EmComm Served Agencies (including a weather spotter class, emergency operation centers, search and rescue, Salvation Army, MARS and CERT), and Education and Recruiting (including a Technician "Ham Cram" and VE sessions). The Ham Cram is for anyone interested in obtaining their Technician class license without suffering through a classroom environment.

There will be a special event station, N7Z, on HF, UHF and VHF. A special QSL card will be available.

Registration is now available online via the EMCOMMWEST Website <http://www.emcommwest.org>. Special room rates are available from Circus Circus <http://www.circuscircusreno.com/>. Please visit the EMCOMMWEST Web site or e-mail <info@emcommwest.org> for more information

==> EMMETT FREITAS, AE6Z (SK)

Emmett Freitas, AE6Z (ex-W6OIA), known as "Shorty" to his friends, passed away February 23. An ARRL Life Member, Freitas was on the Volunteer Examiner team that administered the first Amateur Radio license test session on August 31, 1984. He went on to participate in a total of 548 test sessions. Freitas, a US Navy veteran in WWII, served as a Chief Petty Officer (Radioman) on the USS Parakeet, as well as other duties in and around the Panama Canal Zone, the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador and Lakehurst, New Jersey. A memorial service was held in his home city of San Jose, California on March 7.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "But by the Sun-spark on the sea" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: ARRL Headquarters is closed for Good Friday on March 21, so this bulletin is coming out a day early, and on the vernal equinox. We had a few more days with visible sunspots over the past week. Sunspot numbers on March 15-17 were 12, 12 and 11. Over the past month, we seem to have a single sunspot appear for a few days, then fade away or rotate out of view, then another pop up after four or five days. Projection for the near term is planetary A index of 5 for March 20-24, then 10, 20, 25, 20 and 8 for March 25-29. There are similar returns to planetary A index of 25 predicted for April 5, April 23 and May 2, but otherwise quiet. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions for March 21, quiet March 22-24, unsettled March 25 and active March 26-27. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL

Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, look for the ARLHS Annual Spring Lites QSO Party from March 21-30. The NCCC Sprint is March 21. The BARTG Spring RTTY Contest is March 22-24. The UBA Spring Contest (2 Meters) is March 23 and the SKCC Sprint is March 26. Next weekend is another running of the NCCC Sprint on March 28. The CQ WW WPX Contest (SSB) is March 29-30. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, March 23, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, April 4, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001); Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006); Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009); Analog Electronics (EC-012), and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call 860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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216. Re: LQQKING for some info

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-20 20:21:16 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <471bc1d5-94b4-446e-9730-8c9bed55b2ec@t54g2000hsg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3187

I saw the very same thing a few weeks ago in the news paper on sale at
Fry's for just about $250 w/o software. I was unable to locate it on
their website, and I don't remember the manufacturer name.

These little boxes open up a whole new world if you ask me. They are
not much bigger than a DVD drive, are powered by 12V DC and draw a bit
over 1 amp. They would make a cool station computer and take up very
little space. They could operate off of battery power easily and are
quite capable machines.

-= bob =-

On Mar 20, 12:41 pm, "Howard W3CQH" <hsgor...@comcast.net> wrote:
> I am looking for a small portable laptop about the size of a DVD player,
> with minimum Hard drive size and some memory, something I can load XP on,
> and that has a USB port, has a close to possible full size keybd, a sound
> card, and runs on 12v battery and/or on a 12v power cord I can plug into a
> cigarette lighter.
>
> I want to be able to run some of the HAM digital modes while in the field
> and don't want to schlep a heavy laptop around.
>
> I heard that something like this might be available, for a street price of
> less than or around $250.00, but I have lost the reference page to it.
>
> 73's

217. Re: LQQKING for some info

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-20 21:54:28 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <8c7d383b-5fd0-41fc-bcc3-be22cd4ba5a6@x30g2000hsd.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3188

Oh,

One more thing I saw in QST you might be interested in. Some guys
have a "build it yourself" portable device that was set up to do some
HF digital stuff. It was based on a couple of PIC's and if I remember
right could be built for less than your $250. You just plug in a
keyboard and wire the thing to your portable radio and volia PSK is
yours w/o a computer.

Searching for it on the ARRL's website says it's on Page 35 of the
March 2008 issue of QST.

On Mar 20, 12:41 pm, "Howard W3CQH" <hsgor...@comcast.net> wrote:
>
> I want to be able to run some of the HAM digital modes while in the field
> and don't want to schlep a heavy laptop around.

218. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-20 23:21:03 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <a2a978bf-2d63-4978-9d7c-f88405938047@m44g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3189

On Mar 20, 1:54 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Mar 19, 6:10 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> >> N...@aol.com wrote:
>
> > You were there a couple of years, as I recall.
>
> Yes--1998-2000.

You should write a book! Or at least a collection of stories about your experiences in various services and locations. Military, dept of state, ham radio...

You could put it on the web, too.....

> > There's a certain British approach to engineering and
> > craftsmanship
> > that is underappreciated on this side of the pond IMHO.
>
> > For example, the BBC was doing regular scheduled
> > electronic TV
> > broadcasting in 1936-37, and only shut down when
> > WW2 broke out.
>
> > They invented things like the re-entrant multiple
> > cavity magnetron,
> > practical jet engines, the dambuster bomb and
> > delivery system (fly a
> > Lancaster 50 feet off the water at night? No problem!)
> > and much more.
>
> Somewhere here in the shack, I have a little green
> hardbound book on
> Baird's work.

If you mean John Logie Baird, unfortunately he barked up the wrong (mechanical) tree for too long. But when he got together with Farnsworth things really started to roll.

And yet people still think TV was first demonstrated to the public at the New York World's Fair in 1939.

Whatever happened to World's Fairs, anyway?

> > I have an RSGB handbook from the 1960s.
> > It's quite different from the

> > ARRL Handbooks of the time - more technical,
> > more projects, more
> > advanced and varied stuff. But nothing on operating, history,
> > licensing, or the RSGB.
>
> You can make up for that lack of info if you can
> find a wonderful book
> from the 70's called, "The World at Their Fingertips".

I'll keep an eye out, but my point was the difference in focus.
The RSGB Handbook was more narrowly focused. I think it
eventually influenced the ARRL handbook, too.

Note too that the RSGB handbook wasn't a new edition every year, or
even every 2-3 years.

One thing that I think is missing from the ARRL library is a successor
to "Understanding Amateur Radio". "UAR" was a
great book that filled the gap between the basic intro books and the
full Handbook.
>
> > For example, the phenomenal G2DAF receivers,
> > particularly the last
> > version. Incredible sophistication and performance.
>
> Really great designs. • He kept at it for a long time. •
> He provided many
> mods for commercial rigs like the Yaesu FT-101 series.

Those early '101s sure needed them!

> > Of course part of that was the different economics
> > of homebrewing in
> > Europe at the time.
>
> ...and that went on through the 70's too. • Taxes on
> imported equipment
> were very high throughout most of Europe.

I would not be surprised if imported *parts* were taxed/tariffed/
dutied much less than imported finished
products.

In the back of the RSGB book were ads for outfits that would
sell you complete punched and drilled chassis, panels, brackets, etc.
for various well-known projects like the G2DAF receivers, or would
make up such things to your drawings. Also the Electronique coils,
Jackson Brothers drives and capacitors, etc.

> > Pete Millett's site. All kinds of stuff. There's also Frank's Tube
> > Data Pages.
>

> I'll check that one out.

"Frank's" is actually a collection of sites all over the world. Not only do they have data for tubes you never even heard of, there are often multiple data sheets from different manufacturers. So you can compare the GL-833A from GE with the RCA 833A, for example.

> >> • I have a 24 hour clock atop
> >> the amp, one in the computer and one of
> > > those "atomic clock" things
> >> hanging on the shack wall.
>
> > I have a classic Numechron Tymeter 24 hour
> > digital clock for the
> > shack. It was made from parts of three junkers
> > back in the 1980s and
> > runs perfectly today. I might have three dollars
> > invested in it.
>
> I used to have one of those and would love
> to find another. • They're
> getting rather pricey these days.

Hamfests....

>• I'm happy to report that I have less
> in my atomic clock than you have in your tymeter. •

> My neighbor bought it
> new and gave it to me when the outside temperature
> transmitter quit
> working. • I found a web site where I can order the
> transmitter for ten
> bucks postpaid.

That's The Southgate School way of thinking and doing, right there.
>
> P&H's later offering was a low profile, chrome plated
> until called the P&H Spitfire--the LA-500M.

YES! I remember now!

There was a smattering of amps with lots of tubes in parallel, aiming to achieve 50 ohm output impedance.

>• It used six 12JB6's at 500w
> input and was introduced in the early 60's.

Yup.

> > Back in the 1960s the ARRL Handbook had a single 3-1000Z
> > amp that
> > still looks good today. In inflation-adjusted dollars it probably

> > costs less now than it did then.
>
> Those bottles are hard to come buy these days. &#65533;
> I think it is hard to
> beat a pair of 3-500's for legal limit or near legal limit power.
> They're relatively inexpensive, can be used with or without the air
> system chimneys and sockets and the graphite anode variants
> are quite
> rugged.

Less than $200 each, too. Adjusted for inflation, they are cheaper
than in the early 1960s when the 3-400Z first appeared.

> It is a sad state of affairs when it won't all fit in two rooms.

Not at all, IMHO!

> > Out here near Cameron, it is possible to buy a
> > perfectly good house for under 30k.
>
> > Boy do I want to move! But one has to go where the jobs are.
>
> ...right up until retirement time rolls around. &#65533; Then you're free to
> live where you like.

Sort of. Depends on the family situation, both spouse and kids. Also
one's health and ties to the community.

And most of all finances. With people living longer, having kids later
and the greater dependence on 401K/IRA funding rather than
company pensions and Social Security, retiring at 60, 62 or even 65
isn't nearly so doable as it was in times past.

> I've been going through realtors listings for the southern part of
> this
> state, getting an idea of what's available and what prices are
> like--this for our eventual sale of this place to the approaching
> longwall coal mine. &#65533; I'm not bookmarking any homes which are in
> subdivisions.

IMHO the thing to do is to find a good RE attorney and agent, and
explain to them *exactly* what you will and will not accept. If they
don't "get it" right away, find somebody else.

Realtor.com is a wealth of info, too.

> > The best. Plus to the south are the drumlins and
> > the lakes. Winters
> > are tough but the folks there are used to them.
>
> I think you mean that they've learned to put up with them.

Not just that; the folks really are used to them.

> Most but "stay putters" have the option. • You needn't
> sell the XYL on an
> antenna farm. • Practice saying things like, "plenty of room for a
> garden" and "park-like setting".

Depends on the XYL. Some will not be interested in the garden or
the park-like setting. Others may not want to move away from their
connections to the community, or the kids. Or their career.

Of course if the kids move....

> > The first table I built, way back in the early 1970s,
> > was made from
> > the wood in old shipping pallets. These were *old* pallets,
> > and the
> > wood in them was incredible.

I figure they were at least a couple decades old in 1970.

> > I had access to a radial arm saw and a
> > planer, and made my own stock.
>
> There's an idea for a guy who needs a sturdy but
> inexpensive table for
> the shack. • A couple of local outfits near here have
> so many pallets
> that they are constantly running ads in the local paper
> for "free wooden
> pallets".

The key is the planer. I'd take a pallet apart, carefully checking
that all the nails and staples were out, and then run it through
the planer. Took several passes but the result was square, straight
finished stock. The pieces weren't long but they were long enough,
and I knew how to do splices.

I should get that old table out of storage and put it back to work...

73 de Jim, N2EY

219. Re: LQQKING for some info

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-21 01:42:13 UTC
From: Bryan <bryan.swadenerNOSPAM@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <BrmdndQzM9z-j37anZ2dnUVZ_tmhnZ2d@giganews.com>
Source record: 3190

Howard W3CQH wrote:
> I am looking for a small portable laptop about the size of a DVD player,
> with minimum Hard drive size and some memory, something I can load XP on,
> and that has a USB port, has a close to possible full size keybd, a sound
> card, and runs on 12v battery and/or on a 12v power cord I can plug into a
> cigarette lighter.
>
> I want to be able to run some of the HAM digital modes while in the field
> and don't want to schlep a heavy laptop around.
>
> I heard that something like this might be available, for a street price of
> less than or around $250.00, but I have lost the reference page to it.
>
> 73's
>
Hi Howard,

Many laptop AC power supplies produce about 16VDC. For Field Day use, I picked up a used laptop of this type for about $380. A coworker (who's a whiz with switching regulators) designed a boost switching regulator that will handle up to about 4.5A load: http://www.geocities.com/bswadener/temp/Laptop_Power_Supply.pdf It'll maintain the output with as little as 11VDC input. As checked with a spectrum analyzer, it produces no noticeable noise.

73,
Bryan WA7PRC

220. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-21 06:25:42 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <dEHEj.238$Cn4.86@news02.roc.ny>
Source record: 3191

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Mar 20, 1:54 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>> On Mar 19, 6:10 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>>>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>> You were there a couple of years, as I recall.
>> Yes--1998-2000.
>
> You should write a book! Or at least a collection of stories about
> your experiences in various services and locations. Military, dept of
> state, ham radio...

Funny you should mention it! I've got most of the work done on a memoir
of the travels as they relate to amateur radio with just enough of the
non-radio events thrown in for flavor.

> You could put it on the web, too.....

Naw, I plan to finance my next rig with the proceeds. There'll be DVD's
as well. I'm still in the process of importing the videotaped material,
editing and glitzing it up.

>>> There's a certain British approach to engineering and
>>> craftsmanship
>>> that is underappreciated on this side of the pond IMHO.
>>> For example, the BBC was doing regular scheduled
>>> electronic TV
>>> broadcasting in 1936-37, and only shut down when
>>> WW2 broke out.
>>> They invented things like the re-entrant multiple
>>> cavity magnetron,
>>> practical jet engines, the dambuster bomb and
>>> delivery system (fly a
>>> Lancaster 50 feet off the water at night? No problem!)
>>> and much more.
>> Somewhere here in the shack, I have a little green
>> hardbound book on
>> Baird's work.
>
> If you mean John Logie Baird, unfortunately he barked up the wrong
> (mechanical) tree for too long. But when he got together with
> Farnsworth things really started to roll.

Yep. The rotating wheel was wild.

> And yet people still think TV was first demonstrated to the public at
> the New York World's Fair in 1939.

The book I have was printed around 1937 I believe.

> Whatever happened to World's Fairs, anyway?

That's a good question for which I have no answer.

>>> I have an RSGB handbook from the 1960s.
>>> It's quite different from the
>>> ARRL Handbooks of the time - more technical,
>>> more projects, more
>>> advanced and varied stuff. But nothing on operating, history,
>>> licensing, or the RSGB.
>> You can make up for that lack of info if you can
>> find a wonderful book
>> from the 70's called, "The World at Their Fingertips".
>
> I'll keep an eye out, but my point was the difference in focus.

> The RSGB Handbook was more narrowly focused. I think it
> eventually influenced the ARRL handbook, too.
>
> Note too that the RSGB handbook wasn't a new edition every year, or
> even every 2-3 years.

I think that's probably due to the relatively small number of radio
amateurs in the British Isles. As I recall, the RSGB handbook was
nearly thirty dollars in the 70's.

> One thing that I think is missing from the ARRL library is a successor
> to "Understanding Amateur Radio". "UAR" was a
> great book that filled the gap between the basic intro books and the
> full Handbook.

I agree. It was full of information set forth in an easy to follow style.

>>> For example, the phenomenal G2DAF receivers,
>>> particularly the last
>>> version. Incredible sophistication and performance.
>> Really great designs. [illegible] He kept at it for a long time. [illegible]
>> He provided many
>> mods for commercial rigs like the Yaesu FT-101 series.
>
> Those early '101s sure needed them!

Agreed. The transmitter sections worked pretty well. The receiver
portions needed some help.

>>> Of course part of that was the different economics
>>> of homebrewing in
>>> Europe at the time.
>> ...and that went on through the 70's too. [illegible] Taxes on

>> imported equipment
>> were very high throughout most of Europe.
>
> I would not be surprised if imported *parts* were taxed/tariffed/
> dutied much less than imported finished
> products.

You're right. Finland taxed imported transceivers and amplifiers at
100% duty--even into the 80's.

> In the back of the RSGB book were ads for outfits that would
> sell you complete punched and drilled chassis, panels, brackets, etc.
> for various well-known projects like the G2DAF receivers, or would
> make up such things to your drawings. Also the Electronique coils,
> Jackson Brothers drives and capacitors, etc.

As far as I know, Jackson Bros. is still in the business of making
vernier reduction drives--top notch stuff.

>>> Pete Millett's site. All kinds of stuff. There's also Frank's Tube
>>> Data Pages.
>> I'll check that one out.
>
> "Frank's" is actually a collection of sites all over the world. Not
> only do they have data for tubes you never even heard of, there are
> often multiple data sheets from different manufacturers. So you can
> compare the GL-833A from GE with the RCA 833A, for example.

Odd that you mentioned those two. The only 833A I've got sitting around
is an Amperex.

>>>> • I have a 24 hour clock atop
>>>> the amp, one in the computer and one of
>>>> those "atomic clock" things
>>>> hanging on the shack wall.
>>> I have a classic Numechron Tymeter 24 hour
>>> digital clock for the
>>> shack. It was made from parts of three junkers
>>> back in the 1980s and
>>> runs perfectly today. I might have three dollars
>>> invested in it.
>> I used to have one of those and would love
>> to find another. • They're
>> getting rather pricey these days.
>
> Hamfests....

I'm going to make a vow to hit more this year.

>> • I'm happy to report that I have less
>> in my atomic clock than you have in your tymeter. •
>

>> My neighbor bought it
>> new and gave it to me when the outside temperature
>> transmitter quit
>> working. &#65533; I found a web site where I can order the
>> transmitter for ten
>> bucks postpaid.
>
> That's The Southgate School way of thinking and doing, right there.

I'm used to it. I once repaired a Heathkit Warrior amp for WA8JOC with
tandem copier transformers which I got for free.

>> P&H's later offering was a low profile, chrome plated
>> until called the P&H Spitfire--the LA-500M.
>
> YES! I remember now!
>
> There was a smattering of amps with lots of tubes in parallel, aiming
> to achieve 50 ohm output impedance.

Yep, relatively low plate voltage and high current jobs. One fellow did
a homebrew amp design which appeared in CQ in the 60's, which used
sixteen horizontal output tubes. Now if a guy wants some oomph for
cheaper, 811A's are a pretty good bargain as are 572B's. With four
811A's making 800 or so watts output, that's an inexpensive way to get
9db more than the typical 100w rig and it is down only about 2.5db from
the legal limit.

>> &#65533; It used six 12JB6's at 500w
>> input and was introduced in the early 60's.
>
> Yup.
>
>>> Back in the 1960s the ARRL Handbook had a single 3-1000Z
>>> amp that
>>> still looks good today. In inflation-adjusted dollars it probably
>>> costs less now than it did then.
>> Those bottles are hard to come buy these days. &#65533;
>> I think it is hard to
>> beat a pair of 3-500's for legal limit or near legal limit power.
>> They're relatively inexpensive, can be used with or without the air
>> system chimneys and sockets and the graphite anode variants
>> are quite
>> rugged.
>
> Less than $200 each, too. Adjusted for inflation, they are cheaper
> than in the early 1960s when the 3-400Z first appeared.

That's what I mean. Price 3CX800's, 8877's or 3CX1200's and you'll get
an idea of what a bargain the 3-500's are.

>> It is a sad state of affairs when it won't all fit in two rooms.
>
> Not at all, IMHO!

Well, there's likely a move in my future and something's going to have
to go.

>>> Out here near Cameron, it is possible to buy a
>>> perfectly good house for under 30k.

>>> Boy do I want to move! But one has to go where the jobs are.
>> ...right up until retirement time rolls around. Then you're free to
>> live where you like.
>
> Sort of. Depends on the family situation, both spouse and kids. Also
> one's health and ties to the community.

Pass it along to the kids now: There is an applied implication that
that they travel to visit the parents.

> And most of all finances. With people living longer, having kids later
> and the greater dependence on 401K/IRA funding rather than
> company pensions and Social Security, retiring at 60, 62 or even 65
> isn't nearly so doable as it was in times past.

Right now probably isn't a good time to hang it up so early. Then
again, many people seem to believe that they're going to need the same
amount of money as they now earn in their retirement. The house is apt
to be paid off, they do less driving. They don't have the kids to
support. Many of them don't need as large a house.

>> I've been going through realtors listings for the southern part of
>> this
>> state, getting an idea of what's available and what prices are
>> like--this for our eventual sale of this place to the approaching
>> longwall coal mine. I'm not bookmarking any homes which are in
>> subdivisions.
>
> IMHO the thing to do is to find a good RE attorney and agent, and
> explain to them *exactly* what you will and will not accept. If they
> don't "get it" right away, find somebody else.

What I've done in the past is to write it up in the offer, "subject to
there being no restrictions on the installation of an amateur radio
tower/s."

After a couple of false starts with a Cincinnati realtor back in the
70's, I got the agent working with us up to speed on what we wanted in
addition to style, size of yard, number of bed and bathrooms: no antenna
restrictions and located on high ground. I had trouble with a southern
West Virginia realtor before we bought this place. I'd specified "high
altitude. She showed me a couple of places with a great view of a hill
perhaps 500 feet higher than the house. I might have had to become an
Asia specialist.

> Realtor.com is a wealth of info, too.

...and homes.com and a number of other sites I'm presently browsing.

I'm thankful that my XYL and I agree that neither of us wants to be
hemmed in by neighbors. She likes vegetable and flower gardening.
I like multiple towers. I'm thinking 3 or 5 or 8 acres. *grin*

Dave K8MN

221. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1597 - March 21, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-21 10:17:16 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080321020723.0217f9a8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 3192
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1597 - March 21, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1597 with a release date of Friday, March 21st, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The long awaited Clipperton DXpedition goes Q-R-T after a successful run, California hams are exempt from a new hands

free cellphone law and ham radio says goodbye to AMSAT member 2001 with the

passing of writer and visionary Arthur C. Clarke. Find out the details on

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1597 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: - CLIPPERTON A SUCCESS AND NOW QRT

The long awaited Clipperton DXpedition now QRT and everyone involved is calling it a big success. Amateur Radio Newsline's Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, reports.

--

Operations from Clipperton Island ended early on Saturday March 15th. During the tile the team was on this rare D-X-C-C entity, the members had to endure major tropical storms and extreme heat. This took its toll on both the operators and equipment.

Even so, the last report on the operations Web page shows a total of 59,875

QSO's were completed. Of these 28,402 were on CW, 28,736 on SSB and 2,737

made on RTTY.

Heres the post DXpedition information you need to know. First is that you

QSL this operation to N7CQQ, either via the bureau or direct to John Kennon, P.O. Box 31553, Laughlin, Nevada 89028, USA.

Also, for those who use electronic contact verification the logs will be uploaded to the ARRL's Logbook to the World as soon as they have been verified.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, in Los Angeles.

--

More information is on-line at www.clipperton2008.org (Clipperton Web Page)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: GLORIOSO ISLANDS TO ACTIVATE IN MAY

One of the most sought after D-X entities may soon be on the air. This with word that a French group that has been trying to get a permit to activate Glorioso Island for several months has finally received the necessary landing permit.

If all goes well, the five operators hope to bring Glorioso to the ham radio airwaves in early May. Dates being talked about are May 5th to the 9th, but at airtime nothing is cast in concrete. They are currently looking

for sponsors, and if you would like to help please contact F5OGL.

Presently, Glorioso is ranked 4th in "DX Magazine's 2007 Most Wanted Countries World-Wide" in the mixed modes. Once there the team plans to have 3 or 4 stations on the air to help fill the need for QSO with this rather rare location.

The latest updates can be found at the operations website and we will have

more DX news for you later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report.

(do not read: at http://glorieuses2005.free.fr (OPDX, others)

**

RADIO LAW: HAMS NOT AFFECTED BY NEW CALIFORNIA CELLPHONE LAW

Amateur Radio has been exempt from California state's new "Hands Free" law. Beginning July 1st California will have new laws on the books to deal

with the use of wireless telephones while driving. Some personal radio operators have been asking if the new statute affects them.

According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles, the use of dedicated two-way radios such Citizen Band transceivers, walkie-talkies and

the like are not affected by the new ordinance. This, as long as the person behind the wheel is age 18 or older.

More is on-line at the California D-M-V website: http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/dl208_03cell_phone.pdf (DMV, ARNewsline(tm))

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: COMMUNICATIONS VISIONARY ARTHUR C. CLARKE - S.K AT

AGE 90

The changing of the guard continues. This with word that British science fiction writer, communications futurist and friend of Amateur Radio, Arthur

C Clarke, has died in Sri Lanka at the age of 90.

According to news reports, Clarke passed away the morning of March 18, 2008, after suffering from breathing problems. While not a radio amateur,

Arthur C. Clarke had some strong albeit unofficial ties to the world-wide ham radio space community. For years he held the honorary AMSAT membership

number 2001.

As an author and visionary, Clarke's most famous prediction was his proposal of geostationary satellites for communications published in the Wireless World magazine in 1945. While this proposal was not taken seriously at the time, his orbital dream became a reality about two decades

later with the launch in 1965 the first commercial geostationary communication satellite Intelsat One also known as Early Bird. In this audio clip from a 1992 interview with the late Roy Neal, K6DUE, Clarke told

hams listening to a teleconference radio net how the idea came about:

--

Clarke: "At the time I was working on a very complex RADAR. It was the first Ground Approach Control flight management system which has about a thousand valves or what you call tubes. At least one would blow out every

day , so I couldn't imagine that sort of equipment operating without mechanics on the spot to change them and give it service. So I assumed that these relay stations would be manned space stations, like the Freedom

Space Station but at a lower altitude."

"What I didn't envision was the incredible revolution in solid state electronics: First the transistor and later the micro-chip. And I have sometimes said though not very seriously that the invention of the transistor was a major catastrophe for astronautics because if we hadn't invented the transistor we would have had to build manned space stations and we would have been half way to Mars by now (giggle)."

--

For his effort, the geostationary satellite orbit known as the Clarke Belt

was named in his honor. And while he had moved away from the United Kingdom years ago, in 1988 was knighted by England's Queen Elizabeth.

As a writer Clarke was the author, or co-author, of dozens of fiction and non-fiction books. He will likely be best remembered for his novel 2001: A

Space Odyssey. This book was later turned into a landmark big screen motion picture by Clarke and director Stanley Kubrick. His other well known works include the sequel 2010 that also became a motion picture and the books Childhood's End and Rendezvous with Rama. In all, Arthur C. Clarke has penned some 33 novels and another 29 non-fiction books and stories from the time he began writing them in 1950. His latest titled "Firstborn" was published in 2007.

Once called the first dweller in the electronic cottage, Arthur C. Clarke's

vision of space travel and computing captured the imagination of readers worldwide long before any of it came to pass. He lived to see much of what

he predicted become reality during his lifetime.

Arthur C. Clarke, visionary, writer and longtime friend of radio amateurs word wide, dead at age 90. (ARNewsline(tm), published reports)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the K6OX and KC6OCA repeaters of the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club serving Lancaster California.

(5 sec pause here)

**

BREAKING NEWS: REMAINS OF MISSING INDIANA HAM BELIEVED FOUND

Some breaking news. Plainfield, Indiana, police said they may have found the body of a ham radio operator missing for more than two years. This as

authorities discover the vehicle belonging to Harold Hensley, AB9JD, with a

person inside of it in a retention pond close to his home.

According to news reports Hensley was last seen leaving his residence in January of 2006. At that time his wife told authorities that her husband was on his normal routine and he was supposed to be at work at 7 a.m.. His

employer called at 7:30 and said he had not shown up. He has not been seen

since.

The biggest break in the case came just five blocks from the Hensley's home. Police said a tip early in the investigation brought them to a BP Gas Station. They said its where someone saw Hensley the day he went missing. Finally on Monday afternoon March 17th investigators found Hensley's jeep and what they believe to be his human remains in the pond only about 5 blocks from his home. Detectives are waiting for autopsy results to confirm his identity and the exact cause of death. (Published news reports)

**.

ENFORCEMENT: $13000 ASSESSED FOR TOWER VIOLATIONS

The FCC Enforcement Bureau has finalized a fine of $15,200 against Pembrook

Pines Elmira Ltd., which owns AM stations WEHH and WELM in the state of New

York. The commission said the owner had failed to comply with antenna structure lighting requirements, notify the FAA of an antenna structure light outage or operate its stations consistent with the modes and power authorized in their licenses.

The Buffalo Field Office had originally issued a Notice of Apparent Liability of $19,000 early last year. The company didn't dispute the findings but asked for a reduction because the FCC previously had not treated failure to notify the FAA as a separate violation and because the station had a history of compliance.

The commission rejected the first argument, saying that it believe that it

is appropriate, and consistent with precedent, to assess an additional $3,000 forfeiture where there is evidence that the tower owner knew of a light outage prior to the inspection by FCC agents and failed to notify the

FAA. But it accepted the second ongoing full compliance issue and cut the

fine by $3,800. (FCC)

**

REPEATER NEWS: NEW UK 10 GHZ SYSTEM COMES ON THE AIR

What is believed to be the first 10 GHz F-M voice repeater in the United Kingdom came on the air on March 14th, GB3TC t is co-sited with GB3CS at Berryhill Farm in Lanarkshire. The new system operate on a channel pair of

10371.1 MHz in and 10471.1 MHz out and requires a 103.5 Hz sub audible or 1750 Hz burst access tone.

Beacons in FM with call and locator every 60s when not repeating. The output of the repeater is in the Amateur Satellite segment as its planners

believe it could provide a useful signal source for setting-up weak signal

equipment.

The project is being independently operated and funded by local radio amateurs with support from the Central Scotland FM Group and its technical

team. Together with the GB3CSB beacon project for the 23, 13 and 9cm bands

the new repeater is designed to stimulate activity on these higher frequency bands.

More information is on-line at http://www.csfmg.com/GB3TC.htm (Southgate)

**

D-STAR NEWS: D-STAR TO COME TO LONDON

Still in the U-K, the city often called the gateway to Europe -- London, England, will soon have its first ever D-Star repeater. The Radio Society

of Great Britain's Emerging Technology Co-ordination Committee website says

that the GB3OK repeater at Bromley in Kent has applied to become GB7OK and convert to D-Star technology. This is the latest application and the first from the London area for this amateur digital mode which has been gathering considerable interest since last year. (Southgate)

**

HAM RADIO IN THE SPOTLIGHT: THAT NEW MOUNTAIN DEW COMMERCIAL

Ham radio is portrayed in a strange but fun way in a new commercial for the soft drink Diet Mountain Dew. Actually the spot is a kind of battle of the sexes with the claim being that lightning hits men more often then it does women. In it, you see a bunch of Y-L's involved variety of activities that experts say should not be attempted in a thunder storm. This includes fencing and operating a ham radio station Field Day style as lightning flashes and thunder roars.

We won't spoil the outcome of this adventure for you by describing what happens next. We do however wonder if the producers went to eBay to get their props because they sure have some magnificent vintage tube type gear for their Y-L ham to use. You can see the commercial on-line of YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MieEfkwICB8 (ARNewsline(tm))

**

HAMVENTION 2008: ROAD CONSTRUCTION NEAR THE HARA ARENA

If you are planning to attend the 2008 Dayton Hamvention, you will need to give yourself a little more driving time than in years past. This due to several road and street construction projects that will be ongoing in the area.

The first problem is construction is at the north end of the downtown Dayton area on Interstate 75 from about Mile Marker 53 to 56. Rob Lunsford KB8UEY, who is the Hamvention's Talk-In Committee Chairman says that the Ohio Department of Transportation has started a multi-year multi-phase reconstruction of I-75 in which there are lane restrictions, bridge replacements, and various other adjacent projects.

The other traffic pinch involves one of the main surface streets used by attendees of Hamvention. Needmore Road it is almost a straight shot from exit 58 on I-75 to Hara Arena. Unfortunately for Hamvention goers a rebuild project is set to begin on this roadway and it will be down to one lane each way for no less than 100 working days. If you look at a calendar, that includes Hamvention weekend.

Lunsford says that these repairs are long overdue and there are work-arounds for those driving to both the Hara Arena and the event parking

at the nearby Salem Mall. We suggest that you go to www dot hamvention dot

org in coming days to find the alternate route that best serves you. (Hamvention(tm))

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: THE FIRST FEMALE VK HAM HIGHLIGHTED ON RADIO SHOW

Some names in the news. We begin with the story of the first Australian YL

ham that is being told on the program Hindsight on Australian Radio National. It's the tale of Florence Violet McKenzie, affectionately known

as Mrs Mac. And who was also the first qualified female electrical engineer

in Australia. In preparation of the program several current Australian female hams were interviewed. The audio can be downloaded from http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/current/audioonly/hht_20080316.mp3 It's a 25 megabyte MP3 audio file. Go to home page of ABC Radio National's

"Hindsight" program, www.abc.net.au/rn/hindsight/ Scroll down to the program date Sunday 16 March 2008), and there it is. (WIA News)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: UK CLUB GETS GRANT TO EDUCATE

The Worcester Radio Amateurs Association is celebrating after being given ï¿½5,320 from the United Kingdom National Lottery Awards for All scheme. The

group says that it will use the funds to expand its educational services into neighboring towns and to the training to people outside the club o as

to bring Amateur Radio into more schools.

The Worcester Radio Amateurs Association established in October 2006. It is the only Amateur Radio organization in the Worcestershire area. As well as holding regular meetings, the club works closely with the

Scouts and Guides, teaching youngsters how to use radio communication while

camping. (Southgate)

**

SOCIAL SCENE: RCA SPRING GATHERING IN ALBUQUERQUE NM APRIL 1ST

The fifth annual Radio Club of America Spring Gathering will be held Tuesday, April 1st in the Sierra Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The cocktail hour, with a cash bar opens at 6:00

p.m. Dinner will follow dinner at 7:00.

Alan Tilles, will be the guest speaker. He is the counsel to numerous land

mobile licensees, trade associations and manufacturers. Tilles is expected

to provide an update on rebanding, including a discussion of challenges and

opportunities for licensees.

This event is by reservation only. For more information contact Mercy Contreras by e-mail to mercycontreras at comcast dot net. (RCA)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States

of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from

our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO BUSINESS: T-MOBILE OUT - STARBUCKS TEAMS WITH ATT FOR WIFI

Beginning this spring Starbucks Coffee Shops and AT&T Inc. will begin offering a mix of free and paid wireless Internet service in most of the international coffee retailer's U.S. shops. Starbucks said it will give customers who use a Starbucks card two hours of free wireless access per day. Also, nearly all of AT&T's broadband Internet customers, about 12 million, will automatically have unlimited free Wi-Fi access at Starbucks. The deal boosts the number of AT&T hotspots in the U.S. to 17,000. (RW)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AO-16 VOICE MODE STILL AVAILABLE

The aging Amsat Oscar 16 ham satellite is still open for voice operation, but that could change in the coming weeks. AO-16 has been in full sunlight

with no eclipse periods at all for several months but short eclipse periods

will begin at the end of March. These will increase steadily until early July at which point the eclipse periods will reach about 26 minutes each orbit. Its unknown how its batteries will fare once this happens. Controllers say that they will simply have to keep an eye on the

perimeters and issue updates as warranted. Meantime the S-band beacon is not operational and the exact status of the S-band transmitter remains unknown. (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SPEAKERS WANTED FOR 2008 AMSAT UK COLLOQUIM

The first call for speakers for the 22nd Amsat-UK Colloquium has gone out.

The dates are from Friday 25th July to Sunday 27th July 2007. As in years

past, the venue is the Surrey University, at Guildford, Surrey, in the U.K.

Offers of talks should be submitted as soon as possible. The final date for full documents to be received is late June in order that the "Proceedings" document be available to participants. Details of this and previous colloquium gatherings can be found at http://www.uk.amsat.org/content/view/32/42/ (AMSAT - UK)

**

WORLDBEAT - NEW ZEALAND: NEW DOT POST DOMAIN ON ITS WAY

A new domain for e-mail has been proposed. Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, reports from down under:

--

A new "dot post" Internet domain in the works that hopes to set apart the

electronic services increasingly offered by postal agencies around the world. The Internet's key oversight agency, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, is trying to work out terms for the suffix with

the U.N. Universal Postal Union. Backers say restricting the "dot post" name to postal agencies or groups that provide postal services would instill trust in Web sites using such names. By contrast, popular suffixes

such as ".com" and ".org" are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Im Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF.

--

Approval of the "dot post" domain could come soon with implementation taking place over the next several months. (Internet Services)

**

WORLDBEAT - SOUTH AFRICA: NEW 2 METER BEACON SYSTEM ON THE AIR

South Africa now has a 2 meter beacon project initiated by John Sygo, ZS6JON, now has four beacons on the air, with a number of others set to go

live very soon. All operate in the spectrum between 144.4 to 144.5 MHz with systems on the air in the cities of Cape Town, Bloemfontein and Durban. The keyers were donated by ZS6EF. The output of the beacons varies

between 10 and 20 watts. (Southgate)

**

CONTEST CORNER: THE IRISH 2 METER CONTEST

And if you think that radio sports is just for the High Frequency bands, better not tell that to the hams in Erin's isle. That's because the Irish

Radio Transmitters Society's 2 Meter Counties Contest will take place on Monday March the 24th from 2 to 4 p.m. local time.

The basic idea is for clubs and individuals to take part by activating some

of Irelands rarer counties. Full rules are available on the IRTS web site. Its in cyberspace at www.irts.ie. (IRTS)

**

DX

In DX, word that DL1BDF, plans to become active from Egypt as SU0ARA on all bands through March 19th. He also hopes to get a special permission for 80 meters because this band is usually not permitted for amateur radio. QSLs via SU1KM.

K4QD and AF4Z will be active portable HH4 from the Northwest Haiti Christian Mission between March 24th and April 4th. They will operate 80 through 10 meters on CW, SSB and RTTY, but only as time permits. QSL via their home callsigns preferably using the ARRL's Logbook to the World QSO confirmation service.

SP2JMB, will be active portable 3B9 from Rodrigues Island and then from Mauritius Island portable 3B8. This, from April 1st through the 8th. His

activity will be mainly on C-W with QSL's going to his call book address.

A team of German operators will be active from Nouakchott in Mauritania through March 30th. No callsigns were provided but they do plan to operate

the CQ World SSB contest on March 29th and 30th as a multi entry. QSL via

DH7WW, direct or by the DARC bureau.

Lastly, listen out for Senegal as a Swedish team of operators become active

as 6V7I between April 6-12th. The group plans to have two stations on 160 through 10 meters operating CW and SSB, with monoband yagis and verticals.

QSL via SM7DXQ.

(From various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: ACCOLADES TO TONY

And finally this week, word that an Australian ham has been honored by NASA. This for his dedication to the educational side of manned ham radio

operations from pace. WIA newsman Jim Linton, VK3PC, tells us about the work of Tony Hutchison VK5ZAI:

--

Known around the world for his involvement in facilitating amateur radio communications with orbiting space stations is Tony Hutchison VK5ZAI, who has just received a well deserved achievement award.

Tony is the Australian coordinator of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) project is now the proud but humble recipient of a Group Achievement Award from NASA's Lyndon B. Johnson Space

Centre in Houston Texas.

The citation on the award certificate is ï¿½For providing sustained outstanding engineering support which has resulted in a record number of successful ISS amateur radio contacts', and signed by the Johnson Space Centre Director, Michael Coats.

Tony VK5ZAI has for more than 15 years given many schools and groups the opportunity to talk with space station crew. A notable occasion was the Australian Scout Jamboree in January 2007 as part of the world scouting movement's centenary.

His involvement began in 1993 by assisted South Australia's Loxton High School students talk with Cosmonaut Alex Serabrov on the MIR space station.

In 1998 Tony handled most of the communications between Australian-born Astronaut Andy Thomas VK5MIR and his family during his flight on MIR.

Soon after he was invited to be one of nine-approved ARISS telebridge stations and began handling most of the private family contacts for the first three crews on the International Space Station, along with school contacts.

Tony has been involved in linking with school in many countries, and the development of IRLP and Echolink for ARISS contacts, plus the design of interface units used for ARISS telebridge contacts in Australia and Europe.

I'm Jim Linton VK3PC reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Tony's enthusiasm and dedication, motivated by a personal desire to put something back into amateur radio, makes him well deserving of NASA accolade. (WIA News)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the

RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can

also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go we want to remind you that the nominating period for the 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year is now open. Any licensed radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in the United States or Canada is

eligible for the award. Full details and both downloadable and on-line nominating forms are in cyberspace at www dot YHOTY dot org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Fred Vobbe,

W8HDU, saying 73 from Lima, Ohio, and we thank you for listening.

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222. Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-21 16:41:16 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-3DEE4B.12333821032008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3193

Most base-type radios, especially HF radios, have keyer circuitry built in. On those radios where it has been optional (Icom 970, e.g.), it has been a fairly expensive option. Can anyone estimate the amount that it adds to the price of an HF radio? What would we save if it were left off? Considering the ever shrinking role of Morse, does it really make sense to insist that all HF radios include it? It almost seems as if the various manufacturers are afraid to go first in making it an option. It seems like it is more of an ideological issue than a practical one.

--
Klystron

223. Re: Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-21 17:28:47 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <64i8qdF2bq6ubU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 3194

"Klystron" <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote in message
news:xxx-3DEE4B.12333821032008@news.verizon.net
: Most base-type radios, especially HF radios, have
: keyer circuitry built in. On those radios where it has
: been optional (Icom 970, e.g.), it has been a fairly
: expensive option. Can anyone estimate the amount that it
: adds to the price of an HF radio? What would we save if
: it were left off? Considering the ever shrinking role of
: Morse, does it really make sense to insist that all HF
: radios include it? It almost seems as if the various
: manufacturers are afraid to go first in making it an
: option. It seems like it is more of an ideological issue
: than a practical one.

I'm not so sure. It's probably more cost effective in the long run to include it rather than not, if you make it an addon option then it complicates matters. Look at the myriad options you get when buying a new car - do you want aircon, electric windows, spotlights, etc. etc.

I remember 10 years or so ago when Icom here in the UK sold off a load of unsold commercial UHF transceivers onto the amateur market (the IC-U101 if anyone remembers it, still have one somewhere, it made a great packet radio rig..!) - as a commercial radio, it came with built in CTCSS (PL) tone encode/decode but for some reason best known to themselves Icom physically removed the tone boards from the radios before selling them to amateurs.

I suppose they thought they could make extra money selling the tone boards as "optional extras" (or am I being an old cynic..?!)

73 Ivor G6URP

224. Re: Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-21 17:43:27 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9A68816292762VeebleFetzer@127.0.0.1>
Source record: 3195

xxx@yyy.zzz (Klystron) wrote in
news:xxx-3DEE4B.12333821032008@news.verizon.net:

> Most base-type radios, especially HF radios, have keyer circuitry
> built in. On those radios where it has been optional (Icom 970,
> e.g.), it has been a fairly expensive option. Can anyone estimate
> the amount that it adds to the price of an HF radio? What would we
> save if it were left off? Considering the ever shrinking role of
> Morse, does it really make sense to insist that all HF radios
> include it? It almost seems as if the various manufacturers are
> afraid to go first in making it an option. It seems like it is more
> of an ideological issue than a practical one.

First, the IC-970 wasn't an HF rig, so far as I remember. Also, Icom accessories have always been terribly over-priced (priced a CT-17 lately?), so what they charged for a keyer module is no reflection on its actual cost. Further, designing and packaging a keyer as an optional plug-in module, and designing a radio so that it can accept such a plug-in, probably increases the cost of both more the cost of a standard built-in keyer.

These days, the cost of the few additional parts needed to implement a keyer (or the few additional lines of code in the firmware) is lost in the noise of a retail price of $2000 for a full-featured HF rig. The cost of the key jack probably equals the cost of the keyer.

And, I question your assertion of the "shrinking role of Morse" anyway; I think you're the one with an ideological issue.

--
Bert Hyman | St. Paul, MN | bert@iphouse.com

225. Re: Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-21 19:08:24 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <gbadb5-hc9.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 3196

> Most base-type radios, especially HF radios, have keyer circuitry
>built in. On those radios where it has been optional (Icom 970, e.g.),
>it has been a fairly expensive option. Can anyone estimate the amount
>that it adds to the price of an HF radio? What would we save if it were
>left off? Considering the ever shrinking role of Morse, does it really
>make sense to insist that all HF radios include it? It almost seems as
>if the various manufacturers are afraid to go first in making it an
>option. It seems like it is more of an ideological issue than a
>practical one.

My guess is that the actual bill-of-materials needed to include a
basic keyer into the design of a new transceiver design is no more
than $5, and quite possibly less.

Assuming that the transceiver has a jack for a straight key, you can
add a basic iambic keyer with nothing more than a second jack, a very
small microcontroller (e.g. a PIC costing a dollar at most) and some
wiring.

In transceivers that are already microprocessor-controlled (which is
most of the new ones, I think) the iambic-keyer and memory functions
can be rolled into the code of the existing micro... so all you really
need to add is a jack, wiring, and the additional programming logic.

So, the incremental cost of adding one should be quite small.

Keyers with a much larger memory, beaconing functions, etc. might
require more hardware... but these days you can pack a *lot* of code
and memory into a tiny little 6- or 8-pin surface-mount microcontroller.

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will
boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

226. Re: Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-21 19:34:37 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <7465f395-d791-4ad1-9acb-dad159d70b3f@a23g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3197

On Mar 21, 12:41 pm, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> Most base-type radios, especially HF radios, have keyer circuitry
> built in. On those radios where it has been optional (Icom 970, e.g.),
> it has been a fairly expensive option.

That's because hardware is involved when it's made an option. The
basic logic
of a keyer, even the fancy iambic ones, is pretty simple.

> Can anyone estimate the amount
> that it adds to the price of an HF radio?
> What would we save if it were
> left off?

In most rigs with built-in keyers, the keyer circuitry is nothing more
than the paddle inputs. The actual implementation is in software,
and the savings (if any) would be small, if any. Couple of dollars at
most.

> Considering the ever shrinking role of Morse, does it really
> make sense to insist that all HF radios include it?

I disagree that the role of Morse is "ever shrinking" on the amateur
HF bands.
Judging by the use of the mode in contests, DXpeditions, QRP, homebrew
projects and the sale of paddles and Morse-only HF rigs, the mode's
role
in amateur radio hasn't really changed.

> It almost seems as
> if the various manufacturers are afraid to go first in making it an
> option.

Why should they make it an option, given that it costs almost
nothing to include? Leaving it out would probably hurt sales to the
point
of negative return.

> It seems like it is more of an ideological issue than a
> practical one.

Not at all.

The "ideology" of most current HF amateur rig designs is to include as
many features as
possible, particularly if those features can be implemented in
software. So we have rigs

with lots of memories, multiple VFOs, lots of selectivity/AGC/NB
choices, lots of computer-control features, real-time clocks, data
mode encoding and decoding, and much more - all in software, not
hardware. They add very little to the
cost of the rig, and nothing to its basic-radio performance numbers,
but hams seem to like them.

>From the standpoint of the manufacturers, it would not be practical to
remove a feature most customers have come to expect, whether they use
it much or not.

73 de Jim, N2EY

227. Re: Any Civil War reenactors on here?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-21 21:19:09 UTC
From: an old freind <konstans@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <636620bf-6423-4a4c-947f-9ad0031a2d9f@m34g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3198

On Mar 20, 10:07 am, rram...@timesucker.homelinux.org (Bill Horne)
wrote:
> Thanks for reading this.
>
> I have a number of Sounders, some old keys, and some relays from the
> American Morse landline era. It occured to me that I might take up
> reenacting as another hobby, but when I asked my sister, who makes
> clothing for reenactors, "What does it cost?", she casually mentioned
> "Less than a thousand".
>
> So, I'm looking for a discount version: I've got enough invested in
> _this_ hobby. ;-)
>
> Please answer these questions:
>
> 1. Would I have to have perfect replicas of the clothes, etc.? I'm
> just interested in the telegraphy, and civilians used to do that as

> well as the military, so reenacting as a civilian would be fine.
>
> 2. Does all the telegraph gear have to be authentic to the period? I'd
> tend to doubt it, simply because instruments _that_ old would be
> too valuable for use in the field.
>
> 3. Who can I talk to for help without spending a day doing research
> online?
>
> Thanks for any information.
>
> 73, Bill W1AC
>
> (Filter QRM from my address for direct replies)

I am a medievil reenactor but I know the guys

the Civil war folks are the most well anal authetntic colthes but at
least Feamle reinactor are cicvies and I think I know some male one

I suspect you ask a CW guy about the sounder he will says it is to be
period but you preseverse and people wil relent to reality

round here some suport the Ft Walkins sp park reinactor they used our
current statrd morse with some hams using fairly authentic copies

if you want and remmebr in apr drop me a Line and I send it our to
thos eguys (they are snow birds and not here right now

KB9RQZ pressident CCRAA.net

228. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-22 03:38:18 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <9ed0104d-31ad-4a7e-9d64-28c023e38819@x41g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3199

On Mar 21, 1:25 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Mar 20, 1:54 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> >> N...@aol.com wrote:
> >>> On Mar 19, 6:10 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:

> > You should write a book! Or at least a collection of stories about
> > your experiences in various services and locations. Military,
> > dept of state, ham radio...
>
> Funny you should mention it! I've got most of the work done
> on a memoir
> of the travels as they relate to amateur radio
> with just enough of the
> non-radio events thrown in for flavor.

This is truly excellent.

> > You could put it on the web, too.....

> Naw, I plan to finance my next rig with the proceeds.
> There'll be DVD's
> as well. I'm still in the process of importing the videotaped
> material,
> editing and glitzing it up.

Perhaps a sample could be on the web, such as how Amazon lets you see
a small part of a book.

> > If you mean John Logie Baird, unfortunately he barked up the > > wrong
> > (mechanical) tree for too long. But when he got together with
> > Farnsworth things really started to roll.
>
> Yep. The rotating wheel was wild.

It was theoretically correct, but impractical for "high definition" TV
in real time.

> > I'll keep an eye out, but my point was the difference in focus.
> > The RSGB Handbook was more narrowly focused. I think it
> > eventually influenced the ARRL handbook, too.

> > Note too that the RSGB handbook wasn't a new edition every
> > year, or
> > even every 2-3 years.
>

> I think that's probably due to the relatively small number of radio
> amateurs in the British Isles. &#65533;

But the market wasn't just the UK. I suspect the Commonwealth
countries, both current and former, would be a market. Aussies,
Zedders, etc.

> As I recall, the RSGB handbook
> was nearly thirty dollars in the 70's.

The one I have is earlier, and I think it worked out to about $13-15
or so - back when an ARRL Handbook was $4. Plus you probably
had to pay postage, duty, etc.

Having bought "real" engineering books, I can say that both the ARRL
and RSGB Handbooks were and are true bargains.

The ARRL Handbook back then was mostly the work of W1DX,
aided by the staff. The book evolved over time - the whole book
was not rewritten every year.

The RSGB Handbook had many authors, and underwent serious
expansion and revision between editions. Since there was not
a set schedule for when the next edition would come out, the
changes were much greater.

Friend of mine is trying to collect all the post-WW2 Handbooks,
and has most of them. He has all the post-WW1 QSTs, in part because an
OT gave him a lifetime collection, knowing he would appreciate and
care for them.

The Southgate Library keeps expanding, too. What you see in the shack
picture is but a small part of it. Then there's the stuff I have
in electronic format...

> > One thing that I think is missing from the ARRL
> > library is a successor
> > to "Understanding Amateur Radio". "UAR" was a
> > great book that filled the gap between the basic
> > intro books and the
> > full Handbook.

> I agree. &#65533; It was full of information set forth in an
> easy to follow style.

Both theory and practice, code and voice, HF and VHF.
Half the price of a Handbook.

> > I would not be surprised if imported *parts* were taxed/tariffed/
> > dutied much less than imported finished
> > products.
>
> You're right. &#65533; Finland taxed imported transceivers
> and amplifiers at

> 100% duty--even into the 80's.

But what about parts?

> > In the back of the RSGB book were ads for outfits that would
> > sell you complete punched and drilled chassis, panels,
> > brackets, etc.
> > for various well-known projects like the G2DAF receivers,
> > or would
> > make up such things to your drawings. Also the
> > Electronique coils,
> > Jackson Brothers drives and capacitors, etc.
>
> As far as I know, Jackson Bros. is still in the business of making
> vernier reduction drives--top notch stuff.

Yes, but not as top-notch as BC-221, LM or ARC-5 drive/capacitor
combinations.

> Odd that you mentioned those two. • The only 833A I've
> got sitting around is an Amperex.

I used to have an RCA 833A, but it got sold. I have some
experience with them, but not as much as with the more-common
"ham" amplifier tubes.

> >> • I'm happy to report that I have less
> >> in my atomic clock than you have in your tymeter. •
>
> >> My neighbor bought it
> >> new and gave it to me when the outside temperature
> >> transmitter quit
> >> working. • I found a web site where I can order the
> >> transmitter for ten
> >> bucks postpaid.

> > That's The Southgate School way of thinking
> > and doing, right there.

> I'm used to it. • I once repaired a Heathkit Warrior amp for
> WA8JOC with
> tandem copier transformers which I got for free.

Another example of TSS in action!

> Yep, relatively low plate voltage and high current jobs. •
> One fellow did
> a homebrew amp design which appeared in CQ in the 60's,
> which used
> sixteen horizontal output tubes. •

The most I ever saw was a picture in QST of a 75 meter monoband amp
with something like thirty-six 1625s in parallel. Output impedance was

75 ohms; fed the antenna through a lowpass filter. Of course the
output C was so enormous it couldn't go any higher, and IIRC there was
quite a pile of bias pots.

> Now if a guy wants some
> oomph for
> cheaper, 811A's are a pretty good bargain as are 572B's.
>&#65533; With four
> 811A's making 800 or so watts output, that's an inexpensive way > to get
> 9db more than the typical 100w rig and it is down only about
> 2.5db from
> the legal limit.

Yep. But with four 811As you often need to neutralize even in GG, and
depending on where you get your bottles a pair of 572Bs may be the
better deal.

The solid-state option has been around for decades, but the high cost
stops a lot of hams.

In April 1976, a legal-limit solid-state all-band HF linear amp was
the cover article in QST. If someone had told me then that in 2008
there would be more models of tube-type linear amps being made for
hams than in 1976, and that hams would be buying and using them, I'd
have not believed it.

(3-500Z tubes)

> > Less than $200 each, too. Adjusted for inflation,
> > they are cheaper
> > than in the early 1960s when the 3-400Z first appeared.
>
> That's what I mean. &#65533; Price 3CX800's, 8877's or 3CX1200's and
> you'll get
> an idea of what a bargain the 3-500's are.

Those ceramic-metal tubes were never inexpensive in the first
place.

Unlike almost all commercial/military applications, in ham radio,
when an expensive final tube fails, it's up to the owner/operator
to pay for the replacement.

> Well, there's likely a move in my future and something's going to > have t
o go.

(sigh)

> > Depends on the family situation, both spouse and kids. Also
> > one's health and ties to the community.
>
> Pass it along to the kids now: &#65533; There is an applied implication that
> that they travel to visit the parents.

>
That's good advice in theory but in practice it often works out to
be more complicated. Traveling with little kids is both expensive
and difficult, and in families with two careers just getting everyone
off work and out of school at the same time can be a challenge.
(Vacation and sick days are often used up when the kids are
sick, and there's never spare cash laying around. So it's often
more practical for Grandma/Grandpa to travel.

Still, all that means is you draw distance circles around where the
kids are. Doesn't mean you have to live down the street.

> > And most of all finances. With people living longer, having kids > > lat
er
> > and the greater dependence on 401K/IRA funding rather than
> > company pensions and Social Security, retiring at 60, 62 or
> > even 65
> > isn't nearly so doable as it was in times past.
>
> Right now probably isn't a good time to hang it up so early.

All depends on the situation.

>
> Then
> again, many people seem to believe that they're going
> to need the same
> amount of money as they now earn in their retirement.
>
> The house is apt
> to be paid off, they do less driving.
> They don't have the kids to
> support. Many of them don't need as large a house.

Agreed, and there are tax advantages, such as getting double
exemptions after 65, the capital-gains exclusion for selling the
big house, the lack of tax on SS after age 70, etc.

OTOH things like health care costs, rising energy prices, etc.,
work the other way.

> What I've done in the past is to write it up in the offer, "subject to
> there being no restrictions on the installation of an amateur radio
> tower/s."
>
> After a couple of false starts with a Cincinnati realtor back in the
> 70's, I got the agent working with us up to speed on what we
> wanted in
> addition to style, size of yard, number of bed and bathrooms:
> no antenna
> restrictions and located on high ground.
> I had trouble with a
> southern
> West Virginia realtor before we bought this place.
> I'd
> specified "high
> altitude.
> She showed me a couple of places with a great

> view of a hill
> perhaps 500 feet higher than the house. • I might have had to
> become an Asia specialist.

bwaahaahaa

But a good example of the problem, and the need to get the
RE attorney and realtor to understand *exactly* what you
will accept.

> > Realtor.com is a wealth of info, too.
>
> ...and homes.com and a number of other sites I'm presently
> browsing.

Good.

You have the most important resource, too: Flexibility. You don't have
to move this month, or this summer, or land in a specific school
district or some such.
>
> I'm thankful that my XYL and I agree that neither of us wants to be
> hemmed in by neighbors. • She likes vegetable and flower
> gardening.
> I like multiple towers.

Works for me!

> • I'm thinking 3 or 5 or 8 acres. *grin*
>
Think big, think flexible. Could you subdivide some acres for other
homes? Lease for farming?

One thing that was/is popular in WNY is to have a woodlot. Usually a
piece of land that is heavily wooded, had no utilities and won't pass
the perc test.

The owner cuts a couple of cords of wood every year, sells some, uses
the rest for heat. The profit on the wood sold pays the RE taxes. Only
the crowded and not-so-good trees are taken; the really good ones are
left to grow and given room.

Of course you have to love to cut, split and stack wood, but a lot of
us do.

"Wood warms you twice - once when you cut it, again when you burn it"

73 de Jim, N2EY

229. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-22 06:00:03 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1206165601@panix.com>
Source record: 3200
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.scanner,rec.radio.shortwave,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

230. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-22 06:05:02 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1206165901@panix.com>
Source record: 3051
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.scanner,rec.radio.shortwave,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

231. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-22 18:04:16 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-A3D450.12452622032008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3052

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>
> [...]
> So if the word PARIS is sent 50 times in 1 minute, that minute is
> divided into 2500 dit times. Which is 41.66 bps.
> [...]

It still seems like an awfully slow data rate. I have seen people throw 14400 baud modems in the garbage because they considered them to be so slow as to be worthless. A data rate of 42 bps is about 3 orders of magnitude slower than that. It just seems inconsistent with the way that so many hams have fought tooth and nail to hold onto Morse and to hinder the move toward digital modes.

--
Klystron

232. Re: Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-22 20:51:39 UTC
From: xpyttl <xpyttl_NOSPAM@earthling.net>
Message-ID: <v8eFj.121$jr1.23@newsfe07.lga>
Source record: 3053

"Klystron" <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote in message
news:xxx-3DEE4B.12333821032008@news.verizon.net...

> left off? Considering the ever shrinking role of Morse, does it really
> make sense to insist that all HF radios include it? It almost seems as

Certainly makes more sense than including AM, FM and RTTY. A lot less money involved, too, well maybe RTTY is about the same as a keyer. But AM and FM require additional filters, additional circuitry, etc., and their following is probably a lot smaller than CW. (obviously, on HF. VHF FM is clearly heavy hitter but not so much on HF, especially at this time of the cycle.)

..

233. Re: Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-22 21:10:41 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <13uate2qiunfp82@news.supernews.com>
Source record: 3054

N2EY@aol.com wrote:

> From the standpoint of the manufacturers, it would not be practical to
> remove a feature most customers have come to expect, whether they use
> it much or not.

The negative impact on sales from a comment in a review like, "Great rig, but missing an internal keyer" would offset the tiny cost of including the keyer.

73, Steve KB9X

234. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-23 03:03:39 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <lshbu3lfdlb9l9180lkn80b0amdijvo6l8@4ax.com>
Source record: 3055

On Sat, 22 Mar 2008 14:04:16 EDT, Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> It just seems inconsistent with the way
>that so many hams have fought tooth and nail to hold onto Morse and to
>hinder the move toward digital modes.

The joy of Morse is not the speed at which data is transferred but the
means of transferring. A good Morseist (mot me....) doesn't need a
computer or software to decode it.

And I know several Morseists who not only use "high speed data modes'
in addition to using Morse, but hold advanced degrees in development
of those modes.

Morse is for fun.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

235. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-23 03:13:30 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <7261b905-7b98-40f3-8c10-e5b5a518701a@b64g2000hsa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3056

On Mar 22, 1:04 pm, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > So if the word PARIS is sent 50 times in 1 minute, that minute is
> > divided into 2500 dit times. Which is 41.66 bps.

> > It still seems like an awfully slow data rate.

Compared to what? And for what application, in what bandwidth?

If you have a pile of data to send, or a picture, etc., 41.66 bps is
quite slow.

But for a real-time conversation, 41.66 bps isn't all that slow. The
average person doesn't talk or type at a sustained speed much faster
than 100 wpm. 50 wpm isn't that much slower.

> I have seen people
> throw 14400 baud modems in the garbage because they
> considered them to
> be so slow as to be worthless.

11 years ago, when I first went online, it was with a 56k modem. I
gave up on dialup modems several years ago and went broadband. I don't
think anybody who has a choice is still using dialup.

But that's because the options exist, with no significant downsides. A
14400 modem uses the same phone line as a 56K modem. DSL can be run on
the same phone line and not tie it up for telephone calls.

Operating on the limited bandwidth amd high variability of the HF
amateur bands is a completely different thing.

> A data rate of 42 bps is about 3 orders
> of magnitude slower than that. It just seems inconsistent
> with the way
> that so many hams have fought tooth and nail to hold
> onto Morse and to
> hinder the move toward digital modes.

A lot of hams like Morse Code and use it on the air. It has a lot
of advantages. Why should they give it up?

And how has "the move toward digital modes" been hindered by hams?

73 de Jim, N2EY

236. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-23 16:03:58 UTC
From: "Paul W. Schleck" <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>
Message-ID: <47e5ec10$0$29619$540ea2cf@novia.net>
Source record: 3057

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
Hash: SHA1

In <xxx-A3D450.12452622032008@news.verizon.net> Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> writes:

> N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>>
>> [...]
>> So if the word PARIS is sent 50 times in 1 minute, that minute is
>> divided into 2500 dit times. Which is 41.66 bps.
>> [...]

> It still seems like an awfully slow data rate. I have seen people
>throw 14400 Baud modems in the garbage because they considered them to
>be so slow as to be worthless. A data rate of 42 bps is about 3 orders
>of magnitude slower than that.

Many types of communications vary over many orders of magnitude of
information rate, yet are considered useful and up-to-date.

For example, the Casio WaveCeptor on my wrist:

http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/2497

receives a ~ 1 Baud Pulse Position Modulated (PPM) signal from radio
station WWVB in Fort Collins, Colorado, which transmits on 60 kHz. It
takes about a minute to send the complete time code to synchronize my
watch. Slow? Yes. Useful? Yes, very much so, especially when
considering the coverage and reliability that can be obtained from such
a low-bandwidth, groundwave-propagated, Very Low Frequency (VLF) signal.
The watch only needs to receive the time code at most once per day,
which it does so automatically in the early hours of the morning sitting
on my desk or dresser. A faster data rate would require something other
than a VLF signal, and would not improve much on the quality or
usability of the communications. It would definitely increase the
price. Witness the much greater success in the marketplace of
WWVB-based watches versus more advanced, higher bandwidth, but much more
expensive, "Smart Personal Object Technology" (SPOT) watches:

http://www.spotstop.com

One of the most current and widely used communications technologies
among young people is cellular telephone text messaging:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Text_messaging

(sometimes also called "Short Messaging System" or SMS)

According to this recent demonstration on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhsSgcsTMd4

the realizable data rates are comparable in order of magnitude to that of fast Morse code that can be sent and received by human operators. Just try telling a teenager with an SMS-capable cellular telephone that it should be thrown in the trash because it isn't fast enough, or isn't of sufficiently novel technology, and see his or her reaction.

To give you an amateur radio example, the Automated Position Reporting System (APRS):

http://www.aprs.org

uses 1200 Baud AFSK packet. Faster, but still an order of magnitude slower than technologies you imply should be thrown out. Since APRS reports important, but compact, telemetry at periodic intervals, the technology meets the requirements of many users utilizing VHF radios and Terminal Node Controllers (TNC's). Again, substituting much higher data rates would really not improve the technology or better meet the requirements of the users which it serves.

To even give you a Morse code example, consider the simplicity and effectiveness of the NCDXF beacons running on the HF bands:

http://www.ncdxf.org/beacons.html

A relatively low data rate On-Off Keyed (OOK) Morse Code signal is able to quickly convey to the listener the quality of the communications link, and required link budget, to various points around the globe. All that is needed to be transmitted is a station identification, and the same symbol (in this case the letter "V") sent at 10 dB power steps from 100 Watts to 0.1 Watt. Complex modulation/demodulation equipment to achieve "orders of magnitude" faster data rates would not only not fit on the HF bands, they would not seem to offer much improvement in the quality of the service.

I suppose one could implement a beacon network using something like PSK31:

http://www.psk31.com/

which might even be able to demonstrate realizable communications link budgets below 0.1 Watt. But even that advanced digital mode would only have data rates comparable to Morse code. Though the NCDXF beacon network is a Morse code service, note that Morse code knowledge is really not necessary to utilize it effectively. A synchronized time base and a chart of which station transmits at which time would enable very fast determination of the link budget to the beacon locations. If you can't remember what a "V" sounds like in Morse Code (". . . _" like the intro to Beethoven's Fifth Symphony), I suppose you could put that on the chart as well. After all, the use of similar charts are how pilots usually decode the Morse code identifications of aeronautical

beacons.

There are even a number of excellent software packages linked from the NCDXF site above that could automatically monitor the signals, decode the Morse, and record the quality of the communications paths over time. One such package is Faros:

http://www.dxatlas.com/Faros/

one of many advanced signal processing software packages for amateur radio that exploits the ubiquitousness of of inexpensive personal computers with sound cards in most home ham "shacks."

Focusing simply on information rate disregards other aspects of the communications and the channel over which it is transmitted. These important aspects include the bandwidth and propagation characteristics of the available channel, the complexity of the required transmitting and receiving equipment, the amount of data that needs to be transmitted, and how quickly and often it needs to be conveyed.

Single-attribute measuring contests may be fun, even ego-boosting to some, but are really not very useful or impressive to those who actually design and use practical communications systems.

>It just seems inconsistent with the way
>that so many hams have fought tooth and nail to hold onto Morse and to
>hinder the move toward digital modes.

I'm not sure that I understand your line of reasoning here. You are implying cause-and-effect. In other words, use and advocacy of Morse code somehow directly contributed to the obstruction of other technologies. Can you give direct evidence of specific examples? If you are implying that licensing requirements obstructed the development of advanced digital modes, that really doesn't appear to be the case. Witness the success of Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR):

http://www.tapr.org

and the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation:

http://www.amsat.org

which have developed or championed many promising digital technologies, developed by amateurs with widely varying degrees of Morse code operating skills.

Furthermore, if the only technologies that you believe should be saved from being thrown away are those at 14.4 kBaud and up, those technologies are only practically realizable on amateur radio bands at high VHF and up. Such bands have been open to licensees without need of a Morse code test for going on 17 years now. Even before then, these bands were accessible to Technician-class amateurs since at least shortly after World War II, with a license that only required a minimal, 5 WPM (essentially individual character-recognition) Morse code test.

If you are saying that someone *else* should have developed these technologies (other than you, of course), and that since they haven't, then someone *must* be to blame, well, you can't really dictate how the world should turn out without taking an active role to help make it that way.

>--
>Klystron

- --
73, Paul W. Schleck, K3FU
pschleck@novia.net
http://www.novia.net/~pschleck/
Finger pschleck@novia.net for PGP Public Key

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----
Version: GnuPG v1.4.5 (SunOS)

iD8DBQFH5epg6Pj0az779o4RAvfbAJ4kewTvCX5mqHimGwfXkKtQCusKFwCgxKPZ
ovhE2D69Thi8oiiqsv5I9X8=
=4RMi
-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----

237. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-23 17:21:08 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <13ud4bkh0e44gdf@news.supernews.com>
Source record: 3058

Phil Kane wrote:

> Morse is for fun.

Indeed, this says it all.

73, Steve KB9X

238. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-23 19:33:26 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-4C7088.14371923032008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3059

Paul W. Schleck <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>" wrote:
> Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> writes:

> > It still seems like an awfully slow data rate. I have seen people
> >throw 14400 Baud modems in the garbage because they considered them to
> >be so slow as to be worthless. A data rate of 42 bps is about 3 orders
> >of magnitude slower than that.

> Many types of communications vary over many orders of magnitude of
> information rate, yet are considered useful and up-to-date.
>
> For example, the Casio WaveCeptor on my wrist:
>
> http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/2497
>
> receives a ~ 1 Baud Pulse Position Modulated (PPM) signal from radio
> station WWVB in Fort Collins, Colorado, which transmits on 60 kHz. It
> takes about a minute to send the complete time code to synchronize my
> watch. Slow? Yes. Useful? Yes, very much so, especially when
> considering the coverage and reliability that can be obtained from such
> a low-bandwidth, groundwave-propagated, Very Low Frequency (VLF) signal.
> [...]

In your model, only a single axis of data is transmitted - the time
of day. That seems like a great deal of infrastructure and energy
consumption to transmit a single data quantity. The equivalent
infrastructure for weather transmission (marine and air) is even more
elaborate and expensive. Can you see that is an outrageously inefficient
way to distribute a small quantity of information?

> One of the most current and widely used communications technologies
> among young people is cellular telephone text messaging:
>
> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Text_messaging
>
> (sometimes also called "Short Messaging System" or SMS)
>
> According to this recent demonstration on the Tonight Show with Jay
> Leno:
>
> http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhsSgcsTMd4
>
> the realizable data rates are comparable in order of magnitude to that
> of fast Morse code that can be sent and received by human operators.
> Just try telling a teenager with an SMS-capable cellular telephone that

> it should be thrown in the trash because it isn't fast enough, or isn't
> of sufficiently novel technology, and see his or her reaction.

My understanding is that they use SMS for fairly trivial
communications, like what they will have for lunch or where they will
meet at the mall. A rough equivalence might be SMS users objecting to
the use of the SMS system by people who are sitting at full-size
computers or by people who have connected keyboards to their phone. If
they were to complain that "typing" pidgin English (like "HOW R U?")
with your thumbs on a tiny telephone keypad was the one true way to use
SMS, then I think I could agree that there was an equivalence.
You might ask those kids why they also use conventional e-mail,
despite having SMS availability.

> To give you an amateur radio example, the Automated Position Reporting
> System (APRS):
>
> http://www.aprs.org
>
> uses 1200 Baud AFSK packet. Faster, but still an order of magnitude
> slower than technologies you imply should be thrown out.
> [...]

Again, it is for the exchange of a single axis of data - geographic
location. Please stop tying to pass off these single purpose, dedicated
systems as examples of general purpose communications.

> To even give you a Morse code example, consider the simplicity and
> effectiveness of the NCDXF beacons running on the HF bands:
>
> http://www.ncdxf.org/beacons.html

My understanding is that Morse-based beacon identifications are read
by computerized devices and are not "copied" by the pilots. I doubt that
you could find very many current pilots who could copy any Morse at all.

> [...]
> There are even a number of excellent software packages linked from the
> NCDXF site above that could automatically monitor the signals, decode
> the Morse, and record the quality of the communications paths over time.
> One such package is Faros:
>
> http://www.dxatlas.com/Faros/
>
> one of many advanced signal processing software packages for amateur
> radio that exploits the ubiquitousness of of inexpensive personal
> computers with sound cards in most home ham "shacks."

There is nothing about that that is unique to Morse. Any type of RF
link would be usable in that way.

> Focusing simply on information rate disregards other aspects of the
> communications and the channel over which it is transmitted. These

> important aspects include the bandwidth and propagation characteristics
> of the available channel, the complexity of the required transmitting
> and receiving equipment, the amount of data that needs to be
> transmitted, and how quickly and often it needs to be conveyed.
>
> Single-attribute measuring contests may be fun, even ego-boosting to
> some, but are really not very useful or impressive to those who actually
> design and use practical communications systems.
>
> >It just seems inconsistent with the way
> >that so many hams have fought tooth and nail to hold onto Morse and to
> >hinder the move toward digital modes.
>
> I'm not sure that I understand your line of reasoning here. You are
> implying cause-and-effect. In other words, use and advocacy of Morse
> code somehow directly contributed to the obstruction of other
> technologies. Can you give direct evidence of specific examples?

Hams used to deride digital communications as "pulse" and tell tales about the way that it squandered bandwidth. They made it out to be something along the lines of spark-gap. Look for articles about "pulse" communications in old (1960's and 70's) issues of QST and Popular Electronics. Considering the lead time needed to develop a new mode, I think it is unreasonable not to go back at least that far. I believe that the anti-digital curmudgeons delayed the implementation of digital modes by a matter of decades. It is interesting to note that the most widely used digital modes (for 2-way radio, not for broadcast) were developed either in Japan (Icom/JARL DV) or under the auspices of a police organization that has no ties to radio, except as consumers (APCO 25).

> [...]
> Furthermore, if the only technologies that you believe should be saved
> from being thrown away are those at 14.4 kBaud and up,

Can you point to something in my post that makes such a claim? The only technology that I have derided as being too slow as to have value is Morse code that is sent by hand (less than 100 baud). The Navy shut down its VLF network on the grounds that the data rate was inadequate. Perhaps it is time for the amateur community to take a similar step.

> those
> technologies are only practically realizable on amateur radio bands at
> high VHF and up. Such bands have been open to licensees without need of
> a Morse code test for going on 17 years now. Even before then, these
> bands were accessible to Technician-class amateurs since at least
> shortly after World War II, with a license that only required a minimal,
> 5 WPM (essentially individual character-recognition) Morse code test.
>
> If you are saying that someone *else* should have developed these
> technologies (other than you, of course), and that since they haven't,

> then someone *must* be to blame, well, you can't really dictate how the
> world should turn out without taking an active role to help make it that
> way.

That last paragraph is incoherent. Could you rephrase it?

--
Klystron

239. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-23 21:23:43 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <9b69a6f2-64ba-41a6-b364-43f3e537e572@e67g2000hsa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3060

On Mar 23, 2:33 pm, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> Paul W. Schleck <pschl...@oasis.novia.net>" wrote:

> > For example, the Casio WaveCeptor on my wrist:

> >http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/2497
> > receives a ~ 1 Baud Pulse Position Modulated (PPM)
> > signal from radio
> > station WWVB in Fort Collins, Colorado, which transmits
> > on 60 kHz. It
> > takes about a minute to send the complete time code
> > to synchronize my
> > watch. Slow? Yes. Useful? Yes, very
much so,
> > especially when
> > considering the coverage and reliability that can be
> > obtained from such
> > a low-bandwidth, groundwave-propagated, Very Low
> > Frequency (VLF) signal.

> In your model, only a single axis of data is transmitted - the time
> of day. That seems like a great deal of infrastructure and energy
> consumption to transmit a single data quantity.

Actually, it's a very small infrastructure, and very efficient. I've
been there, btw.

The time standard info is already present at the WWVB transmitter
site, so that's no cost. All that's necessary is a system to encode
it, and the WWVB transmitter and antenna. While an impressive
installation by amateur radio standards, the WWVB transmitter is
not overly large for the wavelength.

But WWVB's 60 kHz signal serves large numbers of clocks of many types
all over North America - by radio. It keeps them all synchronized via
radio, without any user intervention.

What alternative technology would do the same job with less
infrastructure and energy consumption?

> The equivalent
> infrastructure for weather transmission (marine and air) is
> even more elaborate and expensive.

Of course. But it's also very important from a safety standpoint.

> Can you see that is an outrageously inefficient
> way to distribute a small quantity of information?

What alternative technology would do the same job with greater
efficiency?

> > One of the most current and widely used
> > communications technologies
> > among young people

Not just "young people". A lot us find text messaging very useful.

>is cellular telephone text messaging:

> >http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Text_messaging

> > (sometimes also called "Short Messaging System" or SMS)

> > According to this recent demonstration on the
> > Tonight Show with Jay Leno:

> >http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhsSgcsTMd4

> > the realizable data rates are comparable in order of magnitude > > to th
at
> > of fast Morse code that can be sent and received by human
> > operators.

The facts are even more telling.

In that Leno clip, the text messager is the Guinness-book
world-record-holder. The Morse Code ops are a couple of
hams who were going less than 30 wpm - which is less than
40% of the world-record Morse Code speed.

The text messager was allowed to use common text-message
abbreviations, while the Morse Code ops just sent the straight
text with no abbreviations at all.

The Morse Code ops also produced a hard-copy in real time.

IMHO, what was most telling was that the audience was sure
the text messager would win. But a much older technology
proved to be faster.

> > Just try telling a teenager with an SMS-capable cellular
> > telephone that
> > it should be thrown in the trash because it isn't fast
> > enough, or isn't
> > of sufficiently novel technology, and see his or her reaction.

The answer will be that it's fast enough for what it's used for.

Isn't that the ultimate test of any technology - that it's good
enough for what it's used for?

> My understanding is that they use SMS for fairly trivial
> communications, like what they will have for lunch or
> where they will meet at the mall.

I can say for a fact that's not true. While a lot of text - and cell
phone - communications is trivial, much is not. For example,
something as simple as a meeting place or time can be
critical information.

> A rough equivalence might be SMS users objecting to
> the use of the SMS system by people who are sitting at full-size
> computers or by people who have connected keyboards to their
> phone.

Actually the system can be used that way, in that a message generated
by a cell can be delivered as an email, and the
reverse.

The point is that speed isn't the only criterion.

> > To give you an amateur radio example, the Automated Position > > Reporti
ng
> > System (APRS):
>
> >http://www.aprs.org
>
> > uses 1200 Baud AFSK packet. Faster, but still an order of magni
tude
> > slower than technologies you imply should be thrown out.

> Again, it is for the exchange of a single axis of data
-
> geographic
> location. Please stop tying to pass off these single purpose,
> dedicated
> systems as examples of general purpose communications.

No one is trying to do that. The point being made is that speed
is not the only criterion.

What is meant by "general purpose communications"? My computer
allows internet access, email and some other things, but I still have
POTS and a cell phone. TV and radio come to my house over the air.

> > I'm not sure that I understand your line of reasoning here.
> > You are
> > implying cause-and-effect. In other words, use and
> > advocacy of Morse
> > code somehow directly contributed to the obstruction of other
> > technologies. Can you give direct evidence of specific
> > examples?
>
> Hams used to deride digital communications as "pulse"

> and tell tales
> about the way that it squandered bandwidth.

I don't know any hams who used the term "pulse" to refer to
digital communications. Nor have I heard tales about squandered
bandwidth.

However, note that not all digital signals are designed with
bandwidth efficiency as the primary consideration. For
example, classic 850 Hz shift 45.45 baud RTTY uses almost
a kHz of band to transmit about the same info (actually
less) as PSK31 which uses maybe 50 Hz.

> They made it out to be
> something along the lines of spark-gap.

If you mean spark, I have not seen that comparison anywhere.
Could you provide a specific reference?

> Look for articles about "pulse"
> communications in old (1960's and 70's) issues of QST and
> Popular Electronics.

I have all the QSTs back to the mid-1920s, and have read all
of them. I do not recall any comparison of digital modes to
"pulse" in any of them. Could you provide a specific reference?

I do recall some QST articles back in the 1950s *advocating* pulse
modes for use at microwave frequencies. The idea was that
rather than trying to adapt lower frequency narrow band techniques to
the microwave bands, broadband/radar techniques would be used for
communications.

> Considering the lead time needed to develop a new mode, I
> think it is unreasonable not to go back at least that far.

PSK31 was developed in a few years by G3PLX and a small group of hams
around the world. Lots of other examples.

> I believe
> that the anti-digital curmudgeons delayed the implementation of
> digital
> modes by a matter of decades.

How was this done?

The main impediments to the implementation of digital modes by
amateurs (at least in the USA) were two:

1) Restrictive regulations, brought about mostly by the FCC's need
to be able to monitor amateur transmissions. However, note that
digital transmissions other than digital voice are not allowed in the
US HF 'phone subbands - which comprise the majority of the
bandwidth on those bands. Those rules force the digital

data modes to share only with Morse Code users.

2) The high cost of hardware. Only a decade ago, a PC
was a significant investment compared to a ham rig.

> It is interesting to note that the most
> widely used digital modes (for 2-way radio, not for broadcast)
> were
> developed either in Japan (Icom/JARL DV) or under the auspices
> of a
> police organization that has no ties to radio, except as consumers > (APCO
25).

They were developed for specific applications, though. Not for general
purpose use.

> > Furthermore, if the only technologies that you believe
> > should be saved
> > from being thrown away are those at 14.4 kBaud and up,
>
> Can you point to something in my post that makes such a claim?

The statement about throwing 14400 modems in the garbage.

> The
> only technology that I have derided as being too slow as to have
> value
> is Morse code that is sent by hand (less than 100 baud).

PSK31 and most HF RTTY are also less than 100 baud. Are they
too slow to have value?

> The Navy shut
> down its VLF network on the grounds that the data rate
> was inadequate.

But amateur radio isn't the US Navy. IIRC, the purpose of that
network was/is to communicate one-way to submerged missile
submarines.

> Perhaps it is time for the amateur community to take a similar
> step.

What form would that step take? Should amateurs simply not
use Morse Code any more?

The *test* for the mode was an issue of great contention among
radio amateurs. But until July 2003 the ITU-R treaty prevented
complete elimination of the *test*.

However, as far back as 1990 it was possible to get any US
amateur radio license with just a basic 5 wpm Morse Code
test and a doctor's note. Since April 2000, no doctor's note
has been needed, and since Feb 2007 no Morse Code test

at all.

How any of this has impeded the development or implementation
of digital modes is unclear to me.

> > those
> > technologies are only practically realizable on amateur radio
> > bands at
> > high VHF and up. Such bands have been open to licensees
> > without need of
> > a Morse code test for going on 17 years now. Even before
> > then, these
> > bands were accessible to Technician-class amateurs since
> > at least
> > shortly after World War II, with a license that only required
> > a minimal,
> > 5 WPM (essentially individual character-recognition)
> > Morse code test.

The Technician class license was created in 1951. Its Morse Code
test was always 5 wpm, until it was dropped completely in 1991.

IOW, as has been pointed out, practically all of the US amateur bands
above 30 MHz have been available for the development and
implementation of digital modes by amateurs, with no need for any
Morse Code test. Lots of bandwidth, too - all those bands except
222-225 are wider than all the HF/MF amateur bands combined.

73 de Jim, N2EY

240. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-23 22:04:43 UTC
From: "Paul W. Schleck" <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>
Message-ID: <47e6c15a$0$29590$540ea2cf@novia.net>
Source record: 3061

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
Hash: SHA1

In <xxx-4C7088.14371923032008@news.verizon.net> Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> writes:

> Paul W. Schleck <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>" wrote:
>> Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> writes:
>
>> > It still seems like an awfully slow data rate. I have seen people
>> >throw 14400 Baud modems in the garbage because they considered them to
>> >be so slow as to be worthless. A data rate of 42 bps is about 3 orders
>> >of magnitude slower than that.
>

>> Many types of communications vary over many orders of magnitude of
>> information rate, yet are considered useful and up-to-date.
>>
>> For example, the Casio WaveCeptor on my wrist:
>>
>> http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/2497
>>
>> receives a ~ 1 Baud Pulse Position Modulated (PPM) signal from radio
>> station WWVB in Fort Collins, Colorado, which transmits on 60 kHz. It
>> takes about a minute to send the complete time code to synchronize my
>> watch. Slow? Yes. Useful? Yes, very much so, especially when
>> considering the coverage and reliability that can be obtained from such
>> a low-bandwidth, groundwave-propagated, Very Low Frequency (VLF) signal.
>> [...]

> In your model, only a single axis of data is transmitted - the time
>of day. That seems like a great deal of infrastructure and energy
>consumption to transmit a single data quantity. The equivalent
>infrastructure for weather transmission (marine and air) is even more
>elaborate and expensive. Can you see that is an outrageously inefficient
>way to distribute a small quantity of information?

Transmitting 50 kilowatts from a single site capable of covering most of
North America, using groundwave propagation, independent of solar
activity, is an "outrageously inefficient way to distribute a small
quantity of information?" Well, I do hope that you are hurrying to
write your Congressman to demand that the National Institute of
Standards and Technology put an immediate end to this grave outrage, and
profound waste of taxpayer's money that has been going on for decades.
After all, what does the NIST know about technology, or useful
communications? Perhaps as little as the engineers and marketers in the
economically successful and useful product field of WWVB watches and

clocks, in your estimation.

>
>> One of the most current and widely used communications technologies
>> among young people is cellular telephone text messaging:
>>
>> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Text_messaging
>>
>> (sometimes also called "Short Messaging System" or SMS)
>>
>> According to this recent demonstration on the Tonight Show with Jay
>> Leno:
>>
>> http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhsSgcsTMd4
>>
>> the realizable data rates are comparable in order of magnitude to that
>> of fast Morse code that can be sent and received by human operators.
>> Just try telling a teenager with an SMS-capable cellular telephone that
>> it should be thrown in the trash because it isn't fast enough, or isn't
>> of sufficiently novel technology, and see his or her reaction.

> My understanding is that they use SMS for fairly trivial
>communications, like what they will have for lunch or where they will
>meet at the mall. A rough equivalence might be SMS users objecting to
>the use of the SMS system by people who are sitting at full-size
>computers or by people who have connected keyboards to their phone. If
>they were to complain that "typing" pidgin English (like "HOW R U?")
>with your thumbs on a tiny telephone keypad was the one true way to use
>SMS, then I think I could agree that there was an equivalence.
> You might ask those kids why they also use conventional e-mail,
>despite having SMS availability.

I think you are underestimating the power of SMS. As for the comparison
to E-mail, I don't have to ask, as journalists have already done so,
including this recent article from Slate:

http://www.slate.com/id/2177969/pagenum/all/

Simply put, young people find appeal in the immediacy of small, but
low-latency messages sent in relatively large numbers over a long period
of time, and the information transmitted is far more rich and meaningful
that what you imply above. In many respects, this type of communication
is not stilted or limited, but almost provides the immediacy of a
conversation, without having to run up your voice minute charges or
leave your other callers unable to reach you due to the long-term busy
signal.

Young people do still use E-mail, but in circumstances for which it is
the better choice. They are not seeking some overall best "general
purpose communications" to get their messages across to each other.

>
>> To give you an amateur radio example, the Automated Position Reporting
>> System (APRS):
>>
>> http://www.aprs.org
>>
>> uses 1200 Baud AFSK packet. Faster, but still an order of magnitude
>> slower than technologies you imply should be thrown out.
>> [...]

> Again, it is for the exchange of a single axis of data - geographic
>location. Please stop tying to pass off these single purpose, dedicated
>systems as examples of general purpose communications.

I didn't realize that only "general purpose communications" were considered worthwhile. Your previous reply argued that it was undesirable to use such a low-speed technology as Morse code given that there were many higher-speed alternatives (faster by "orders of magnitude" you said). I replied to you that fastest is not always best. Other issues (previously enumerated by me) might actually dictate the choice of lower-speed communications as the best choice.

I also don't see "general purpose communications" mentioned in Part 97. Many "single purpose, dedicated systems" are used by amateurs, and help fulfill amateur radio's Basis and Purpose. In many cases, a "single purpose" technology is far more useful than a misfit, one-size-fits-all, "general purpose" one.

Before we make too many assumptions about an undefined term, perhaps you can describe what types of "general purpose communications" you would consider to be worthy goals for the Amateur Radio Service, and which "single purpose" technologies you would like to see eliminated?

Would you also kindly define what is a "single axis of data," in terms familiar to those involved in communications engineering and technology? What, then, would be "multiple axes of data?"

>> To even give you a Morse code example, consider the simplicity and
>> effectiveness of the NCDXF beacons running on the HF bands:
>>
>> http://www.ncdxf.org/beacons.html

> My understanding is that Morse-based beacon identifications are read
>by computerized devices and are not "copied" by the pilots. I doubt that
>you could find very many current pilots who could copy any Morse at all.

So, in other words, you are actually agreeing with my previous reply to you that there are many useful Morse code based communications technologies that do not actually require memorized, in-head, copy of Morse code. I'm glad that we agree on something.

>> [...]
>> There are even a number of excellent software packages linked from the
>> NCDXF site above that could automatically monitor the signals, decode

>> the Morse, and record the quality of the communications paths over time.
>> One such package is Faros:
>>
>> http://www.dxatlas.com/Faros/
>>
>> one of many advanced signal processing software packages for amateur
>> radio that exploits the ubiquitousness of of inexpensive personal
>> computers with sound cards in most home ham "shacks."

> There is nothing about that that is unique to Morse. Any type of RF
>link would be usable in that way.

Yes. That is somehow a point of disagreement between us? In what way?

I did acknowledge that you could re-engineer the NCDXF beacon system
with one that uses, say, PSK31, but the bandwidth and data rate limits
would still remain. A PC with a soundcard would still be usable for
that system, as you note. I'm sure that the author of Faros could also
quickly adapt, and make a PSK31 version of his NCDXF beacon recording
software package.

>> Focusing simply on information rate disregards other aspects of the
>> communications and the channel over which it is transmitted. These
>> important aspects include the bandwidth and propagation characteristics
>> of the available channel, the complexity of the required transmitting
>> and receiving equipment, the amount of data that needs to be
>> transmitted, and how quickly and often it needs to be conveyed.
>>
>> Single-attribute measuring contests may be fun, even ego-boosting to
>> some, but are really not very useful or impressive to those who actually
>> design and use practical communications systems.
>>
>> >It just seems inconsistent with the way
>> >that so many hams have fought tooth and nail to hold onto Morse and to
>> >hinder the move toward digital modes.
>>
>> I'm not sure that I understand your line of reasoning here. You are
>> implying cause-and-effect. In other words, use and advocacy of Morse
>> code somehow directly contributed to the obstruction of other
>> technologies. Can you give direct evidence of specific examples?

> Hams used to deride digital communications as "pulse" and tell tales
>about the way that it squandered bandwidth. They made it out to be
>something along the lines of spark-gap. Look for articles about "pulse"
>communications in old (1960's and 70's) issues of QST and Popular
>Electronics. Considering the lead time needed to develop a new mode, I
>think it is unreasonable not to go back at least that far. I believe
>that the anti-digital curmudgeons delayed the implementation of digital
>modes by a matter of decades. It is interesting to note that the most
>widely used digital modes (for 2-way radio, not for broadcast) were
>developed either in Japan (Icom/JARL DV) or under the auspices of a
>police organization that has no ties to radio, except as consumers (APCO

>25).

Wow, these curmudgeons must have been very powerful and effective in
their obstructionism if they undermined entire areas of communications
technology development in this country over the last 30-40 years. I
didn't realize that our national technology infrastructure was so
inflexible and lethargic that it could not recover from these
influences, even after so many decades.

>> [...]
>> Furthermore, if the only technologies that you believe should be saved
>> from being thrown away are those at 14.4 kBaud and up,

> Can you point to something in my post that makes such a claim?

Just the introduction to your previous article, where you directly
compare the Baud rate of Morse code with that of "obsolete" telephone
modems. You stated that their data rates differed by "orders of
magnitude," implying that communications technologies that were "orders
of magnitude" slower than telephone modems could be dismissed as
obsolete. Following the natural extension of that argument, then the
only technologies that could be favorably compared to such telephone
modems, and meet your argued standard of non-obsolete, could only be
realized on high VHF and up. As I argued previously, use and advocacy
of Morse code has no bearing on the current deployment of such
technologies, as no Morse code test has been required to access them for
at least 17 years. The Technician-class license has existed for far
longer, and has only a minimal Morse code examination.

>The
>only technology that I have derided as being too slow as to have value
>is Morse code that is sent by hand (less than 100 baud).

So, to summarize:

slow-speed (less than 100 baud) PSK31 : "Good"

similar order-of-magnitude speed Morse code: "Bad"

So, it's not the speed you object to, it's the use of Morse code?
Couldn't you have just stated that, and not gone to the trouble of
bringing in other arguments like speed and bandwidth, or whether a
communications technology is sufficiently "general purpose" or not,
regardless of whether something "general purpose" would be the best
choice in a given circumstance? Just say that you don't like Morse
code. Others would at least give you credit for honesty.

>The Navy shut
>down its VLF network on the grounds that the data rate was inadequate.
>Perhaps it is time for the amateur community to take a similar step.

References please? A Google search returns no evidence that Navy
stations like NAA in Cutler, Maine have gone off-line. Are you possibly
thinking of their ELF experiments that were recently ended? Even if so,

what competing technology is the Navy contemplating that will reliably contact our submarine fleet that has "gone deep" under many fathoms of RF-attenuating sea water?

I also didn't realize that amateur radio had similar "networks" that would need to be shut down.

>> those
>> technologies are only practically realizable on amateur radio bands at
>> high VHF and up. Such bands have been open to licensees without need of
>> a Morse code test for going on 17 years now. Even before then, these
>> bands were accessible to Technician-class amateurs since at least
>> shortly after World War II, with a license that only required a minimal,
>> 5 WPM (essentially individual character-recognition) Morse code test.
>>
>> If you are saying that someone *else* should have developed these
>> technologies (other than you, of course), and that since they haven't,
>> then someone *must* be to blame, well, you can't really dictate how the
>> world should turn out without taking an active role to help make it that
>> way.

> That last paragraph is incoherent. Could you rephrase it?

Looked pretty coherent to me, but for your benefit, I'll dissect it in detail:

"If you are saying that someone *else* should have developed these technologies ..."

In other words, amateur radio has failed to meet some standard of technology development. Other people were somehow "wasting" their time doing other things.

"... (other than you, of course) ..."

What have you done to make amateur radio a better place? Have you written your Congressman? Petitioned the FCC? Worked in the communications engineering and technology field? Developed amateur radio software and hardware solutions? You seem to be knowledgeable on many technical subjects, including the history of that technology over many decades. Did you try to change things, or are you asserting that you did not have the skills or abilities to help do so, even working with others over many decades?

"... and since they haven't, then someone *must* be blamed, ..."

I was implying that you were seeking scapegoats, as it is easier to blame others than look in the mirror.

"... well, you can't really dictate how the world should turn out without taking an active role to help make it that way."

In other words, Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way. "Sidewalk Superintendents" have very little influence on society. What is your

choice?

Also, some people seem to confuse actual solutions to problems (whether in amateur radio, or on the newsgroups) with a contest over who can become the most "outraged." To quote Jim Kelley, AC6XG:

"Outrage, and a buck-fifty, will get us exactly what?"

>--
>Klystron

- --
73, Paul W. Schleck, K3FU
pschleck@novia.net
http://www.novia.net/~pschleck/
Finger pschleck@novia.net for PGP Public Key

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----
Version: GnuPG v1.4.5 (SunOS)

iD8DBQFH5r/66Pj0az779o4RAnicAJ9csNsCmha8ssxAArkza8p3pxwIhACfZv4O
BXSruHeICy8G0AOT+mCOhPo=
=tMJk
-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----

241. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 02:12:53 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <493eu35rqcv7466kq4thtn0fbu2bn31ede@4ax.com>
Source record: 3062

On Sun, 23 Mar 2008 17:23:43 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>I have all the QSTs back to the mid-1920s, and have read all
>of them. I do not recall any comparison of digital modes to
>"pulse" in any of them. Could you provide a specific reference?
>
The only "pulse" reference that comes to mind is the pre-1979 emission
designator for what we now call "digital modulation" in the
International Radio Regulations. Nobody that I know, amateur or
professional (and most of the amateurs were professional communication
engineers) ever put it down.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

242. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 02:53:54 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-21D47C.20512523032008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3063

Paul W. Schleck <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>" wrote:

> Transmitting 50 kilowatts from a single site capable of covering most of
> North America, using groundwave propagation, independent of solar
> activity, is an "outrageously inefficient way to distribute a small
> quantity of information?" Well, I do hope that you are hurrying to
> write your Congressman to demand that the National Institute of
> Standards and Technology put an immediate end to this grave outrage, and
> profound waste of taxpayer's money that has been going on for decades.
> After all, what does the NIST know about technology, or useful
> communications? Perhaps as little as the engineers and marketers in the
> economically successful and useful product field of WWVB watches and
> clocks, in your estimation.

Wouldn't it make more sense to include WWV and WWVH along with WWVB?
Are you familiar with the Internet-based ntp system? Then, there is the
matter of GPS, which has a time capability that is incidental to its
navigation function.

> [...]
> I think you are underestimating the power of SMS. As for the comparison
> to E-mail, I don't have to ask, as journalists have already done so,
> including this recent article from Slate:
>
> http://www.slate.com/id/2177969/pagenum/all/
>
> Simply put, young people find appeal in the immediacy of small, but
> low-latency messages sent in relatively large numbers over a long period
> of time, and the information transmitted is far more rich and meaningful
> that what you imply above. In many respects, this type of communication
> is not stilted or limited, but almost provides the immediacy of a
> conversation, without having to run up your voice minute charges or
> leave your other callers unable to reach you due to the long-term busy
> signal.
>
> Young people do still use E-mail, but in circumstances for which it is
> the better choice. They are not seeking some overall best "general
> purpose communications" to get their messages across to each other.

I don't see anything in that that contradicts my statement that SMS
is mainly used for messages of little importance. It is also called CMS,
for casual messaging service.

> I didn't realize that only "general purpose communications" were
> considered worthwhile.

A multi-purpose system that can match a single-purpose system on the performance of the objectives of the single-purpose system is generally, if not universally, considered superior.

> Your previous reply argued that it was
> undesirable to use such a low-speed technology as Morse code given that
> there were many higher-speed alternatives (faster by "orders of
> magnitude" you said). I replied to you that fastest is not always best.
> Other issues (previously enumerated by me) might actually dictate the
> choice of lower-speed communications as the best choice.
>
> I also don't see "general purpose communications" mentioned in Part 97.
> Many "single purpose, dedicated systems" are used by amateurs, and
> help fulfill amateur radio's Basis and Purpose. In many cases, a
> "single purpose" technology is far more useful than a misfit,
> one-size-fits-all, "general purpose" one.
>
> Before we make too many assumptions about an undefined term, perhaps you
> can describe what types of "general purpose communications" you would
> consider to be worthy goals for the Amateur Radio Service, and which
> "single purpose" technologies you would like to see eliminated?

Why do you want me to reinvent the wheel? Lets go to the source (condensed from Part 97.1):

* emergency communications
* contribute to the advancement of the radio art
* advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art
* expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts
* continuation and extension of the amateurs unique ability to enhance international goodwill

> Would you also kindly define what is a "single axis of data," in terms
> familiar to those involved in communications engineering and technology?

A single quantity, like time or location

> What, then, would be "multiple axes of data?"

Two or more simultaneous quantities, like time AND location or course AND speed.

> So, in other words, you are actually agreeing with my previous reply to
> you that there are many useful Morse code based communications
> technologies that do not actually require memorized, in-head, copy of
> Morse code. I'm glad that we agree on something.

There is probably no purpose for which Morse can be used as a machine language where there isn't a choice of other, better suited languages available. This includes aeronautical beacons. You are grasping at straws, now.

> Wow, these curmudgeons must have been very powerful and effective in
> their obstructionism if they undermined entire areas of communications
> technology development in this country over the last 30-40 years. I
> didn't realize that our national technology infrastructure was so
> inflexible and lethargic that it could not recover from these
> influences, even after so many decades.

When you look at the development of the Internet, Linux and other
free software, you have to wonder about the infrastructure behind it.
How did it come about? There was no regulatory body. There were no
licenses. There were no "Elmers." Until recently, there wasn't even any
formal schooling available, except on the sort of machinery that existed
only within the Fortune 500. Early Internet users and developers had to
read O'Reilly books and figure it out on their own.
That showed great initiative. It demonstrated the sort of determined,
driven advancement of technology that was once seen in amateur radio.
But that sort of thing has passed ham radio by. It has been a long time
since ham radio was a source of innovation. I blame the Morse cultists
who hijacked amateur radio for use as their personal playground.

> Just the introduction to your previous article, where you directly
> compare the Baud rate of Morse code with that of "obsolete" telephone
> modems. You stated that their data rates differed by "orders of
> magnitude," implying that communications technologies that were "orders
> of magnitude" slower than telephone modems could be dismissed as
> obsolete.

An amusing interpretation. It follows that trains and ships should be
discarded because they are much slower than airplanes.

> Following the natural extension of that argument, then the
> only technologies that could be favorably compared to such telephone
> modems, and meet your argued standard of non-obsolete, could only be
> realized on high VHF and up. As I argued previously, use and advocacy
> of Morse code has no bearing on the current deployment of such
> technologies, as no Morse code test has been required to access them for
> at least 17 years. The Technician-class license has existed for far
> longer, and has only a minimal Morse code examination.

You left out the faster mode of communication known as "voice." It is
widely used on HF. Further, I once looked at a band plan that showed how
DV could be used on HF. They described a system of HF DV that took up
just slightly more bandwidth than SSB and substantially less than AM.

> So, to summarize:
>
> slow-speed (less than 100 baud) PSK31 : "Good"
>
> similar order-of-magnitude speed Morse code: "Bad"
>
> So, it's not the speed you object to, it's the use of Morse code?
> Couldn't you have just stated that, and not gone to the trouble of
> bringing in other arguments like speed and bandwidth, or whether a

> communications technology is sufficiently "general purpose" or not,
> regardless of whether something "general purpose" would be the best
> choice in a given circumstance? Just say that you don't like Morse
> code. Others would at least give you credit for honesty.

Who are these "others" and when did they appoint you as their
spokesman?

> References please? A Google search returns no evidence that Navy
> stations like NAA in Cutler, Maine have gone off-line. Are you possibly
> thinking of their ELF experiments that were recently ended? Even if so,
> what competing technology is the Navy contemplating that will reliably
> contact our submarine fleet that has "gone deep" under many fathoms of
> RF-attenuating sea water?

I am thinking of the site in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and the
increased reliance on TACAMO aircraft (at the time of the shutdown).

> I also didn't realize that amateur radio had similar "networks" that
> would need to be shut down.

The infrastructure that is being wasted on Morse includes band
segments that have, until recently, been reserved for its exclusive use.
I am very glad to see that almost all CW segments now allow data modes
(50-50.1 and 144-144.1 being the only exceptions). There is also the
inclusion of keyer provisions in HF radios. It will be interesting to
see what the marketplace does to code tapes and code keys. I don't think
they will last long.
While Morse supporters often point to treaties, the fact is that the
US was one of the last countries to abandon the Morse requirement for an
HF license. Other countries began dropping that requirement many years
earlier, while still claiming to be in compliance with their treaty
obligations. How do you explain that? To me, it sounds like the FCC used
the treaties as a pretext to keep the code requirement in order to
placate the ARRL and the Morse zealots.

> Looked pretty coherent to me, but for your benefit, I'll dissect it in
> detail:
>
> "If you are saying that someone *else* should have developed these
> technologies ..."
>
> In other words, amateur radio has failed to meet some standard of
> technology development. Other people were somehow "wasting" their time
> doing other things.
>
> "... (other than you, of course) ..."
>
> What have you done to make amateur radio a better place? Have you
> written your Congressman? Petitioned the FCC? Worked in the
> communications engineering and technology field? Developed amateur radio
> software and hardware solutions? You seem to be knowledgeable on many

> technical subjects, including the history of that technology over many
> decades. Did you try to change things, or are you asserting that you
> did not have the skills or abilities to help do so, even working with
> others over many decades?

I have worked in the electronics industry. I have made my views clear
to any and all who had an interest in the subject. I made those views as
clear then as I have done in this newsgroup.

> "... and since they haven't, then someone *must* be blamed, ..."
>
> I was implying that you were seeking scapegoats, as it is easier to
> blame others than look in the mirror.
>
> "... well, you can't really dictate how the world should turn out
> without taking an active role to help make it that way."
>
> In other words, Lead, Follow, or Get Out of the Way. "Sidewalk
> Superintendents" have very little influence on society. What is your
> choice?
>
> Also, some people seem to confuse actual solutions to problems (whether
> in amateur radio, or on the newsgroups) with a contest over who can
> become the most "outraged." To quote Jim Kelley, AC6XG:
>
> "Outrage, and a buck-fifty, will get us exactly what?"

--
Klystron

243. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 02:54:34 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <04d935a1-1812-443e-a6c4-a6bade0190e5@s8g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3064

Paul W. Schleck posted on Sun, 23 Mar 2008 12:03:58 EDT:

>Many types of communications vary over many orders of magnitude of
>information rate, yet are considered useful and up-to-date.
>
>For example, the Casio WaveCeptor on my wrist:
>
>http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/2497
>
>receives a ~ 1 Baud Pulse Position Modulated (PPM) signal from radio
>station WWVB in Fort Collins, Colorado, which transmits on 60 kHz. It
>takes about a minute to send the complete time code to synchronize my
>watch. Slow? Yes. Useful? Yes, very much so, especially when
>considering the coverage and reliability that can be obtained from such
>a low-bandwidth, groundwave-propagated, Very Low Frequency (VLF) signal.
>The watch only needs to receive the time code at most once per day,
>which it does so automatically in the early hours of the morning sitting
>on my desk or dresser. A faster data rate would require something other
>than a VLF signal, and would not improve much on the quality or
>usability of the communications. It would definitely increase the
>price. Witness the much greater success in the marketplace of
>WWVB-based watches versus more advanced, higher bandwidth, but much more
>expensive, "Smart Personal Object Technology" (SPOT) watches:

Good mention, Paul. Ummm...the data rate is rather exactly one bit per
second and takes exactly 60 seconds to send one frame of time and date
data. :-)

ALL the details are given at www.nist.gov under the 'Time Frequency'
page, including propagation charts at various times of the day and
for various seasons. This southern California region can regularly
receive enough signal to set radio clocks even if at an approximate
distance of about 900 miles to Fort Collins. In 2005 my wife and I
drove to southern Wisconsin and my La Crosse radio wristwatch never
failed to set itself properly even though some of our overnight stays
were in hotels having steel structures or in among other buildings.
We have two radio wall clocks in our residence and those are exact
enough to compare on-the-second with HF time ticks from WWV and WWVH.

[I won't quibble about the PPM mode descriptor since the full details
of modulation are given at NIST website... :-)]

>According to this recent demonstration on the Tonight Show with Jay
>Leno:
>
>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhsSgcsTMd4

Ahem...<quibble mode on>...that little bit on the Tonight Show was a 'setup' gig that employed two young local male actors as the (described) "text messaging experts" but the two hams (one of which would very soon become marketing director for Heil Sound) were real. That is the input I got directly from a reliable staffer on the Tonight Show. Took a few phone calls to get that information but it is an advantage of living inside the entertainment capital of the USA (aka Los Angeles, CA)...and the NBC western Hq is only about 5 miles south of my place, down Hollywood Way to Alameda and then east about a mile. That whole bit was really a send-up on the popular fad of text messaging done by teeners and young adults.

That bit is about as 'real documentary' as Leno's send-ups on the 'street interviews' with ordinary (apparently clueless) younger folk on various kinds of knowledge. In short, ONLY for gag purposes.

>To even give you a Morse code example, consider the simplicity and
>effectiveness of the NCDXF beacons running on the HF bands:
>
>http://www.ncdxf.org/beacons.html

HF beacons are neat for their purposes of checking on HF propagation paths, but they aren't 'communications' in the regular sense. Those were also designed for simplicity at the various receiving sites but require rather precise time-of-day at each receiver in order to get the start of each cycle.

While I had not intended to restart some morse-vs-others kind of argument, I have to note where I began HF communications with the US military some 55 years ago. Not a single communications circuit used any form of morse coding to achieve a throughput of nearly a quarter of a million messages per month (average in 1955). The majority was teleprinter of the 5-level 'Baudot' format running at 60 WPM equivalent rates. 24/7 of course with TTY distributors to to automatically start another p-tape reader when the other reader was done. FSK 'spread' was then 850 cycles, not the narrower 170 Hz of today. Radio circuits (where I was assigned) spanned the northern Pacific from Saigon, Seoul, and Manila to Anchorage, Seattle, San Francisco, and Hawaii.

In 1955 the Army tried an experiment on a few select radio circuits to push the Teletype Corporation's machines to 75 WPM equivalent. End result of that was a failure rate more than double that of the standard 60 WPM equivalent machines. Teletype seems to have achieved an optimized design for 60 WPM equivalent; their 100 WPM equivalent next-generation machines used a different electromechanical system, were quite reliable at that rate.

>very fast determination of the link budget to the beacon locations. If
>you can't remember what a "V" sounds like in Morse Code (". . . _" like
>the intro to Beethoven's Fifth Symphony), I suppose you could put that
>on the chart as well. After all, the use of similar charts are how
>pilots usually decode the Morse code identifications of aeronautical

>beacons.

Quibble mode on again. The LF aeronautical beacoms are what you are writing about but they are NOT used much at all for aircraft radio-navigation now, nor were they a half century ago. Present-day (and in 1962) radionavigation over land is done mainly by VOR (Very high frequency Omnidirectional Radio range) using a unique 30 Hz antenna pattern rotation with a reference phase of 30 Hz sent on a 9.96 KHz subcarrier. Aircraft VOR receivers have used very simple (even for tube circuits) to determine their bearing to a ground station. These were simple enough (and low cost enough) for small private general aviation craft and the US VOR system was adopted internationally in 1955. For distance to a ground station the civil method emplyed a low L-band interrogator sending a (jittered) double pulse and measuring the return delay (plus 50 uSec) from the ground station responder. This DME (Distance Measuring Equipment) was compatible with military TACAN (TACtical Area Navigation) signal format and the FAA combined VOR-DME-TACAN equipments on the ground and those are identified by the contraction VORTAC. On aeronautical charts (from the government, usually reprinted by private companies) there is usually a magnetic bearing compass circle (VOR and civil-use-TACAN reference magnetic reference, not actual north reference)...the VHF frequencies (DME and TACAN frequencies have been paired with VOR), ICAO 3-letter ID, and the dot-dash pattern of that 3-letter ID.

The elegant simplicity of VOR is that it will permit AM Voice IN the ground station transmitter without disturbing the antenna pattern modulation or the reference phase subcarrier. In congested urban areas where a lot of general aviation aircraft abound, FAA stations routinely use VOR voice transmissions to aid civil pilots, easing the pilots' workload by providing extra information such as WX, special conditions at an airport. My local airport (BUR) now known as Bob Hope Airport, the FAA used to send a repeating voice announcement of local WX conditions, airport info, etc., all identified by a letter, beginning with A or Alpha at midnight. The tag on the voice tape loop was "please tell the tower you have received 'information <Foxtrot or whatever letter>'" when requesting landing at that airport. Yes, some VORs transmit the ICAO 3-letter ID as a low-modulation on-off tone in slow morse but I have yet to find any civil pilot, beginner to experienced, who USES that code for radionavigation.

>Focusing simply on information rate disregards other aspects of the
>communications and the channel over which it is transmitted. These
>important aspects include the bandwidth and propagation characteristics
>of the available channel, the complexity of the required transmitting
>and receiving equipment, the amount of data that needs to be
>transmitted, and how quickly and often it needs to be conveyed.

Martinez' PSK31 was rather precisely designed for low (<500 Hz) bandwidth coincident with non-typists typing rate of about 30 WPM

equivalent, all in congested Data slices of amateur radio band 'bandplans' on HF. With relatively simple electronic terminal equipment with microprocessor-aided operation, I/O memory space and programming is a minor addition to handle faster typists' input, even burst typing on a keyboard to 100 WPM or so equivalent.

The OLD FSK bandwidths on HF (of a half century ago) took up about a whole KHz while using an 850 cycle shift. On the 3 KHz of an old commercial-format SSB channel (one of four), as many as 8 separate TTY circuits could be frequency-multiplexed. A more reasonable shift (to 170 Hz) occurred later with improvements in terminal equipment technology, is the norm now, even for 100 WPM equivalent teleprinter rates of those still using electromechanical terminals.

BANDWIDTH occupancy seems to be the primary driver for modulation rates on HF. YMMV.

There are more complex methods of modulation-demodulation that have been available for some time. DRM (Digital Radio Mondial) is one such as has been verified on HF for 'SW BC' (Broadcasting). That DRM has not spread well among broadcasters has little to do with technical details of modulation-demodulation, but rather in the poor propagation conditions of this sunspot cycle limiting broadcasters' range. If a signal can't get through at all, NO modulation method is going to help. Besides, with the availability of satellite radio broadcasting, 'SW BC' has gradually shifted over to that method rather than using HF directly.

>I'm not sure that I understand your line of reasoning here. You are
>implying cause-and-effect. In other words, use and advocacy of Morse
>code somehow directly contributed to the obstruction of other
>technologies. Can you give direct evidence of specific examples? If
>you are implying that licensing requirements obstructed the development
>of advanced digital modes, that really doesn't appear to be the case.
>Witness the success of Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR):

It is disingenuous to 'force' an argument by introduction of something not overtly stated by the originator.

TAPR and its membership have done some excellent technical development and spread of such technology. Note also that its membership is made up of radio amateurs who've been licensed for a while and are NOT technical beginners in radio or electronics.

In the view of the ENTIRE world of radio, not just amateur radio, the use of morse code modes to communicate has steadily decreased for over a half century. It has decreased so much so that some non-amateur radio services either stopped using that mode or never considered it for a new radio service introduced in the last half century. As a prime example, the changeover to GMDSS and replacement of the old 500 KHz international distress and safety frequency which used morse code exclusively. Even the USCG stopped monitoring that

old 500 KHz frequency. GMDSS was designed and approved by the Maritime Community, not by amateurs.

The decline, or perhaps more accurately, the failure to keep up with overall population increase (of USA) amateur licensees is (in my opinion) NOT due exclusively to 'USE' of morse code. US amateur radio license totals peaked 5 years ago. In general, by informal polling, newcomers are NOT embracing morse code modes...nor are they flocking to HF amateur bands. PART of that MAY be due to the insistence of the 'amateur radio community' to hang onto the morse code TEST forever. Part of that is due to the slow acceptance of international amateur radio to change the international amateur Radio Regulations away from old standards. WRC-03 of nearly 5 years ago allowed individual administrations to drop the morse code test for an amateur radio license. The USA did not follow through on that until more than 3 years later. [precisely, the end of July 2003 to 23 February 2007]

[in response to 'Klystron']

>If you are saying that someone *else* should have developed these >technologies (other than you, of course), and that since they haven't, >then someone *must* be to blame, well, you can't really dictate how the >world should turn out without taking an active role to help make it that >way.

That's rather strong wording from a leading person of this newsgroup, isn't it?

For a very long while, ever since I first began as a pro in HF radio communications, PART of the 'amateur radio community' had been very busy 'dictating' how the amateur radio world should be by the continuation of the morse code test for an amateur radio license. OTHERS, including those of us (like myself) who were NOT licensed in amateur radio have actively campaigned to remove that test from US amateur radio...even though other countries had already preceded the USA in abolishing that code test. I won't say that I've 'been responsible' for any USA changes but I was certainly 'active' in trying to do so. The FCC apparently agreed with some of my views as well as so many others supporting that test elimination. It came to pass. But, that coming might have been too late to change others' interests in US amateur radio.

In my electronics work that began (professionally) in 1952, I've been involved in a lot of different electronics and modes and modulations of RF that were never allocated for US amateur radio use. Some of those just wouldn't apply to two-way communications but others would apply. There are still some US regulations that need altering but a very vocal PART of the 'amateur radio community' seems very adamant about NOT upsetting the status quo. The future of US amateur radio does NOT depend solely on them.

73, Len AF6AY
First licensed in US amateur radio in March 2007
First licensed in US commercial radio in March 1956
First QSY of a 1 KW HF transmitter in February 1953

244. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 03:29:54 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <ue7eu3pc344l58bh9b5ki6fmpm91q3m7bu@4ax.com>
Source record: 3065

On Sun, 23 Mar 2008 22:53:54 EDT, Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> Wouldn't it make more sense to include WWV and WWVH along with WWVB?
>Are you familiar with the Internet-based ntp system? Then, there is the
>matter of GPS, which has a time capability that is incidental to its
>navigation function.

Want some fun? Compare the time ticks received from WWVB, WWV,
NIST-on-line, and GPS. What, they are not all simultaneous? Welcome
to the real world. GPS time does not correlate with UTC by any means
(several seconds difference).

In one of the first digital military command and control system that I
was involved in during the early 1960s, we used rubidium standards at
our switching centers to get accurate time synchronization, and even
then it was rather crude because the line delays varied so much. HF
propagation (WWV/WWVH) is even worse in that regard.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

245. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 04:08:48 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <tj8eu3l30ftc7es8esnjmrholhvqom320k@4ax.com>
Source record: 3066

On Sun, 23 Mar 2008 22:54:34 EDT, AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote:

> As a prime example, the changeover to GMDSS and replacement
>of the old 500 KHz international distress and safety frequency which
>used morse code exclusively. Even the USCG stopped monitoring that
>old 500 KHz frequency. GMDSS was designed and approved by the
>Maritime Community, not by amateurs.

As those of us who had our ears to the hull, so to speak, know very
well, the main reason was to get rid of "Sparks the Radio Operator"
who was a very large expense for the traffic that was being handled by
non-Morse methods. Some could be retrained as service technicians,
many could not and took retirement.

Be aware, though, that there are still several Public Coast Stations
in the US that are capable and do handle Morse traffic, and twice a
year the USCG fires up its Morse stations. It's not all dead.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

246. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 04:09:24 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <2a3eee29-e0aa-4fc9-bdcd-d915069afcf2@d21g2000prf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3067

On Mar 23, 8:29 pm, Phil Kane <Phil.K...@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> On Sun, 23 Mar 2008 22:53:54 EDT, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> > Wouldn't it make more sense to include WWV and WWVH along with WWVB?
> >Are you familiar with the Internet-based ntp system? Then, there is the
> >matter of GPS, which has a time capability that is incidental to its
> >navigation function.
>
> Want some fun? Compare the time ticks received from WWVB, WWV,
> NIST-on-line, and GPS. What, they are not all simultaneous?
> Welcome
> to the real world. GPS time does not correlate with UTC by any means
> (several seconds difference).
>
> In one of the first digital military command and control system that I
> was involved in during the early 1960s, we used rubidium standards at
> our switching centers to get accurate time synchronization, and even
> then it was rather crude because the line delays varied so much. HF
> propagation (WWV/WWVH) is even worse in that regard.

I've compared each of our three radio-set clocks at this residence (in Los Angeles) and find excellent correlation between their one-second changes and both WWV and WWVH. Don't have any GPS receiver to try the same.

In 1960, while working in the Standards Lab of Ramo-Wooldridge Corp. in Canoga Park, CA, I got to pull some OT on Saturdays to measure the difference between east coast transmissions of WWV and the local General Radio frequency standard. Just a plain old quartz crystal standard oscillator driving divider chains to the built-in clock.
I would record the microseconds of difference between local clock ticks and WWV ticks from the east coast. Not much variation in a week's time, don't remember just how much (it was 48 years ago).

Yes, propagation on HF does vary but it is sometimes exaggerated. Before R-W went into a business tailspin, the Standards Lab was ready to get a low-frequency HP receiver for 20 KHz to improve on establishing a local, secondary frequency standard. No joy on that corporation which was eventually sold off. All I ever got to see was the 'diurnal shift' of 20 KHz phase recordings at sunrise and sunset.
:-)

73, Len AF6AY

247. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 04:09:54 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <8f08ccfc-2722-4d76-8499-4399fdf4aecd@d21g2000prf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3068
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

Jim Haynes posted on Tue, 18 Mar 2008 19:47:44 EDT:

>Bill Horne wrote:
>
>>I'm sure your explanation is correct, but it leaves me confused: I know
>>bps <> baud, but they're close, and the Model 15 Teletype I used to own
>>operated at 45 baud. It seems illogical that Morse would be so high in
>>the bps count.
>
>Your Model 15 Teletype at the nominal 60 wpm speed, which is actually
>368 chars/minute and 45.45 baud works out like this. The character
>length is 7.42 bits long (for ancient, interesting reasons I won't go
>into right now) and the bit duration is 22 milliseconds. The character
>duration is therefore 7.42 * 22 = 163.24 milliseconds, and that works out
>to 6.12595 characters/sec = 367.55 characters/minute. To convert that
>to words you have to figure 6 characters per word because the space
>between words is also a character. So the speed is actually 61.26
>words/minute.

For what it is worth, my paper reference on TTYs is NAVSHIPS
0967-255-0010 "Principles of Telegraphy (Teletypewriter)" from
Department of the Navy Electronic Systems Command. I bought it
from the US Government Printing Office back in the early 1970s as
a reference. [I am an Army veteran, not Navy] The first chapter of
Part A in that TM has a nice historical record of 'telegraphy'
(which includes teletypewriting). It says only "60 WPM" but mentions
other Baud rates.

As far as we in Army communications of the mid-1950s were concerned,
all the teletypewriters that the Army used were called "60 WPM" and
only the teletypewriter maintenance people (and a few carrier systems
types) cared about many numbers. We did have Distortion meters used
to determine irregularities in a circuit.

BTW, the Army and the rest of the military used Teletype Corporation
Model 15s through 19s, variation being only the paper tape punch
and transmitting distributor (P-tape reader).

>Now when you get to ASCII, the old Teletype machines transmitted 8
>data bits per character and used an 11.0 unit code. This makes 100
>wpm work out to 110 baud. Electronic terminals don't need 11 unit
>code; they can do just fine with 10. Thus the words-per-minute is
>numerically equal to the baud rate. 100 baud -> 10 ms/bit ->
>100 ms/char -> 10 chars/sec -> 600 chars/min -> 100 wpm.

OK on that. Teletype Corporation Model 28s (explained in intimate detail in the NAVSHIPS TM I referenced) would easily do 100 WPM equivalent 24/7 as long as supplied with paper, ribbon, and oil. :-)

>...word PARIS contains 50 bit times counting the space. So one word
>per second is 50 bits per second and 60 wpm. As an aside, the
>military sends a lot of encrypted 5-letter code groups, so instead
>of PARIS the Signal Corps uses CODEZ as a test word more statistically
>correct for their kind of traffic. And CODEZ contains 60 bits.

I never encountered any test word 'CODEZ' 1953 to 1956, nor elsewhere in the Signal Corps or in DoD contracts after that. In the mid-50s we simply used a continuous 'R-Y' generator (from Teletype Corporation) for circuit checks with the old 60 WPM equivalent machines. Teletype Corp. also made a 'fox test' generator consisting of a half dozen cams operating as many switches to generate "The quick brown fox jumped..." sentence (with Tx station ID at the end) for radio circuit checks.

Electromechanical teletypewriters are now rather passe' in the military and government (I use a French word to replace Obsolete which so many have trouble with). It is all electronic and, for permanent installations, over the DSN (Digital Switched Network) anywhere...including interfaces with the regular civilian telephone infrastructure. The DSN allows encryption on-line as per protocol. For field radios, the electronic data protocols are compatible with hard-wired ones and also allow encryption on-line. It was so in the first Gulf War (1990-1991) which 'battle tested' the whole military communications network DX to no-DX via TDRS (Tracking and Data Relay Satellites) and other military commsats from/to Florida to/from the Middle East.

Not having any access to the DSN or intimate details of military cryptographic equipment now, I have no exact knowledge of what is used for a test word, sentence, or whatever. For the OLD electro-mechanical teleprinters, I'd say the specifications for a specific TTY Distortion Meter would tell the exact story on timing for both polar and non-polar TTY circuits and equipment.

73, Len AF6AY

248. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 04:10:13 UTC
From: jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com
Message-ID: <kbljb5-jp5.ln1@mail.specsol.com>
Source record: 3069

Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> On Sun, 23 Mar 2008 22:53:54 EDT, Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> > Wouldn't it make more sense to include WWV and WWVH along with WWVB?
> >Are you familiar with the Internet-based ntp system? Then, there is the
> >matter of GPS, which has a time capability that is incidental to its
> >navigation function.

> Want some fun? Compare the time ticks received from WWVB, WWV,
> NIST-on-line, and GPS. What, they are not all simultaneous? Welcome
> to the real world. GPS time does not correlate with UTC by any means
> (several seconds difference).

Each GPS sattelite has it's own on board atomic clock and the system can
easily provide UTC with accuracy on the few microseconds level with an
ultimate limit of +/- 340 nanoseconds using an appropriate receiver and
hardware.

GPS is the basis for most of the current NTP time servers.

http://www.ntp-time-server.com/gps-time-server/gps-time-server.htm

--
Jim Pennino

Remove .spam.sux to reply.

249. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 04:30:16 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <8a701a38-5a1e-4c1c-ad81-98ccca730acd@s8g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3070

On Mar 18, 7:44 am, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> I am trying to convert "words per minute" into "bits pe
r second."
> Bits per second, in turn, is APPROXIMATELY equal to baud, a common
> measure of modem (or other means of data transmission) speed. I need to
> quantify one factor: How many letters are in a "word?" If we assume that
> there are 5 (five) letters to a word, my calculations look like this:

It has been common convention in wireline telegraphy to count "one
word"
as having 5 characters followed by a space. The origin of that seems
to be
that it was most advantageous for humans to use/remember while using
the Commercial Codes, a form of encipherment both to protect
information and to reduce the number of words in a telegram.
Bentley's
Commercial Code seems to have been the most used with 17 editions,
publishing Code Books for any business or government.

As a result of those Commercial Codes, actual cryptographic codes
also used 5 characters followed by a space, hence the term '5-letter
groups' in referring to a "word." By the time of WWII starting, the
cryptographic systems were more advanced and it was not possible
to tell one 'word' from another but it was common practice to send
encrypted text as 5-letter (or character) groups; the actual space in
clear text was determined by the null or space substitute in poly-
alphabetic rolling-key encryption codes. (reference: M-209 Code
Converter used in the field in Europe by US forces)

73, Len AF6AY

250. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 10:53:46 UTC
From: "Paul W. Schleck" <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>
Message-ID: <47e734a2$0$29572$540ea2cf@novia.net>
Source record: 3071

```
-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
Hash: SHA1

In <xxx-21D47C.20512523032008@news.verizon.net> Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> writes:

> Paul W. Schleck <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>" wrote:

[...]

>> Before we make too many assumptions about an undefined term, perhaps you
>> can describe what types of "general purpose communications" you would
>> consider to be worthy goals for the Amateur Radio Service, and which
>> "single purpose" technologies you would like to see eliminated?

> Why do you want me to reinvent the wheel? Lets go to the source
>(condensed from Part 97.1):

> * emergency communications
> * contribute to the advancement of the radio art
> * advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of
>the art
> * expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service
>of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts
> * continuation and extension of the amateurs unique ability to enhance
>international goodwill

Perhaps I should clarify. When I asked the above question, I meant
specific technologies and examples of communications systems, not a
restatement of the general strategies of the Amateur Radio Service that
are enshrined in its Basis and Purpose. The Basis and Purpose
enumerates high-level goals, but does not specify the implementation
details, including the specific technologies.

I'm sure that we are all familiar with FCC Part 97.1, and restating it
really wasn't the answer that I was looking for. Could you please be
more specific?

- --
73, Paul W. Schleck, K3FU
pschleck@novia.net
http://www.novia.net/~pschleck/
Finger pschleck@novia.net for PGP Public Key

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----
Version: GnuPG v1.4.5 (SunOS)

iD8DBQFH5zR26Pj0az779o4RAiqtAJ4003CD5KS18L4Ybt5bL//NfZKBFwCfV9Qg
9eRBs7HEqZzaMPPaM3IC4QY=
```

```
=UFaB
-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----
```

251. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 10:54:09 UTC
From: "Paul W. Schleck" <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>
Message-ID: <47e7329f$0$29572$540ea2cf@novia.net>
Source record: 3072

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
Hash: SHA1

In <04d935a1-1812-443e-a6c4-a6bade0190e5@s8g2000prg.googlegroups.com> AF6AY
<LenAnderson@ieee.org> writes:

>>According to this recent demonstration on the Tonight Show with Jay
>>Leno:
>>
>>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhsSgcsTMd4

>Ahem...<quibble mode on>...that little bit on the Tonight Show was
>a 'setup' gig that employed two young local male actors as the
>(described) "text messaging experts" but the two hams (one of which
>would very soon become marketing director for Heil Sound) were
>real. That is the input I got directly from a reliable staffer on
>the Tonight Show. Took a few phone calls to get that information
>but it is an advantage of living inside the entertainment capital of
>the USA (aka Los Angeles, CA)...and the NBC western Hq is only
>about 5 miles south of my place, down Hollywood Way to Alameda and
>then east about a mile. That whole bit was really a send-up on the
>popular fad of text messaging done by teeners and young adults.

>That bit is about as 'real documentary' as Leno's send-ups on the
>'street interviews' with ordinary (apparently clueless) younger
>folk on various kinds of knowledge. In short, ONLY for gag purposes.

[...]

Sorry, but I've got to call baloney on this one. The individual who
appeared on the Tonight Show who sent the text message was actually Ben
Cook, and not an actor. Ben held the world's record for fastest text
messaging:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ben_Cook

The two Morse code operators, Chip Margelli, K7JA, and Ken Miller,
K6CTW, have attested to this being an actual contest with an actual,
previously unknown, message to send, which was sent both by Morse code,
and by text messaging. And there's no disputing that fast Morse code
would always beat an SMS text message of the same length. See:

http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/05/16/3/?nc=1

Two named witnesses would appear to trump one anonymous source.

Therefore, your anonymous "reliable staffer" seems anything but.

- --
73, Paul W. Schleck, K3FU
pschleck@novia.net
http://www.novia.net/~pschleck/
Finger pschleck@novia.net for PGP Public Key

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----
Version: GnuPG v1.4.5 (SunOS)

iD8DBQFH5zJI6Pj0az779o4RAn+5AJ9ffyD9Wq/klqCmx9PlvGnKFKjYLwCeKjlV
Q9BjLTsT7hM/Hb6FRO7X4D4=
=ChL0
-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----

252. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 11:48:10 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <c151bce1-d267-469f-a7e5-bb0ae0c590bc@e39g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3073

On Mar 23, 9:53 pm, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> Paul W. Schleck <pschl...@oasis.novia.net>" wrote:
> > Wouldn't it make more sense to include
> WWV and WWVH along with WWVB?

WWV and WWVB transmitters are at the same site in Fort Collins, CO. I
was there.

> Are you familiar with the Internet-based ntp system?

Such a system requires connectivity to the internet. WWVB does
not; just requires a receiver.

> Then, there is the
> matter of GPS, which has a time capability that is incidental to its
> navigation function.

GPS can only be used where the satellites can be "seen" by the
receiver.

The WWV system still has its uses. I suspect its cost is trivial
compared to other systems, too.

> > Would you also kindly define what is a "single axis of data,"
> > in terms
> > familiar to those involved in communications engineering and technology?

>
> > A single quantity, like time or location
>
> > What, then, would be "multiple axes of data?"
>
> > Two or more simultaneous quantities, like time AND loca
tion or
> course
> AND speed.

The WWV system isn't just about time. The transmitters are also
frequency standards. That's two axes of data. For those of us who
use HF, they are also propagation beacons - that's three axes.
There are also voice geomagnetic announcements - that's four axes.

> There is probably no purpose for which Morse
> can be used as a machine
> language where there isn't a choice of other,
> better suited languages
> available.

Yes, there is: Any application where the sender or listener
may be a human rather than a machine, and where an
interface like a keyboard/screen isn't practical.

> When you look at the development of the Internet, Linux and other
> free software, you have to wonder about the infrastructure
> behind it.
> How did it come about? There was no regulatory body.

Actually there was and is. "The internet" as we know it could
not exist without certain legislation that made it possible, and
a huge commercial investment of communications infrastructure
to support it.

What we call "the internet" developed from ARPANET, which was
a DoD thing, just like GPS. Swords into plowshares and all that.

> There were no
> licenses. There were no "Elmers."

Actually, there were, just not in the same form as in radio. The
licenses were regulations; the Elmers were people who developed
easier-to-use systems.

> Until recently, there wasn't even any
> formal schooling available, except on the sort of machinery that
> existed
> only within the Fortune 500. Early Internet users and developers > had to
> read O'Reilly books and figure it out on their own.

How do you define "recently"? I got started online in 1997, and
"the internet" had only been publicly available for a few years at
that point.

> That showed great initiative. It demonstrated the sort
> of determined,
> driven advancement of technology that was once seen in
> amateur radio.

The internet was and is a commercial enterprise. Amateur radio
was never such an enterprise, by its very nature.

> But that sort of thing has passed ham radio by.
> It has been a long time
> since ham radio was a source of innovation.

When did it exist, and when did it end?

> I blame the Morse cultists
> who hijacked amateur radio for use as their personal playground.

When and how did that happen, exactly? I see a lot of claims but
no specifics or history.

> The infrastructure that is being wasted on Morse includes band
> segments that have, until recently, been reserved for its exclusive

> use.

What band segments are those, specifically? In the USA,
there have been no Morse-code-exclusive-use band segments (except on 6
and 2 meters) for many years.

My 1962 ARRL License Manual has the FCC rules for the Amateur
Radio Service, and at that time - 46 years ago - there were no
Morse-code-exclusive-use band segments on the HF bands, or
any VHF/UHF band above 2 meters. And the rules weren't new then.

OTOH, even today, data modes are prohibited from using the
voice subbands in the USA.

Do you consider a rules change that happened more than 46 years
ago to be "recently"?

> I am very glad to see that almost all CW segments now allow data > modes
> (50-50.1 and 144-144.1 being the only exceptions).

"Now" includes at least the past 46 years.

> There is also the
> inclusion of keyer provisions in HF radios.

Which costs practically nothing.

> It will be interesting to
> see what the marketplace does to code tapes and code keys.

There are more keys on the market now than when I became a ham 40
years ago.

> I don't think they will last long.

I think they will.

> While Morse supporters often point to treaties, the fact is that the
> US was one of the last countries to abandon the Morse
> requirement for an
> HF license.

Yes - because of the slowness of the FCC to change Part 97
after the treaty changed in 2003.

> Other countries began dropping that requirement many years
> earlier, while still claiming to be in compliance with their treaty
> obligations.

Which countries? Please be specific.

> How do you explain that?

I only know for certain of one country that had a no-code-test
HF amateur radio license before 2003. There may be others,
but not many.

Japan has long had a nocodetest HF amateur license called the
4th class. But that license was and is limited to low power levels
(10 watts) and to parts of the amateur bands which are worldwide
exclusively allocated to amateurs.

Japan's claim was that the treaty exists to prevent interference
between users of different radio services and between users o the same
radio service in different countries.

By limiting 4th class JA hams to only worldwide amateurs-only bands,
interference to other services was prevented. By limiting 4th class
amateurs to very low power, and since Japan is an island nation,
interference to amateurs of other countries was prevented.

Nobody challenged Japan on it, either.

But Japan still requires a Morse Code test for at least some of its
higher-class amateur licenses. The USA does not.

> To me, it sounds like the FCC used
> the treaties as a pretext to keep the code requirement in order to
> placate the ARRL and the Morse zealots.

But why? In 1990, FCC created medical waivers for the 13 and 20 wpm
Morse Code tests, but not 5 wpm. FCC said they would have waivered all
the tests except for the treaty. Same for the reduction of all license
classes to 5 wpm in 2000. Opposition to these changes did not stop
FCC.

Would you have preferred that FCC violate the treaty? Or create a
license class similar to Japan's 4th class?

73 de Jim, N2EY

253. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 14:31:57 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <0805a73f-baf2-4d64-aaa8-d6ada8d5fcf4@s37g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3074

Some additional info about US subbands-by-mode, in reply to Klystron's mention of exclusive Morse-code-only band segments.

In the following discussion, "modes" means "modes authorized for use by amateurs on the specific amateur bands in question".

The current US regulation of the HF amateur bands permits Morse Code everywhere, voice and image modes on specific subbands, and data modes wherever voice is not permitted. Morse Code has no exclusive subbands at all,
and is rarely used in the 'phone subbands. (I've been an active ham 40+ years and never used Morse Code in an HF voice subband). These regulations are descendants of those going back many decades, to times when amateur operation on HF consisted of Morse Code, voice and nothing else. (For example, HF RTTY operation by US hams was first authorized in the late 1940s, but only 45.45 baud 5 level Baudot code was allowed.)

A few years ago, ARRL proposed "Regulation By Bandwidth", which would have separated the various modes by
the bandwidth of the signal rather than whether it was voice, data, image, etc. For example, under the proposal,
any mode less than 500 Hz wide would be allowed in the 500 Hz and wider subbands, regardless of whether it carried
voice, data, image, Morse Code or other information. There were also proposed changes to where automatic and semi-automatic data-mode stations could operate.

The proposal got an RM number and a comment period. The comments from those interested were overwhelmingly against the proposal. It was revised but to no avail; ARRL finally withdrew the proposal.

IMHO, the most common reasons for opposition that I saw reading the comments were these (in no particular order):

1) 'Phone operators did not want any data modes in the 'phone subbands.
2) "Robot" (unattended) digital stations should be confined to small subbands.
3) Concern that amateurs would have to be able to measure the actual occupied bandwidth of their transmitted signals or be subject to violation notices and complaints. Older equipment and hams who could not afford spectrum analyzers would be forced off the air seemed to be a common fear.
4) AM voice would be limited to 9 kHz bandwidth and was essentially "grandfathered", but other modes could not

exceed 3.5 kHz on most bands
5) The existing rules did not need changing.

The FCC did act on an earlier "refarming" proposal by ARRL, and widened the 'phone/image subbands on some of the HF bands at the end of 2006. However, FCC went far beyond the ARRL recommendations in the amount of change. This effectively reduced the spectrum space available for data modes on those bands, since they could not be used where 'phone is allowed. The most radical change was on the 80/75 meter bands.

About the same time as the "Regulation by Bandwidth" proposal, a group of less than a dozen amateurs
calling itself the "Communications Think Tank" (CTT) proposed the even more radical change of eliminating subbands-by-mode completely, and simply specifying a maximum signal bandwidth for each band.

This proposal also got an RM number and a comment period, but the comments were even more solidly against it than against "Regulation by Bandwidth". The opposition was so overwhelming that CTT also withdrew its proposal.

The point of all this is that ARRL and others have made proposals to fundamentally change Part 97 in ways that would
favor the use of data modes, and the US amateur community has repeatedly and strongly opposed those proposals.

73 de Jim, N2EY

254. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 17:41:10 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <bgPFj.451$Cn4.32@news02.roc.ny>
Source record: 3075

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Mar 21, 1:25 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>> On Mar 20, 1:54 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>>>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>>>> On Mar 19, 6:10 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>
>>> You should write a book! Or at least a collection of stories about
>>> your experiences in various services and locations. Military,
>>> dept of state, ham radio...
>> Funny you should mention it! I've got most of the work done
>> on a memoir
>> of the travels as they relate to amateur radio
>> with just enough of the
>> non-radio events thrown in for flavor.
>
> This is truly excellent.

I dunno if any excellence is involved, but the material is factual.

>>> You could put it on the web, too.....
>
>> Naw, I plan to finance my next rig with the proceeds.
>> There'll be DVD's
>> as well. I'm still in the process of importing the videotaped
>> material,
>> editing and glitzing it up.
>
> Perhaps a sample could be on the web, such as how Amazon lets you see
> a small part of a book.

There's only a couple of short video clips from Guinea-Bissau, much
more from Sierra Leone and Botswana (including a colorful cast of
characters) and quite a bit of Finland (shot in the early and mid-90's
and in 2003). The DVD's will be fleshed out with photos and audio clips.
Sample clips may well be made available.

>>> If you mean John Logie Baird, unfortunately he barked up the > > wrong
>>> (mechanical) tree for too long. But when he got together with
>>> Farnsworth things really started to roll.
>> Yep. The rotating wheel was wild.
>
> It was theoretically correct, but impractical for "high definition" TV
> in real time.

But there is was--moving pictures sent over the air a long time before
most folks thought it would be done.

>>> I'll keep an eye out, but my point was the difference in focus.
>>> The RSGB Handbook was more narrowly focused. I think it
>>> eventually influenced the ARRL handbook, too.
>
>>> Note too that the RSGB handbook wasn't a new edition every
>>> year, or
>>> even every 2-3 years.
>> I think that's probably due to the relatively small number of radio
>> amateurs in the British Isles. &#65533;
>
> But the market wasn't just the UK. I suspect the Commonwealth
> countries, both current and former, would be a market. Aussies,
> Zedders, etc.

You're right. Add South Africa to the "etc." Even if we added those
amateur populations, the RSGB Handbook wasn't widely distributed but it
was known to be a very good one. Its sister publications--and I'm
specifically including the series of "Technical Topics" books by Pat
Hawker--were also very good.

>> As I recall, the RSGB handbook
>> was nearly thirty dollars in the 70's.
>
> The one I have is earlier, and I think it worked out to about $13-15
> or so - back when an ARRL Handbook was $4. Plus you probably
> had to pay postage, duty, etc.

I bought mine along with one of the "Technical Topics" books at RSGB HQ
in 1978 when the place was still located on Doughty street "just down
the street from Mister Dickens' house". Those books and a one year
membership in the RSGB equaled a bunch of 1978 dollars.

> Having bought "real" engineering books, I can say that both the ARRL
> and RSGB Handbooks were and are true bargains.

I'd have to agree. The current ARRL Handbooks have much more material
than the older ones. The ARRL Antenna Handbook is another bargain.

> The ARRL Handbook back then was mostly the work of W1DX,
> aided by the staff. The book evolved over time - the whole book
> was not rewritten every year.

Agreed. There were often just minor changes from one year to the next.
I still have a number of the early 1930's Handbooks on the shelf here.

> The RSGB Handbook had many authors, and underwent serious
> expansion and revision between editions. Since there was not
> a set schedule for when the next edition would come out, the
> changes were much greater.

It was a similar story with the excellent "RADIO Handbook" edited by
Bill Orr. It was updated only periodically and not on any particular
schedule. I'm not certain how many contributed to the effort though.

> Friend of mine is trying to collect all the post-WW2 Handbooks,
> and has most of them. He has all the post-WW1 QSTs, in part because an
> OT gave him a lifetime collection, knowing he would appreciate and
> care for them.

I'm not bothering will all of 'em so I have selected editions from the
thirties through present day. I haven't bought one since 2003. The
League currently has the 2007 Handbook on sale at a bargain price so I
may have to grab one of those.

W4HAV, then one of the corporate VP's at Cincinnati Milactron, gave me a
run of 1934-1958 QST. That was the start of my collection. I bought
the 1958-1963 and the 1920-1933 runs, a year at a time from various
hamfests, typically in one-year bundles. I have only one issue from
1919 and that cost quite a bit. I ended up purchasing the QST CD's
covering the early period.

> The Southgate Library keeps expanding, too. What you see in the shack
> picture is but a small part of it. Then there's the stuff I have
> in electronic format...

The expanding library is one of my worries about a move. There's mostly
complete run of Popular Electronics through the early 1970's, a mostly
complete run of Electronics Illustrated from the same period, a mostly
complete run of 73, a mostly complete run of Ham Radio and Ham Radio
Horizons and a complete run of CQ from its beginning in 1946. It took a
number of years to find some of those rare 1946 issues. There's
twenty-some feet in technical books here in the shack with the overflow
out in the heated barn.

>>> One thing that I think is missing from the ARRL
>>> library is a successor
>>> to "Understanding Amateur Radio". "UAR" was a
>>> great book that filled the gap between the basic
>>> intro books and the
>>> full Handbook.
>
>> I agree. &#65533; It was full of information set forth in an
>> easy to follow style.
>
> Both theory and practice, code and voice, HF and VHF.
> Half the price of a Handbook.

I don't recall when it was dropped from the ARRL technical book series.
Do you?

>>> I would not be surprised if imported *parts* were taxed/tariffed/
>>> dutied much less than imported finished
>>> products.

>> You're right. &#65533; Finland taxed imported transceivers
>> and amplifiers at
>> 100% duty--even into the 80's.
>
> But what about parts?

They weren't taxed at anywhere near that. That same thing extended (and
may still extend) to imported automobiles. My '95 Dodge Neon cost me
around $12,000. It's European equivalent, the Chrysler Neon, sold in
Finland for $44,000. A Lada (Russian Fiat) cost about $20,000.

>>> In the back of the RSGB book were ads for outfits that would
>>> sell you complete punched and drilled chassis, panels,
>>> brackets, etc.
>>> for various well-known projects like the G2DAF receivers,
>>> or would
>>> make up such things to your drawings. Also the
>>> Electronique coils,
>>> Jackson Brothers drives and capacitors, etc.
>> As far as I know, Jackson Bros. is still in the business of making
>> vernier reduction drives--top notch stuff.
>
> Yes, but not as top-notch as BC-221, LM or ARC-5 drive/capacitor
> combinations.

Then again, the military could afford to pay. It would be interesting
if Ivor or another G-land newsgroup reader could tell us if Jackson
Bros. made high quality drives for the British military.

>> Odd that you mentioned those two. &#65533; The only 833A I've
>> got sitting around is an Amperex.
>
> I used to have an RCA 833A, but it got sold. I have some
> experience with them, but not as much as with the more-common
> "ham" amplifier tubes.

WNOP was a 1 KW daytime only jazz station in Newport, Kentucky from the
fifties until just about a decade back. Their studio, for the last
twenty or so years of the station's existence, consisted of three large,
connected vertical steel cylinders. The whole shebang was painted
bright orange and bobbed up and down on the Kentucky side of the Ohio
River across from Cincinnati. The transmitters and three-tower critical
antenna array were on top of a hill in the Delhi neighborhood of Cincy.
Until the early 80's, WNOP's transmitter was a 1948 Raytheon running a
pair of 833A's at a nice dull red glow.

>>>> &#65533; I'm happy to report that I have less
>>>> in my atomic clock than you have in your tymeter. &#65533;
>>>> My neighbor bought it
>>>> new and gave it to me when the outside temperature
>>>> transmitter quit
>>>> working. &#65533; I found a web site where I can order the

>>>> transmitter for ten
>>>> bucks postpaid.
>
>>> That's The Southgate School way of thinking
>>> and doing, right there.
>
>> I'm used to it. &#65533; I once repaired a Heathkit Warrior amp for
>> WA8JOC with
>> tandem copier transformers which I got for free.
>
> Another example of TSS in action!

The guy who owned it didn't have much money to spend on a repair. Transformers capable of handling a KW were not found lying about. His amp ran for many years with those copier transformers and, from the outside, his amp didn't look any different from any other Heath Warrior.

>> Yep, relatively low plate voltage and high current jobs. &#65533;
>> One fellow did
>> a homebrew amp design which appeared in CQ in the 60's,
>> which used
>> sixteen horizontal output tubes. &#65533;
>
> The most I ever saw was a picture in QST of a 75 meter monoband amp
> with something like thirty-six 1625s in parallel. Output impedance was
> 75 ohms; fed the antenna through a lowpass filter. Of course the
> output C was so enormous it couldn't go any higher, and IIRC there was
> quite a pile of bias pots.

That's a lot of bottles and 1625's were really cheap as surplus in those days. It wasn't a very practical design, but it worked.

>> Now if a guy wants some
>> oomph for
>> cheaper, 811A's are a pretty good bargain as are 572B's.
>> &#65533; With four
>> 811A's making 800 or so watts output, that's an inexpensive way > to get
>> 9db more than the typical 100w rig and it is down only about
>> 2.5db from
>> the legal limit.
>
> Yep. But with four 811As you often need to neutralize even in GG, and
> depending on where you get your bottles a pair of 572Bs may be the
> better deal.

Well, not just "may be" but, IMO would be the better deal. An 811A is good for 65 watss plate dissipation for 260 total watts of dissipation for four. Four of the 572's are capable of dissipating 640 watts for just a little more money.

> The solid-state option has been around for decades, but the high cost
> stops a lot of hams.

The MFJ AL-600 costs roughly what the company's AL-572 runs. The AL-572
will run 1000 watts CW output. The solid state AL-600 runs 500w CW.

> In April 1976, a legal-limit solid-state all-band HF linear amp was
> the cover article in QST. If someone had told me then that in 2008
> there would be more models of tube-type linear amps being made for
> hams than in 1976, and that hams would be buying and using them, I'd
> have not believed it.

I'd have had no trouble in believing it. :-)

> (3-500Z tubes)
>
>>> Less than $200 each, too. Adjusted for inflation,
>>> they are cheaper
>>> than in the early 1960s when the 3-400Z first appeared.
>> That's what I mean. • Price 3CX800's, 8877's or 3CX1200's and
>> you'll get
>> an idea of what a bargain the 3-500's are.
>
> Those ceramic-metal tubes were never inexpensive in the first
> place.

Well, the 8874's weren't terribly expensive when introduced. In fact,
neither were tubes like the 3CX800, but they price increases have been
out of line with other tubes. Ten-Tecs latest high power amp, the Titan
III, uses a pair of the Russian 4CX800 tetrodes. Those are quite
reasonably priced compared to the 3CX800 triodes.

> Unlike almost all commercial/military applications, in ham radio,
> when an expensive final tube fails, it's up to the owner/operator
> to pay for the replacement.

Right. Destroying one or more high power vacuum tubes while in the
employ of a company or government with deep pockets isn't the same as
doing so when you are the guy responsible such expenses.

>> Well, there's likely a move in my future and something's going to > have t
> o go.
>
> (sigh)

I'm fifty-nine and it is likely time to decide which material things I
hold dear enough to hang onto for the long run. It is probably about
time to simplify my life. I can make some folks smile by giving them
some things. I can sell some of the items and generate a little income
instead of paying someone to haul them to a new location.

>>> Depends on the family situation, both spouse and kids. Also
>>> one's health and ties to the community.
>> Pass it along to the kids now: • There is an applied implication that

>> that they travel to visit the parents.
>>
> That's good advice in theory but in practice it often works out to
> be more complicated. Traveling with little kids is both expensive
> and difficult, and in families with two careers just getting everyone
> off work and out of school at the same time can be a challenge.
> (Vacation and sick days are often used up when the kids are
> sick, and there's never spare cash laying around. So it's often
> more practical for Grandma/Grandpa to travel.

My grandparents always sat at home and we did the traveling even when we lived in Florida in the pre-Interstate Highway days.

> Still, all that means is you draw distance circles around where the
> kids are. Doesn't mean you have to live down the street.

If the kids have jobs which cause them to relocate every few years, it might be better to choose a place you like. We're a much more mobile society than ever. There are exceptions. My neighbor was born in his parents house across the road. That's all the farther he ever got from home. Now his son has the old family farm and a younger son has built a home 1/4 mile down the road. This approaching coal mine means a windfall for me. It is a family tragedy for the neighbor and his family.

>>> And most of all finances. With people living longer, having kids > > lat
> er
>>> and the greater dependence on 401K/IRA funding rather than
>>> company pensions and Social Security, retiring at 60, 62 or
>>> even 65
>>> isn't nearly so doable as it was in times past.
>> Right now probably isn't a good time to hang it up so early.
>
> All depends on the situation.

If you have a pile of money, any time is a good time. A lot of folks don't have a pile of money or their investments have taken a beating or their home has lost value or they are unable to sell it.

>> • Then
>> again, many people seem to believe that they're going
>> to need the same
>> amount of money as they now earn in their retirement.
>> • The house is apt
>> to be paid off, they do less driving. • They don't have the kids to
>> support. Many of them don't need as large a house.
>
> Agreed, and there are tax advantages, such as getting double
> exemptions after 65, the capital-gains exclusion for selling the
> big house, the lack of tax on SS after age 70, etc.

People flock to states with no income tax or with no tax on pensions or government pensions. A lot of those states are in the warm, sunny

southland.

> OTOH things like health care costs, rising energy prices, etc.,
> work the other way.

Exactly.

>> What I've done in the past is to write it up in the offer, "subject to
>> there being no restrictions on the installation of an amateur radio
>> tower/s."
>>
>> After a couple of false starts with a Cincinnati realtor back in the
>> 70's, I got the agent working with us up to speed on what we
>> wanted in
>> addition to style, size of yard, number of bed and bathrooms:
>> no antenna
>> restrictions and located on high ground. • I had trouble with a
>> southern
>> West Virginia realtor before we bought this place. • I'd
>> specified "high
>> altitude. • She showed me a couple of places with a great
>> view of a hill
>> perhaps 500 feet higher than the house. • I might have had to
>> become an Asia specialist.
>
> bwaahaahaa

It's gospel. My mentor lived along the New River at Hinton, West
Virginia. Hinton sits at 1200-some feet above sea level, but is
surrounded by 3000 foot or better mountains. He never installed a beam
antenna. There'd have been little point. Most of his DX was worked on
40m, where the wave angle of arriving radio signals was often higher
than on upper bands.

> But a good example of the problem, and the need to get the
> RE attorney and realtor to understand *exactly* what you
> will accept.

Look at the property. Ask questions. Get confirmation in writing.
Take along a portable receiver. No place is a good amateur radio
location if there's some noise source blotting out big pieces of the
radio spectrum.

> You have the most important resource, too: Flexibility. You don't have
> to move this month, or this summer, or land in a specific school
> district or some such.

That's right, but I'm not looking forward to dismantling antennas and
towers and putting something similar up in a new location. I shudder
when I think about holes to be dug, concrete to be poured, etc.

>> I'm thankful that my XYL and I agree that neither of us wants to be
>> hemmed in by neighbors. • She likes vegetable and flower

>> gardening.
>> I like multiple towers.
>
> Works for me!

Best is that she doesn't object to the aluminum and copper overcast. I have friends whose spouses have apparent veto power over towers and antennas.

>> • I'm thinking 3 or 5 or 8 acres. *grin*
>>
> Think big, think flexible. Could you subdivide some acres for other
> homes? Lease for farming?

One of my friends rented some of his land to a local farmer. After a few years, it became more trouble than it was worth. I don't want to spend large chunks of my life just mowing grass. Some land can be allowed to grow up, leaving cleared areas for towers. Some can be planted in widely spaced clumps of trees. I think my pal intends for some of that land to be used for beverage antennas for 160 and 80m. He has a farm tractor and will just brush hog the land a couple of times yearly.

One local fellow (retired from the Postal Service) bought up better than 1,000 acres of hilly land out the ridge from me. He became a millionaire after his retirement in just one short day. How? He sold a million dollars worth of timber to the Amish.

> One thing that was/is popular in WNY is to have a woodlot. Usually a
> piece of land that is heavily wooded, had no utilities and won't pass
> the perc test.
>
> The owner cuts a couple of cords of wood every year, sells some, uses
> the rest for heat. The profit on the wood sold pays the RE taxes. Only
> the crowded and not-so-good trees are taken; the really good ones are
> left to grow and given room.

See above.

> Of course you have to love to cut, split and stack wood, but a lot of
> us do.

...and a lot of us don't. I'll happily pay someone to cut, split and stack wood. I did some of it when I was younger.

> "Wood warms you twice - once when you cut it, again when you burn it"

I don't think many folks have suffered a fatal heart attack while burning it, heh.

Dave K8MN

255. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 17:41:25 UTC
From: Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com>
Message-ID: <%IRFj.30034$R84.17178@newssvr25.news.prodigy.net>
Source record: 3076

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> The current US regulation of the HF amateur bands permits Morse Code
> everywhere, ...

My ARRL Band chart says "USB phone only" for 60m.
--
73, Cecil http://www.w5dxp.com

256. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 18:48:12 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <d87e4903-4303-4177-b5c6-4e57142b005c@s12g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3077

On Mar 24, 1:41 pm, Cecil Moore <nos...@w5dxp.com> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > The current US regulation of the HF amateur bands permits Morse Code
> > everywhere, ...
>
> My ARRL Band chart says "USB phone only" for 60m.

Hello Cecil!

You are correct, sir! Thanks!

While it could be argued that the five channels known as "60 meters"
are not be an "HF amateur band" in the sense that, say, 20 meters is,
they are HF and only upper-sideband voice is permitted to US amateurs
there.

So amend the above to read:

"The current US regulation of the HF/MF amateur bands permits Morse
Code on all frequencies except the five USB-voice-only channels known
as '60 meters', ..."

73 es TNX de Jim, N2EY

257. Re: Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 22:05:19 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fs8v76$11kq$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3078

Steve Bonine wrote:
> N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>
>> From the standpoint of the manufacturers, it would not be practical to
>> remove a feature most customers have come to expect, whether they use
>> it much or not.
>
> The negative impact on sales from a comment in a review like, "Great
> rig, but missing an internal keyer" would offset the tiny cost of
> including the keyer.

Radios are built with features that people expect, and most hams do
indeed expect a keyer these days. to not have one would indeed cost sales.

Even among those who do not use the keyers to send Morse, the keyer
function can be used to reduce the duty cycle when tuning an amplifier,
which will stress the tubes less in the event of a bad initial setting.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

258. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 22:06:34 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-FC02B3.16052324032008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3079

Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> > Wouldn't it make more sense to include WWV and WWVH along with WWVB?
> >Are you familiar with the Internet-based ntp system? Then, there is the
> >matter of GPS, which has a time capability that is incidental to its
> >navigation function.

> Want some fun? Compare the time ticks received from WWVB, WWV,
> NIST-on-line, and GPS. What, they are not all simultaneous? Welcome
> to the real world. GPS time does not correlate with UTC by any means
> (several seconds difference).
>
> In one of the first digital military command and control system that I
> was involved in during the early 1960s, we used rubidium standards at
> our switching centers to get accurate time synchronization, and even
> then it was rather crude because the line delays varied so much. HF
> propagation (WWV/WWVH) is even worse in that regard.

My understanding is that ntpd can handle that problem quite well. An
OPTIMAL setup would involve 1 computer per radio, each acting as a radio
controller (also called a strata 0 server). You could have a radio for
WWVB or WWVH, a second radio that is set to scan the WWV frequencies and
a third "radio" for GPS. Those 3 computers would connect to a fourth
computer that would act as a strata 1 server. The result would be a time
server that is as accurate as if it were connected to other ntp servers
via the Internet. Such an arrangement is sometimes used by firms that
need metrology-grade time service on a secured, internal LAN.
By the way, do not be put off by the expense of the four (or more)
computers described above. According the ntp documentation that I have
read, they need to have at least 100 MHz processor speeds for optimum
accuracy, but there is no benefit in going much above 100 MHz. Thus, a
pile of old, junkyard computers will do the job quite well and at an
aggregate cost of $20 to $100 in total.

--
Klystron

259. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 22:10:15 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-243896.17065224032008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3080

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
>
> > Are you familiar with the Internet-based ntp system?

> Such a system requires connectivity to the internet. WWVB does
> not; just requires a receiver.

See my response to Phil Kane. A computer running ntpd can get
metrology-grade time service from radio signals. ntpd can use radio
only, Internet only or both.

> > Then, there is the matter of GPS, which has a time capability
> > that is incidental to its navigation function.

> GPS can only be used where the satellites can be "seen" by the
> receiver.

In or near the continental US, that is not an issue.

> The WWV system isn't just about time. The transmitters are also
> frequency standards. That's two axes of data. For those of us who
> use HF, they are also propagation beacons - that's three axes.

No, it's an incidental benefit. It does not require the transmission
of additional information.

> There are also voice geomagnetic announcements - that's four axes.

> > There is probably no purpose for which Morse can be used as a
> > machine language where there isn't a choice of other,
> > better suited languages available.

> Yes, there is: Any application where the sender or listener
> may be a human rather than a machine, and where an
> interface like a keyboard/screen isn't practical.

I take it that you don't know what "machine language" is. Humans are
not supposed to be involved. If they are, it's not machine to machine
communications.

> > When you look at the development of the Internet, Linux and other
> > free software, you have to wonder about the infrastructure
> > behind it.
> > How did it come about? There was no regulatory body.

> Actually there was and is. "The internet" as we know it could
> not exist without certain legislation that made it possible, and

> a huge commercial investment of communications infrastructure
> to support it.
>
> What we call "the internet" developed from ARPANET, which was
> a DoD thing, just like GPS. Swords into plowshares and all that.

Utter hogwash. It started out as a network of Universities and a few defense contractors' laboratories. Much of the funding came from the individual Universities. The contribution of the government (via the defense contractors) was not absolutely necessary. Besides, after the Tappan worm incident, the networks were split into ARPAnet and DARPAnet (with a "D," as in defense). The public Internet is descended from the small slice of that pie.

> > There were no licenses. There were no "Elmers."

> Actually, there were, just not in the same form as in radio. The
> licenses were regulations; the Elmers were people who developed
> easier-to-use systems.

Again, that is preposterous nonsense.

> > Until recently, there wasn't even any formal schooling available,
> > except on the sort of machinery that existed only within the
> > Fortune 500. Early Internet users and developers > had to
> > read O'Reilly books and figure it out on their own.

> How do you define "recently"? I got started online in 1997, and
> "the internet" had only been publicly available for a few years at
> that point.

The Internet opened to the general public in 1993 and 1994. At that time, there were essentially no courses at accredited Universities that covered UNIX, TCP/IP, the Internet or related topics. You had to learn it on your own. The Universities mainly taught MVS and 360/370 architecture.

> > That showed great initiative. It demonstrated the sort of
> > determined, driven advancement of technology that was once
> > seen in amateur radio.

> The internet was and is a commercial enterprise. Amateur radio
> was never such an enterprise, by its very nature.

The Internet was not commercial in origin. When I first gained access, I had to sign an agreement not to use it for commercial purposes. Sending out for pizza via e-mail would have been a violation and would have resulted in account cancellation. But than, that was long ago. Spam hadn't been invented yet.

[...]
> > The infrastructure that is being wasted on Morse includes band
> > segments that have, until recently, been reserved for its exclusive
> > use.

> What band segments are those, specifically? In the USA,
> there have been no Morse-code-exclusive-use band segments (except on 6
> and 2 meters) for many years.

The CW bands were those band segments that excluded voice. Until
fairly recently, there was no such thing as "data." There was some RTTY,
but it was never a major issue. For many decades, the traffic in the HF
ham bands was SSB voice or CW. A pie chart would show a very small slice
labeled "other."

[...]
> > It will be interesting to
> > see what the marketplace does to code tapes and code keys.

> There are more keys on the market now than when I became a ham 40
> years ago.

What about code tapes? How much longer will they last? My guess is
that those keys are sold only to replace other keys. I doubt that there
are very many first time key buyers today.

[...]
> I only know for certain of one country that had a no-code-test
> HF amateur radio license before 2003. There may be others,
> but not many.
>
> Japan has long had a nocodetest HF amateur license called the
> 4th class. But that license was and is limited to low power levels
> (10 watts) and to parts of the amateur bands which are worldwide
> exclusively allocated to amateurs.
>
> Japan's claim was that the treaty exists to prevent interference
> between users of different radio services and between users o the same
> radio service in different countries.

So you admit that different countries interpreted their treaty
obligations in different ways?

[...]
> > To me, it sounds like the FCC used
> > the treaties as a pretext to keep the code requirement in order to
> > placate the ARRL and the Morse zealots.

[...]

> Would you have preferred that FCC violate the treaty? Or create a
> license class similar to Japan's 4th class?

I'm not going to spend a lot of time doing your research for you, but
there was more then one treaty and those treaties expired or were
modified over a period of years. No-code HF licenses came about over
time in a number of countries. The US was either one of the last to drop
code or was dead last to do so.

--
Klystron

260. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 22:13:01 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <4992c187-fdf7-4fc7-abae-1d5930898343@e6g2000prf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3081

Paul Schleck posted on 24 Mar 08:

>AF6AY <LenAnder...@ieee.org> writes:
>
>>>According to this recent demonstration on the Tonight Show with Jay
>>>Leno:
>
>>>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhsSgcsTMd4
>>Ahem...<quibble mode on>...that little bit on the Tonight Show was
>>a 'setup' gig that employed two young local male actors as the
>>(described) "text messaging experts" but the two hams (one of which
>>would very soon become marketing director for Heil Sound) were
>>real. That is the input I got directly from a reliable staffer on
>>the Tonight Show. Took a few phone calls to get that information
>>but it is an advantage of living inside the entertainment capital of
>>the USA (aka Los Angeles, CA)...and the NBC western Hq is only
>>about 5 miles south of my place, down Hollywood Way to Alameda and
>>then east about a mile. That whole bit was really a send-up on the
>>popular fad of text messaging done by teeners and young adults.
>>That bit is about as 'real documentary' as Leno's send-ups on the
>>'street interviews' with ordinary (apparently clueless) younger
>>folk on various kinds of knowledge. In short, ONLY for gag purposes.
>
>Sorry, but I've got to call baloney on this one. The individual who
>appeared on the Tonight Show who sent the text message was actually Ben
>Cook, and not an actor. Ben held the world's record for fastest text
>messaging:

If you say so, then it is so. All I've got are some acquaintences IN
the entertainment industry who work behind the camera...plus five
professional actors (who don't count in this particular discussion).
That 'recent demonstration' was over a year ago, was it not?

"The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" is an entertainment vehicle. It is
not a documentary source of absolute facts. All such 'talk' shows
are convenience outlets for Public Relations in this capital of
motion picture and television production of the USA. MOST of the
movie and TV production in this city lives or dies by PR.

If I had become persuasive in my inquiry I MIGHT have gotten at
least a Call Sheet for the 'Leno show' in question. Usually those
are (by common agreement) Non-Disclosure documents. I could have
then digitized that Call Sheet and sent it privately as 'evidence.'
I did not think that such was necessary in this case.

>The two Morse code operators, Chip Margelli, K7JA, and Ken Miller,
>K6CTW, have attested to this being an actual contest with an actual,
>previously unknown, message to send, which was sent both by Morse code,
>and by text messaging. And there's no disputing that fast Morse code
>would always beat an SMS text message of the same length.

I have corresponded with Mr. Margelli in his new position as
Director of Marketing for Heil Sound...about Heil products, not
about this alleged 'test' or 'contest' on the 'Leno show.' I have
NO complaints about Mr. Margelli's nor Mr. Miller's capabilities
with manual morse code communications. I only have complaints
about this entertainment gig being used as 'factual demonstration'
of any comparison of manual morse code versus any other mode.

I haven't used a Teletype Model 28 machine in many years...but I
could challenge ANY manual morse code operator pair to send either
clear text or enciphered (5-character groups) textual data as to
which method is 'faster' (TTY v. manual morse). I would not need
a recipient on-stage since another TTY terminal would repeat all
input sent by the transmitting terminal. The only problem there
is that it ALSO is a 'set-up' kind of 'test' (any touch-typist on
a TTY would 'win') and has very little entertainment value. The
latter item would cause its non-appearance on 'the Leno show.'
I am a touch typist who learned that in middle school on manual
typewriters with no legends on key tops. I am age 75 and still
retain the ability to continuously 'send' keyboard input at about
50 WPM with burst-input rates approximately 100 WPM.

>Two named witnesses would appear to trump one anonymous source.
>
>Therefore, your anonymous "reliable staffer" seems anything but.

I cannot argue your statements or 'baloney' comments in this
venue. My original source is now working for another show.
No more access to Tonight show records is possible. If you or
any other morse code mode champion say it was a 'real test,'
then it must be a real test.

As to the efficacy claim that manual morse code communications
beats cellular telephone textual-only (by keypad) communications,
I do not know of a single communications service or provider
that uses 'text' (via cellphone) for two-way communications. Of
what point was this entertainment venue 'test' actually proving?

AF6AY

261. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 23:02:08 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <k6agu39mqb9ulu6v73lnfnonsft91688rq@4ax.com>
Source record: 3082

On Mon, 24 Mar 2008 00:09:24 EDT, AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote:

>In 1960, while working in the Standards Lab of Ramo-Wooldridge Corp.
>in Canoga Park, CA,

Errrr, Len, the Ramo-Wooldridge Corporation went out of existence in 1958 when it merged with Thompson Products to become Thompson Ramo Wooldridge, Inc. Remember that I started with the "original" R-W in 1957 and was employed by them at the time of the merger at the former El Segundo Boulevard facilities (I never did get to work at the Arbor Vitae Street facilities which were the headquarters of the Air Force Ballistic Missile Division). They didn't move to Canoga Park until the late fall of 1959, and I was laid off (for the second time) in June of 1960. Thompson Ramo Wooldridge, Inc - later TRW, Inc. - went on an acquisitions binge and itself went out of existence in 2002 when the electronics and aerospace parts were acquired by Grumman (now Northrop Grumman) and the automotive parts mostly by Goodyear.

In context - RW was always friendly to ham radio, and the pre-merger RW Corp. actually let us scrounge both new and recycled parts for ham rigs and audio projects which became our property as long as we signed a register/release stating what we were building.

>I got to pull some OT on Saturdays to measure
>the difference between east coast transmissions of WWV and the
>local General Radio frequency standard. Just a plain old quartz
>crystal standard oscillator driving divider chains to the built-in
>clock.

While at the El Segundo Blvd. facility we had a project of measuring distance to a transmitter using the time delay of HF transmissions received at different sites with a calibrated link between them (azimuth was easy using standard DF techniques) and we used the GR frequency standard referenced above. Using WWV was too error-prone.

>I would record the microseconds of difference between local clock
>ticks and WWV ticks from the east coast. Not much variation in a
>week's time, don't remember just how much (it was 48 years ago).

My references about time differences, BTW, was to the time of day, i.e the time of the tick, not the interval between the ticks. GPS has a very noticeable offset compared to NIST.

I guess that it's only nuts like me that care about that. My early training as a broadcast studio engineer while I was in engineering school required timing of program starts and endings to the second. "Dead air" was not permitted. Three o'clock did not mean three

o'clock plus 1 second - the Western Union clock reset pulse on the hour was broadcast as a "beep".

>From my other hobby, "railroad accuracy" of watches (which are compared with a master clock at the start of a shift) requires one second per day, 30 seconds per month. Easy to do with quartz watches nowadays. There even used to be a SP Railroad dial-up number (now long gone) where the "time man" would announce the time "Southern Pacific Standard Time is ...." as contrasted to Ma Bell's "time lady" who would announce "Pacific Standard Time is ..."
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

262. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 23:12:02 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <i4dgu39mmvnnjf4g5246o6qut2jd938h8m@4ax.com>
Source record: 3083

On Mon, 24 Mar 2008 00:10:13 EDT, jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com wrote:

>Each GPS sattelite has it's own on board atomic clock and the system can
>easily provide UTC with accuracy on the few microseconds level with an
>ultimate limit of +/- 340 nanoseconds using an appropriate receiver and
>hardware.

Something must have changed (or been fixed) then - we made
measurements about three years ago and there was about six seconds
offset - an eternity for accurate time measurements. 340 nanoseconds
we can tolerate. Six seconds we can't.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

263. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 23:37:41 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <aiegu3tf2onkhtrbqc06975l8mkr0stpi5@4ax.com>
Source record: 3084

On Mon, 24 Mar 2008 13:41:25 EDT, Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com>
wrote:

>My ARRL Band chart says "USB phone only" for 60m.

60m is a special case - it is not a worldwide amateur band despite
efforts to make it so. It's channelized by regulation, emission and
power restricted by regulation, and I know when I am near one of the
channels by the presence on adjacent humongous (tm) US Navy
wide-spaced encrypted synchronous RTTY signal.....
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

264. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-24 23:56:14 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <9kfgu3hkq8rlc7k5uflokdqmjbtap2p8vd@4ax.com>
Source record: 3085

On Mon, 24 Mar 2008 18:06:34 EDT, Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

>Thus, a
>pile of old, junkyard computers will do the job quite well and at an
>aggregate cost of $20 to $100 in total.

Four such computers in a single box would be ideal for the way I run
my ham data-modes (packet/PACTOR/APRS/BPSK31 setup - 24/7 each). Too
bad we can't get that in a box the size of a toaster at a price that
is less than $100.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

265. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 00:44:46 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <hligu3pgt326nm1c28ha7blef41hmlj994@4ax.com>
Source record: 3086

On Mon, 24 Mar 2008 18:10:15 EDT, Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> I take it that you don't know what "machine language" is. Humans are
>not supposed to be involved. If they are, it's not machine to machine
>communications.

Ham radio is supposed to be human-to-human communications, not
machine-to-machine communications.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

266. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 00:59:29 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <1gjgu3p0mbj5ovues7c9uco26uj2uj1169@4ax.com>
Source record: 3087

On Mon, 24 Mar 2008 18:13:01 EDT, AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote:

> The only problem there
>is that it ALSO is a 'set-up' kind of 'test' (any touch-typist on
>a TTY would 'win') and has very little entertainment value.

My secretary at March AFB (early 1960s) could and did type faster than
the Model 28 could cut tape. It frustrated her no end.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

267. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 03:29:03 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <uidgu31ujsrkd4358egsu7tl79f4u10n2t@4ax.com>
Source record: 3088

On Mon, 24 Mar 2008 07:48:10 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>Actually, there were, just not in the same form as in radio. The
>licenses were regulations; the Elmers were people who developed
>easier-to-use systems.

Yes, there were "licenses" to users but it was a one-way deal. My former FCC Bureau Chief went to the Reagan White House as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Administrative Services, which included overseeing the White House Communications Agency (staffed by the military, not the Secret Service which has its own comm net). He was given an ARPANET connection at home and WHCA mobile phone in his car. When Reagan left office and George Bush I put his own Chief of Staff - John Sununu - in place, my guy was replaced because of a personality conflict and his ARPANET connection and mobile phone were physically removed from his house and car with less than two hours notice.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

268. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 03:29:49 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-CCD8AA.19495224032008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3089

Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
>
> Something must have changed (or been fixed) then - we made
> measurements about three years ago and there was about six seconds
> offset - an eternity for accurate time measurements. 340 nanoseconds
> we can tolerate. Six seconds we can't.

Could "selective availability" have anything to do with that?

--
Klystron

269. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 03:31:38 UTC
From: jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com
Message-ID: <o6rlb5-ajo.ln1@mail.specsol.com>
Source record: 3090

Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> > Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> > > Wouldn't it make more sense to include WWV and WWVH along with WWVB?
> > >Are you familiar with the Internet-based ntp system? Then, there is the
> > >matter of GPS, which has a time capability that is incidental to its
> > >navigation function.

> > Want some fun? Compare the time ticks received from WWVB, WWV,
> > NIST-on-line, and GPS. What, they are not all simultaneous? Welcome
> > to the real world. GPS time does not correlate with UTC by any means
> > (several seconds difference).
> >
> > In one of the first digital military command and control system that I
> > was involved in during the early 1960s, we used rubidium standards at
> > our switching centers to get accurate time synchronization, and even
> > then it was rather crude because the line delays varied so much. HF
> > propagation (WWV/WWVH) is even worse in that regard.

> My understanding is that ntpd can handle that problem quite well. An
> OPTIMAL setup would involve 1 computer per radio, each acting as a radio
> controller (also called a strata 0 server). You could have a radio for
> WWVB or WWVH, a second radio that is set to scan the WWV frequencies and
> a third "radio" for GPS. Those 3 computers would connect to a fourth
> computer that would act as a strata 1 server. The result would be a time
> server that is as accurate as if it were connected to other ntp servers
> via the Internet. Such an arrangement is sometimes used by firms that
> need metrology-grade time service on a secured, internal LAN.
> By the way, do not be put off by the expense of the four (or more)
> computers described above. According the ntp documentation that I have
> read, they need to have at least 100 MHz processor speeds for optimum
> accuracy, but there is no benefit in going much above 100 MHz. Thus, a
> pile of old, junkyard computers will do the job quite well and at an
> aggregate cost of $20 to $100 in total.

Just about any piece of cheap junk from the last decade could handle
all three sources at once, though it would be pointless since the
ntp software would always choose the GPS source (unless it became
unavailable for some reason).

--
Jim Pennino

Remove .spam.sux to reply.

270. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 03:32:10 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-284669.20024924032008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3091

Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> >Thus, a pile of old, junkyard computers will do the job quite
> >well and at an aggregate cost of $20 to $100 in total.

> Four such computers in a single box would be ideal for the way I run
> my ham data-modes (packet/PACTOR/APRS/BPSK31 setup - 24/7 each). Too
> bad we can't get that in a box the size of a toaster at a price that
> is less than $100.

The 'box the size of a toaster' part is out, but could you settle for
4 old blade servers, 1U size each, in a rack mount? If so, find a
surplus property auction in your area (large state university,
government agency, etc.) and you will probably be able to pick up
something along those lines.

--
Klystron

271. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 03:34:08 UTC
From: jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com
Message-ID: <vurlb5-ajo.ln1@mail.specsol.com>
Source record: 3092

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Mar 23, 9:53???pm, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> > ???Paul W. Schleck <pschl...@oasis.novia.net>" wrote:
> > ??? ???Wouldn't it make more sense to include
> > WWV and WWVH along with WWVB?

<snip>

> Such a system requires connectivity to the internet. WWVB does
> not; just requires a receiver.

As does a GPS based time sytem.

Both WWVB and GPS require decoding of the time information by something.

> > Then, there is the
> > matter of GPS, which has a time capability that is incidental to its
> > navigation function.

> GPS can only be used where the satellites can be "seen" by the
> receiver.

Which is the entire planet.

> The WWV system still has its uses. I suspect its cost is trivial
> compared to other systems, too.

> > > Would you also kindly define what is a "single axis of data,"
> > > in terms
> > > familiar to those involved in communications engineering and technology?

> >
> > ??? ???A single quantity, like time or location
> >
> > > What, then, would be "multiple axes of data?"
> >
> > ??? ???Two or more simultaneous quantities, like time AND loca
> tion or
> > course
> > AND speed.

> The WWV system isn't just about time. The transmitters are also
> frequency standards. That's two axes of data. For those of us who
> use HF, they are also propagation beacons - that's three axes.
> There are also voice geomagnetic announcements - that's four axes.

GPS provides a better frequency standard that WWV.

It does not provide voice announcements or serve as a HF beacon though.

<snip remaining>

--
Jim Pennino

Remove .spam.sux to reply.

272. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 03:36:10 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <fs9fm6$ns1$1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 3093

In article <i4dgu39mmvnnjf4g5246o6qut2jd938h8m@4ax.com>,
Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
>Something must have changed (or been fixed) then - we made
>measurements about three years ago and there was about six seconds
>offset - an eternity for accurate time measurements. 340 nanoseconds
>we can tolerate. Six seconds we can't.

It's changed. GPS and UTC now differ by 14 seconds, according to
http://tycho.usno.navy.mil/gpstt.html. This is because GPS time does
not include leap seconds.

This 14 second difference is part of the GPS broadcast, so can easily
be backed out of the GPS time data to produce UTC. Once corrected,
the UTC values have the stated accuracy.

Don't be confused by the latency of some GPS units in producing time/fix
products. I've seen them produce fixes several seconds later. That's why
the time is included in postition data, so you know when you were there.
If you want time from your GPS, you need either the 1PPS pulse output or
a unit with a known and predictable period from real time to character
output. For many uses, simply assuming that the first character of the
output string (NMEA) occurs at the time in the message is adequate,
but that's not going to get you your 340ns accuracy.

For example, I am using a Trimble Acutime to feed an home-brew time
demon. Tests comparing system time from this demon to ntp stratum 1
servers gave a few millisecond difference. Good enough for me.

273. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 03:37:05 UTC
From: jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com
Message-ID: <3krlb5-ajo.ln1@mail.specsol.com>
Source record: 3094

Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> On Mon, 24 Mar 2008 00:10:13 EDT, jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com wrote:

> >Each GPS sattelite has it's own on board atomic clock and the system can
> >easily provide UTC with accuracy on the few microseconds level with an
> >ultimate limit of +/- 340 nanoseconds using an appropriate receiver and
> >hardware.

> Something must have changed (or been fixed) then - we made
> measurements about three years ago and there was about six seconds
> offset - an eternity for accurate time measurements. 340 nanoseconds
> we can tolerate. Six seconds we can't.
> --

The only thing that has changed since the first sattelite launched is
that the accuracy degrading dither for civilian use was removed about
7 years ago. With the dither the time accuracy was in the range of tens
of microseconds.

Whereever you were getting your six seconds of error from, it wasn't
from the GPS system.

--
Jim Pennino

Remove .spam.sux to reply.

274. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 03:42:45 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <4w_Fj.503$NU2.489@news01.roc.ny>
Source record: 3095

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Mon, 24 Mar 2008 18:13:01 EDT, AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote:
>
>> The only problem there
>> is that it ALSO is a 'set-up' kind of 'test' (any touch-typist on
>> a TTY would 'win') and has very little entertainment value.
>
> My secretary at March AFB (early 1960s) could and did type faster than
> the Model 28 could cut tape. It frustrated her no end.

My cohort at the old U.S. Embassy in Guinea-Bissau and I could jam one up as well. Nothing like poking tape on numerous multi-page outgoing cables five or six days per week to build typing speed and technique. The 28's were set up so that we never saw what we typed appear on paper. If you really wanted to check your work, you'd have to gather up the perf tape and look at it. Those machines were replaced just after I left Bissau in late 1987. I took the very last State Department 28 in Africa out of service in Sierra Leone in 1990. We had to destroy the innards, but a colleague wanted the cabinet. He re-worked the thing and turned it into a bar in his living room. His wife arrived at post a couple of months later and the new bar was quickly relegated to the fellow's ham shack.

During my early time at State, most places were using Teletype Model 40 equipment with the three 8" disk drives and the fastest, most rugged impact printer I'd ever seen. That stuff was gradually replaced by computer equipment in the 1987 to 1992 time frame.

I ran a Model 15 in Cincy and also had a Model 33 for a while. I wanted a 28 with the 3-speed gear shift badly. W8JIN offered me one long after I'd begun using a Commodore C-64. I gave it about thirty seconds thought before rejecting it as too big and heavy.

Len's point about touch typists winning a speed contest with Morse ops would depend entirely upon how fast the typist was. The second junior op I had in Bissau would have been lucky to do 30 wpm on a keyboard.

With the teletype model 40 stuff, there was not any typing of cables at all. Secretaries typed the cable and they were fed into an OCR. The operator might have to correct a formatting error or the occasional misread character. With the advent of the classified LAN's and the computerized equipment, drafters would electronically release cable text and addressees to the communications center and the ops would send the messages. Incoming traffic was routed in the same way, mostly automatically. Anything not understood by the computer would route to a 'spill que' to be manually assigned action and info offices.

Occasionally the Deputy Chief of Mission would telephone or e-mail a request that the action office for a given cable be changed.

By then, part of our work involved keeping message router databases (the military addressees--especially Navy--could change frequently) up to date. The computerization was supposed to result in the paperless office. It didn't. The stuff was just printed somewhere other than in the comm center.

Dave K8MN

275. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 03:54:17 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <655272ba-d53a-4659-8a8d-b2ddfef28bf7@e67g2000hsa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3096

On Mar 24, 5:10 pm, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> > > Are you familiar with the Internet-based ntp system?
> > Such a system requires connectivity to the internet.
> > WWVB does
> > not; just requires a receiver.
>
> A computer running ntpd can get
> metrology-grade time service from radio signals. ntpd can use
> radio
> only, Internet only or both.

That is more complex and costly than a <$50 wristwatch or wall clock,
however. And it takes a lot more attention than simply keeping
batteries in it.

> > > There is probably no purpose for which Morse
> > > can be used as a
> > > machine language where there isn't a choice of other,
> > > better suited languages available.

> > Yes, there is: Any application where the sender or listener
> > may be a human rather than a machine, and where an
> > interface like a keyboard/screen isn't practical.

>I take it that you don't know what "machine language" is.

Actually, I do.

> Humans are
> not supposed to be involved.

Why not?

> If they are, it's not machine to machine
> communications.

Why does it matter? Morse Code can be machine-to-machine,
machine-to-human, human-to-machine, or human-to-human.

That's a big plus.

> > > When you look at the development of the Internet,
> > > Linux and other
> > > free software, you have to wonder about the infrastructure
> > > behind it.

> > > How did it come about? There was no regulatory body.

> > Actually there was and is. "The internet" as we know it could
> > not exist without certain legislation that made it possible, and
> > a huge commercial investment of communications infrastructure
> > to support it.
>
> > What we call "the internet" developed from ARPANET, which
> > was
> > a DoD thing, just like GPS. Swords into plowshares and all that.
>
> ? ?Utter hogwash.

It wasn't developed from ARPANET?

> It started out as a network of Universities and a few
> defense contractors' laboratories.

DoD funded, then. Maybe not directly, but still DoD funded.

It wasn't a bunch of self-funded basement experimenters.

> Much of the funding came from the
> individual Universities. The contribution of the government (via the
> defense contractors) was not absolutely necessary.

But it was there.

> Besides, after the
> Tappan worm incident, the networks were split into ARPAnet and > DARPAnet
> (with a "D," as in defense). The public Internet is descended from > the s
mall slice of that pie.

How does that make what I wrote "utter hogwash" in any way?

> > > There were no licenses. There were no "Elmers."

> > Actually, there were, just not in the same form as in radio. The
> > licenses were regulations; the Elmers were people who
> > developed easier-to-use systems.
>
> ? ?Again, that is preposterous nonsense.

Why? Was there no legislation needed to make the internet
as we know it possible? Was there no one working to make it
easier to use?

> > > Until recently, there wasn't even any formal schooling
> > > available,
> > > except on the sort of machinery that existed only within the
> > > Fortune 500. Early Internet users and developers had to
> > > read O'Reilly books and figure it out on their own.

> > How do you define "recently"? I got started online in 1997, and
> > "the internet" had only been publicly available for a few years at
> > that point.
>
> > ◆ ◆The Internet opened to the general public in 1993 and 1
994.

14-15 years ago.

So I got online 3 to 4 years after the beginning.

> At that
> time, there were essentially no courses at accredited Universities
> that
> covered UNIX, TCP/IP, the Internet or related topics.

No courses in UNIX at all?

> You had to learn
> it on your own. The Universities mainly taught MVS and 360/370
> architecture.

> > > That showed great initiative. It demonstrated the sort of
> > > determined, driven advancement of technology that was once
> > > seen in amateur radio.

> > The internet was and is a commercial enterprise. Amateur radio
> > was never such an enterprise, by its very nature.
>
> The Internet was not commercial in origin. When I first gained
> access, I had to sign an agreement not to use it for commercial
> purposes. Sending out for pizza via e-mail would have been a
> violation
> and would have resulted in account cancellation. But than, that
> was long
> ago. Spam hadn't been invented yet.

And how long did that no-commercial-use restriction last? It was long
gone in 1997.

> > > The infrastructure that is being wasted on
> > > Morse includes band
> > > segments that have, until recently, been
> > > reserved for its exclusive use.

> > What band segments are those, specifically? In the USA,
> > there have been no Morse-code-exclusive-use band
> > segments (except on 6
> > and 2 meters) for many years.

> > ◆ ◆The CW bands were those band segments that excluded voi
ce.

But they have included data modes like RTTY for more than 46
years. Every Hz of them.

You claimed:

"infrastructure that is being wasted on Morse includes"
band segments that have, until recently, been reserved
for its exclusive use."

Note the terms "is being wasted" and "until recently". But no such
band segments (except 2.5% of 6 and 2 meters) have existed for at
least 46 years.

Not only that, but modes besides FSK RTTY have been
common on the HF amateur bands since at least the early
1980s.

> Until fairly recently, there was no such thing as "data."

Please define "fairly recently". 10 years? 20 years? 46 years?

All of the non-voice parts of the bands have been open to
data modes for decades. That hams didn't use them much
30-40 years ago wasn't because of Morse Code.

> There was some RTTY,
> but it was never a major issue.

When?

> For many decades, the traffic in the HF
> ham bands was SSB voice or CW.

Hams began using SSB voice in the early 1930s. It
became more popular in the late 1940s and really
took off in the late 1950s-early 1960s.

But there was also AM voice, narrowband FM voice,
RTTY, SSTV, and even some FAX.

> A pie chart would show a very small slice
> labeled "other."

Perhaps, 30-40 years ago. Think about why that was.
It wasn't because of Morse Code.

> > > It will be interesting to
> > > see what the marketplace does to code tapes and code keys.

> > There are more keys on the market now than when I
> > became a ham 40 years ago.

> What about code tapes? How much longer will they last?

They've been largely replaced by Morse Code training
software, like G4FON's. No need to buy tapes anymore,
just download some free software and make your own. Or
download files to your MP3 player or iPod.

> My guess is
> that those keys are sold only to replace other keys.

My observation is that a considerable number are sold
to new hams who want to *use* Morse Code on the air.

Is that wrong? Should hams not learn, use or promote
Morse Code anymore?

> I doubt that there
> are very many first time key buyers today.

I know a couple. And since the usable life of a key is
measured in decades, the need for replacements is
pretty limited.

And consider this:

There are a considerable number of companies making
CW-only or CW-centric low-power HF amateur transceivers.
They are being sold in the tens of thousands.

For example, a new company called Elecraft appeared
in 1999 selling a CW-only QRP HF transceiver *kit* for
a bit under $600. To date, more then 6000 have been sold,
with minimal advertising. The company later produced
other CW-only transceiver kits, and they have sold well
with minimal advertising.

> > I only know for certain of one country that had a no-code-test
> > HF amateur radio license before 2003. There may be others,
> > but not many.
>
> > Japan has long had a nocodetest HF amateur license called the
> > 4th class. But that license was and is limited to low power levels
> > (10 watts) and to parts of the amateur bands which are
> > worldwide exclusively allocated to amateurs.
>
> > Japan's claim was that the treaty exists to prevent interference
> > between users of different radio services and between users
> > of the same
> > radio service in different countries.
>
> ► ►So you admit that different countries interpreted their
treaty
> obligations in different ways?

I know that Japan used that logic to get around the ITU-R treaty
requirement.

Do you know of *any* other country (besides Japan)
that had a nocodetest amateur radio license with HF privileges before
2003?

> > Would you have preferred that FCC violate the treaty?
> > Or create a
> > license class similar to Japan's 4th class?
>
>I'm not going to spend a lot of time doing your research
> for you, but
> there was more then one treaty and those treaties expired or were
> modified over a period of years.

I have researched the subject. The treaty in question is
the ITU-R treaty, to which the USA is a signatory. That's
not just my opinion; it's what the FCC has repeatedly
written in its Report and Orders.

Before July 2003, in part S25.5, the ITU-R treaty required
that all amateur licenses which grant privileges below 30 MHz
had to have Morse Code tests.

That requirement was made optional at WRC 2003. Signatory
countries could retain Morse Code testing or eliminate it, as they
chose.

Some have chosen to reduce or eliminate it. Others have not.

> No-code HF licenses came about over
> time in a number of countries.

How many countries besides Japan had them before July 2003?

How many have them now?

> The US was either one of the last to drop
> code or was dead last to do so.

Japan still requires Morse Code for First Class licenses. Canadians
have the option of passing a Morse Code test or getting a higher
score on the written exam. Most of the countries in the former
Soviet Union still require Morse Code testing.

In any event, here in the USA:

- there has been a nocodetest amateur radio license for more than 17
years

- all classes of amateur license have been available for just a 5 wpm
test for 18 years with medical waiver, and for almost 8 years without
such a waiver.

- Morse Code testing has been completely gone for more than a year.

Yet US amateurs continue to use the mode extensively. Some use it
exclusively.

73 de Jim, N2EY

276. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 03:55:24 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <7D_Fj.510$Cn4.181@news02.roc.ny>
Source record: 3097

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Mon, 24 Mar 2008 07:48:10 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>
>> Actually, there were, just not in the same form as in radio. The
>> licenses were regulations; the Elmers were people who developed
>> easier-to-use systems.
>
> Yes, there were "licenses" to users but it was a one-way deal. My
> former FCC Bureau Chief went to the Reagan White House as the
> Assistant Chief of Staff for Administrative Services, which included
> overseeing the White House Communications Agency (staffed by the
> military, not the Secret Service which has its own comm net). He was
> given an ARPANET connection at home and WHCA mobile phone in his car.
> When Reagan left office and George Bush I put his own Chief of Staff -
> John Sununu - in place, my guy was replaced because of a personality
> conflict and his ARPANET connection and mobile phone were physically
> removed from his house and car with less than two hours notice.

I've dealt with the WHCA folks on several occasions. The last was during the '97 Clinton-Yeltsin Helsinki Summit. It is plain why WHCA is staffed with military people: They don't get overtime. :-) Those I worked with were very dedicated and hardworking. The flurry of activity preceding a Presidential visit--for things like frequency clearances from the host government, the size of the PBX and number of lines for the visit hotel(s) and the number of cellular phones, is phenomenal. That Helsinki Summit was a double whammy in that it also involved a SECSTATE visit which meant that State's commo team was also on the ground with an entirely different set of communications requirements.

Dave K8MN

277. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 03:55:49 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <fs9stkgqf1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 3098

In article <xxx-CCD8AA.19495224032008@news.verizon.net>,
Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
>>
>> Something must have changed (or been fixed) then - we made
>> measurements about three years ago and there was about six seconds
>> offset - an eternity for accurate time measurements. 340 nanoseconds
>> we can tolerate. Six seconds we can't.
>
>
>
> Could "selective availability" have anything to do with that?

No.

278. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 03:59:18 UTC
From: jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com
Message-ID: <189mb5-bs5.ln1@mail.specsol.com>
Source record: 3099

Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> >
> > Something must have changed (or been fixed) then - we made
> > measurements about three years ago and there was about six seconds
> > offset - an eternity for accurate time measurements. 340 nanoseconds
> > we can tolerate. Six seconds we can't.

> Could "selective availability" have anything to do with that?

It was turned off about 7 years ago and even then just put the ultimate
accuracy in the low microsecond range.

GPS has never been off by six seconds.

--
Jim Pennino

Remove .spam.sux to reply.

279. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 04:00:56 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <3ufgu3l4jipnbmg12m7jov56md4rag2cc7@4ax.com>
Source record: 3100

On Mon, 24 Mar 2008 18:10:15 EDT, Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

>> GPS can only be used where the satellites can be "seen" by the
>> receiver.
>
>
> In or near the continental US, that is not an issue.

It is a big issue in my comm room which is partially underground with concrete walls (what they call a "daylight basement" here) where neither WWVB nor GPS signals penetrate. I have not yet found an "atomic clock" (either digital or analog) that has an external antenna collection - they may exist but not at the consumer level. The consumer-grade clocks that I have sync well on the "upper" story but do not hold their accuracy for long.

And to add insult to injury, the analog wall clock that I use by intent has a face with the marine "silent period" and "auto alarm" markings, a configuration well known to shipboard radio operators. For a $20 quartz clock it keeps time remarkably well, considering that I have to manually adjust it at "DST" time changes anyhow.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

280. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 04:01:57 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <5vigu3hrujjb1fahptf9b5l287fdedsp6e@4ax.com>
Source record: 3101

On Mon, 24 Mar 2008 18:10:15 EDT, Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> What about code tapes? How much longer will they last? My guess is
>that those keys are sold only to replace other keys. I doubt that there
>are very many first time key buyers today.

Within the last two years I bought a set of keyer paddles to
complement the 60-year-old J-38 key that I refurbished. And I'm not a
"Valiant Morseman" (tm - Len Anderson) by any means.

"Out here" many of the teenagers who become new hams through one means
or another take the CW classes that our radio club gives if for no
other reason than it's a "thing" that many of their contemporaries who
use cellphones for calls and texting can't do. One-upsmanship still
lives.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

281. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 04:03:46 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-A13FA2.21452624032008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3102

Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> > I take it that you don't know what "machine language" is. Humans are
> >not supposed to be involved. If they are, it's not machine to machine
> >communications.

> Ham radio is supposed to be human-to-human communications, not
> machine-to-machine communications.

He gave an example of Morse being used to encode transponder
identification, thus proving the continuing need for Morse. I countered
that transponder ID's are read by machines (the computers that drive
video displays), not by humans and, therefore, any machine language
would do. In fact, a REAL machine language would probably be better
suited to the task.
Please, let's not lose the context.

--
Klystron

282. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 04:05:53 UTC
From: an old freind <konstans@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <e7ec549a-1a16-41b6-a865-a6ce669e1388@k13g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3103

On Mar 24, 8:44 pm, Phil Kane <Phil.K...@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> On Mon, 24 Mar 2008 18:10:15 EDT, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> > I take it that you don't know what "machine language" is. Humans are

> >not supposed to be involved. If they are, it's not machine to machine
> >communications.
>
> Ham radio is supposed to be human-to-human communications, not
> machine-to-machine communications.

according to whom?

indeed I would say most of Ham use is Machine to human interestion
wether by watching my R/C aircraft fly (as well as to to send my
comands to it) as though I was on board or my interaction with the
fairly lifely packet system that survives in this where I interact
with with people but very often not in real time at all

or looking at what recent didx aprs staion I can see as a guide t
where I might be able to send a signal
frankly phil you seem to over looking a lot of ham radio

283. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 04:18:43 UTC
From: jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com
Message-ID: <khamb5-16a.ln1@mail.specsol.com>
Source record: 3104

Mark Kramer <c28f62@theworld.com> wrote:
> In article <i4dgu39mmvnnjf4g5246o6qut2jd938h8m@4ax.com>,
> Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> >Something must have changed (or been fixed) then - we made
> >measurements about three years ago and there was about six seconds
> >offset - an eternity for accurate time measurements. 340 nanoseconds
> >we can tolerate. Six seconds we can't.

> It's changed. GPS and UTC now differ by 14 seconds, according to
> http://tycho.usno.navy.mil/gpstt.html. This is because GPS time does
> not include leap seconds.

If you read the whole thing, you find there are several differences
betweeen the raw time and UTC.

> This 14 second difference is part of the GPS broadcast, so can easily
> be backed out of the GPS time data to produce UTC. Once corrected,
> the UTC values have the stated accuracy.

All the offsets from UTC and their values are in the NAV message. Most
receivers do that adjustment automaticaly as UTC is what most end users
want.

Now, if you have some receiver that outputs the raw uncorrected stuff
or a home brew receiver without the corrections...

That would be a case of RTFM.

> Don't be confused by the latency of some GPS units in producing time/fix
> products. I've seen them produce fixes several seconds later. That's why
> the time is included in postition data, so you know when you were there.
> If you want time from your GPS, you need either the 1PPS pulse output or
> a unit with a known and predictable period from real time to character
> output. For many uses, simply assuming that the first character of the
> output string (NMEA) occurs at the time in the message is adequate,
> but that's not going to get you your 340ns accuracy.

Most cheap receivers are either optimized for position or time, not
both, so it pays to read the spec sheet carefully.

> For example, I am using a Trimble Acutime to feed an home-brew time
> demon. Tests comparing system time from this demon to ntp stratum 1
> servers gave a few millisecond difference. Good enough for me.

That's one that has been optimized for time, so a good choice for your
application. A bit of attention to details could get you into the
microsecond range, but for the majority of people not necessary.

--
Jim Pennino

Remove .spam.sux to reply.

284. Re: Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 04:19:28 UTC
From: Bill Horne <billQRM@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <ovedndTzsbwDyHXanZ2dnUVZ_vOlnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 3105

Steve Bonine wrote:
> N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>
>> From the standpoint of the manufacturers, it would not be practical to
>> remove a feature most customers have come to expect, whether they use
>> it much or not.
>
> The negative impact on sales from a comment in a review like, "Great
> rig, but missing an internal keyer" would offset the tiny cost of
> including the keyer.
>
> 73, Steve KB9X

Steve,

I'll let you in on a secret: I think manufacturers put keyers in their rigs because every ham who has forgotten the code wants to think that he'll hook up an iambic key someday and win the CW SS.

Like the lottery, they're selling a dream: if the chip were omitted without telling anyone, I doubt 99% of hams would notice. ;-)

73,

Bill W1AC

285. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 05:47:28 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <na4hu31enlmsq94flehkcr9usa86t9eblq@4ax.com>
Source record: 3106

On Mon, 24 Mar 2008 23:32:10 EDT, Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> The 'box the size of a toaster' part is out, but could you settle for
>4 old blade servers, 1U size each, in a rack mount?

No rack mount space available, but it sounds good. My (step)son is
the IT guy at a well-known audio test equipment manufacturer and has
those sort of contacts.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

286. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 05:51:03 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <lh4hu350lv2v0r80um2nh5sao34a3o2tju@4ax.com>
Source record: 3107

On Mon, 24 Mar 2008 23:34:08 EDT, jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com wrote:

>GPS provides a better frequency standard that WWV.

"Standard frequencies" are defined in the International Radio
Regulations of the ITU. On which Standard Frequency does the GPS
system operate?
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

287. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 14:22:03 UTC
From: jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com
Message-ID: <p2bmb5-16a.ln1@mail.specsol.com>
Source record: 3108

Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> > Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> > > I take it that you don't know what "machine language" is. Humans are
> > >not supposed to be involved. If they are, it's not machine to machine
> > >communications.

> > Ham radio is supposed to be human-to-human communications, not
> > machine-to-machine communications.

> He gave an example of Morse being used to encode transponder
> identification, thus proving the continuing need for Morse. I countered
> that transponder ID's are read by machines (the computers that drive
> video displays), not by humans and, therefore, any machine language
> would do. In fact, a REAL machine language would probably be better
> suited to the task.
> Please, let's not lose the context.

I missed that; what kind of transponders?

Certainly not aircraft transponders as they have no morse id.

--
Jim Pennino

Remove .spam.sux to reply.

288. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 14:22:26 UTC
From: jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com
Message-ID: <qqhmb5-d8t.ln1@mail.specsol.com>
Source record: 3109

Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> On Mon, 24 Mar 2008 23:34:08 EDT, jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com wrote:

> >GPS provides a better frequency standard that WWV.

> "Standard frequencies" are defined in the International Radio
> Regulations of the ITU. On which Standard Frequency does the GPS
> system operate?

Irrelevant to the issue.

In any case, there have been several articles in the HAM press on moding
surplus telco GPS time/frequency standands for HAM use.

The usual output is 10 MHz with a lot better performance than anything
a crystal can provide.

--
Jim Pennino

Remove .spam.sux to reply.

289. Re: Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 14:23:16 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <HYOdnVONjc4rYHXanZ2dnUVZ_uWlnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 3110

Bill Horne wrote:

> I'll let you in on a secret: I think manufacturers put keyers in their
> rigs because every ham who has forgotten the code wants to think that
> he'll hook up an iambic key someday and win the CW SS.

I'm afraid that the majority of today's hams simply don't care. But if you mentioned any one aspect of ham radio -- DX, contesting, public service -- you could say the same thing. The _majority_ of hams don't care.

I wonder if there is any one aspect of the hobby that the majority do care about. What's the single most popular activity in ham radio? Based on our local group, I'd have to say "drinking coffee with the gang."

> Like the lottery, they're selling a dream: if the chip were omitted
> without telling anyone, I doubt 99% of hams would notice. ;-)

You mean put the jack on the back for the key, but don't connect it to anything? Yeah, I think you're probably right. Problem is, someone from that 1% would hook up a paddle, find that it didn't work, and inform the 99%. Then there would be an excuse to rant, and people who don't even own a paddle would be vociferously roasting the manufacturer.

:-) <-- Apply this smiley as necessary above if you take these comments too seriously.

73, Steve KB9X

290. Re: Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 16:02:03 UTC
From: Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com>
Message-ID: <dl9Gj.24636$Ch6.4046@newssvr11.news.prodigy.net>
Source record: 3111

Bill Horne wrote:
> Like the lottery, they're selling a dream: if the chip were omitted
> without telling anyone, I doubt 99% of hams would notice. ;-)

Instead of a chip, wouldn't it make more sense
just to use a small subroutine in the CPU?
--
73, Cecil http://www.w5dxp.com

291. Re: Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 16:33:04 UTC
From: Fabian Kurz <usenet@fkurz.net>
Message-ID: <64snpcF2d9rdbU1@mid.dfncis.de>
Source record: 3112

Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com> wrote:
> Instead of a chip, wouldn't it make more sense
> just to use a small subroutine in the CPU?

That's what most radios do these days. Some with
less-than-perfect priorities: The internal keyer
of one particular YAECOMWOD flagship transceiver
I recently had the pleasure to operate generated
broken CW if the processor had other tasks, like
starting the internal fan, to do...

About the topic in general: The cost of adding a
keyer is negligible, and no serious manufacturer
will even consider to omit it from their radios.

It *is* a selling point, no matter if people use
it or not...

73,
--
Fabian Kurz, DJ1YFK * Dresden, Germany * http://fkurz.net/

292. Re: Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 16:50:02 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fsb6r2$1eke$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3113

Steve Bonine wrote:
> Bill Horne wrote:
>
>> I'll let you in on a secret: I think manufacturers put keyers in their
>> rigs because every ham who has forgotten the code wants to think that
>> he'll hook up an iambic key someday and win the CW SS.
>
> I'm afraid that the majority of today's hams simply don't care. But if
> you mentioned any one aspect of ham radio -- DX, contesting, public
> service -- you could say the same thing. The _majority_ of hams don't
> care.
>
> I wonder if there is any one aspect of the hobby that the majority do
> care about.

It is a interesting question, Steve. I suspect not. There are so many
different aspects and unfortunately some of them are at odds. If I had
to perform only one aspect of the hobby it would be homebrewing. But my
favorite activities are Homebrewing, PSK31, and contesting in that
order. Most everyone else would answer differently.

But to coin a phrase "Its all good!"

What's the single most popular activity in ham radio? Based
> on our local group, I'd have to say "drinking coffee with the gang."

Hehe, we've nicknamed our local repeater the "Food Repeater". It is
pretty busy, but we do spend a lot of time talking about where to get
together for breakfast, lunch, dinner, dessert, coffee, snacks..... well
you get the idea.

>> Like the lottery, they're selling a dream: if the chip were omitted
>> without telling anyone, I doubt 99% of hams would notice. ;-)
>
> You mean put the jack on the back for the key, but don't connect it to
> anything? Yeah, I think you're probably right. Problem is, someone
> from that 1% would hook up a paddle, find that it didn't work, and
> inform the 99%. Then there would be an excuse to rant, and people who
> don't even own a paddle would be vociferously roasting the manufacturer.

Minor quibble... Do you really think it is that high a number? Keeping
in mind that that roughly half of all hams are Technicians that probably
wouldn't be expected to know. But of General and above, I would think
that most would notice.

At any rate, it isn't that expensive or space hogging an addition, and it has uses beyond transmitting CW Morse - tuning and Morse practice.

The rigs are meant to be versatile, I mean I have USB capability on 40 meters and below, and LSB above that. There are other things that are likely used much less than a keyer.

On a related subject, There was a new Ham trying to sell a Icom IC-7000 (I Want, I Want!)on QRZ Because he said it didn't perform well and he was tired of it. Several other Hams tried to get him to say exactly what wasn't working with it, and it ended up that he just didn't understand how to work an HF radio. The thing with HF rigs is that they are definitely NOT plug and play. That's what I love about them, but new guys and gals coming from the HT world of repeaters need a lot of Elmering. And we should be doing it.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

293. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 16:50:54 UTC
From: Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com>
Message-ID: <Nd9Gj.24634$Ch6.4058@newssvr11.news.prodigy.net>
Source record: 3114

Phil Kane wrote:
> My secretary at March AFB (early 1960s) could and did type faster than
> the Model 28 could cut tape. It frustrated her no end.

I can send Morse Code a lot faster than I can text
message on my cellphone.
--
73, Cecil http://www.w5dxp.com

294. Re: And now for something totally different!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 18:48:29 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <31ed40e8-1346-4ddb-a48c-08e15992ae5e@d4g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3115

On Mar 24, 1:41 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Mar 21, 1:25 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> >> N...@aol.com wrote:

> >> I've got most of the work done
> >> on a memoir
> >> of the travels as they relate to amateur radio
> >> with just enough of the
> >> non-radio events thrown in for flavor.
>
> > This is truly excellent.
>
> I dunno if any excellence is involved, but the material is factual.

While I'm not an editor or proofreader by profession, I do have some
experience in those fields and would be glad to proofread/comment
on your memoir if that would be of any help. Just for the fun of it.

> > Perhaps a sample could be on the web, such as how Amazon lets you see
> > a small part of a book.
>
> There's only a couple of short video clips from Guinea-Bissau, much
> more from Sierra Leone and Botswana (including a colorful cast of
> characters) and quite a bit of Finland (shot in the early and mid-90's
> and in 2003). The DVD's will be fleshed out with photos and audio clips.
> Sample clips may well be made available.

That would be good.

> > But the market wasn't just the UK. I suspect the Commonwealth
> > countries, both current and former, would be a market. Aussies,
> > Zedders, etc.
>
> You're right. Add South Africa to the "etc." Even if we added those
> amateur populations, the RSGB Handbook wasn't widely distributed but it
> was known to be a very good one. Its sister publications--and I'm
> specifically including the series of "Technical Topics" books by Pat
> Hawker--were also very good.

I'll keep an eye out.

> > Having bought "real" engineering books, I can say that both the ARRL
> > and RSGB Handbooks were and are true bargains.
>
> I'd have to agree. The current ARRL Handbooks have much more material

> than the older ones. The ARRL Antenna Handbook is another bargain.

Always have been, really. The ARRL Handbook now covers a lot of
material,
yet does not require an extensive engineering background to understand
and
use.
>
> > The ARRL Handbook back then was mostly the work of W1DX,
> > aided by the staff. The book evolved over time - the whole book
> > was not rewritten every year.
>
> Agreed. There were often just minor changes from one year to the next.
> I still have a number of the early 1930's Handbooks on the shelf here.

My earliest is 1948.

> It was a similar story with the excellent "RADIO Handbook" edited by
> Bill Orr. It was updated only periodically and not on any particular
> schedule. I'm not certain how many contributed to the effort though.

That it is listed as "edited by Bill Orr" says the author list was
extensive.

> > Friend of mine is trying to collect all the post-WW2 Handbooks,
> > and has most of them. He has all the post-WW1 QSTs, in part because an
> > OT gave him a lifetime collection, knowing he would appreciate and
> > care for them.
>
> I'm not bothering will all of 'em so I have selected editions from the
> thirties through present day. I haven't bought one since 2003. The
> League currently has the 2007 Handbook on sale at a bargain price so I
> may have to grab one of those.

Me too!

> W4HAV, then one of the corporate VP's at Cincinnati Milactron, gave me a
> run of 1934-1958 QST. That was the start of my collection. I bought
> the 1958-1963 and the 1920-1933 runs, a year at a time from various
> hamfests, typically in one-year bundles. I have only one issue from
> 1919 and that cost quite a bit. I ended up purchasing the QST CD's
> covering the early period.

Mine came from many sources. Of course the most recent 40 years I got
by being
an ARRL member.

> > The Southgate Library keeps expanding, too. What you see in the shack
> > picture is but a small part of it. Then there's the stuff I have
> > in electronic format...
>
> The expanding library is one of my worries about a move. There's mostly
> complete run of Popular Electronics through the early 1970's, a mostly

> complete run of Electronics Illustrated from the same period, a mostly
> complete run of 73, a mostly complete run of Ham Radio and Ham Radio
> Horizons and a complete run of CQ from its beginning in 1946. It took a
> number of years to find some of those rare 1946 issues. There's
> twenty-some feet in technical books here in the shack with the overflow
> out in the heated barn.

Do you need ham radio Vol 1 No. 1?

(Understanding Amateur Radio)

> > Both theory and practice, code and voice, HF and VHF.
> > Half the price of a Handbook.
>
> I don't recall when it was dropped from the ARRL technical book series.
> Do you?

I will look it up but my guess is late 1970s.

> > But what about parts?

(imported to Finland)

> They weren't taxed at anywhere near that. That same thing extended (and
> may still extend) to imported automobiles. My '95 Dodge Neon cost me
> around $12,000. It's European equivalent, the Chrysler Neon, sold in
> Finland for $44,000. A Lada (Russian Fiat) cost about $20,000.

And people say Americans pay high taxes...

> > Yes, but not as top-notch as BC-221, LM or ARC-5 drive/capacitor
> > combinations.
>
> Then again, the military could afford to pay.

Of course. But why not turn those swords into plowshares?

> It would be interesting
> if Ivor or another G-land newsgroup reader could tell us if Jackson
> Bros. made high quality drives for the British military.

Let's not forget Eddystone and the 898 drive.

> >> Odd that you mentioned those two. [illegible] The only 833A I've
> >> got sitting around is an Amperex.
>
> > I used to have an RCA 833A, but it got sold. I have some
> > experience with them, but not as much as with the more-common
> > "ham" amplifier tubes.
>
> WNOP was a 1 KW daytime only jazz station in Newport, Kentucky from the
> fifties until just about a decade back. Their studio, for the last
> twenty or so years of the station's existence, consisted of three large,
> connected vertical steel cylinders. The whole shebang was painted

> bright orange and bobbed up and down on the Kentucky side of the Ohio
> River across from Cincinnati. The transmitters and three-tower critical
> antenna array were on top of a hill in the Delhi neighborhood of Cincy.
> Until the early 80's, WNOP's transmitter was a 1948 Raytheon running a
> pair of 833A's at a nice dull red glow.

If the transmitter final stage efficiency was 65%, those tubes were dissipating
about 250 watts each. Given that the 833A's maximum rated plate dissipation
is 400 watts and that at that level the anode color is warm orange-red, the
"dull red glow" was completely normal.

> > But with four 811As you often need to neutralize even in GG, and
> > depending on where you get your bottles a pair of 572Bs may be the
> > better deal.
>
> Well, not just "may be" but, IMO would be the better deal. &#65533; An 811A i
s
> good for 65 watss plate dissipation for 260 total watts of dissipation
> for four. &#65533; Four of the 572's are capable of dissipating 640 watts for

> just a little more money.

A pair of 572Bs is good for 320 watts plate dissipation, which is
about the same
as three 811As. In Class B GG they will do a kilowatt on CW and 1200
watts on SSB
(input, not output).
>
> > The solid-state option has been around for decades, but the high cost
> > stops a lot of hams.
>
> The MFJ AL-600 costs roughly what the company's AL-572 runs. &#65533; The AL-
572
> will run 1000 watts CW output. &#65533; The solid state AL-600 runs 500w CW.

Twice as many dollars-per-watt.

> > Unlike almost all commercial/military applications, in ham radio,
> > when an expensive final tube fails, it's up to the owner/operator
> > to pay for the replacement.

> Right. &#65533; Destroying one or more high power vacuum tubes while in the
> employ of a company or government with deep pockets isn't the same as
> doing so when you are the guy responsible such expenses.

Exactly.

> >>> Depends on the family situation, both spouse and kids. Also
> >>> one's health and ties to the community.

> >> Pass it along to the kids now: There is an applied implication that
> >> that they travel to visit the parents.

> > That's good advice in theory but in practice it often works out to
> > be more complicated. Traveling with little kids is both expensive
> > and difficult, and in families with two careers just getting everyone
> > off work and out of school at the same time can be a challenge.
> > (Vacation and sick days are often used up when the kids are
> > sick, and there's never spare cash laying around. So it's often
> > more practical for Grandma/Grandpa to travel.
>
> My grandparents always sat at home and we did the traveling even when we
> lived in Florida in the pre-Interstate Highway days.

Which was (ahem) a few years ago, when life was somewhat different.
For example,
did both parents have full-time jobs?

> > Still, all that means is you draw distance circles around where the
> > kids are. Doesn't mean you have to live down the street.

> If the kids have jobs which cause them to relocate every few years, it
> might be better to choose a place you like.

Of course. What I'm saying is that Grampa and Gramma can often find
a place they like which is within a reasonable distance from where the
kids are.

> society than ever. <garbled_segment> There are exceptions. <garbled_segment> My neighbor was born
in his
> parents house across the road. <garbled_segment> That's all the farther he ever got fr
om
> home. <garbled_segment> Now his son has the old family farm and a younger son has buil
t a
> home 1/4 mile down the road. <garbled_segment> This approaching coal mine means a
> windfall for me. <garbled_segment> It is a family tragedy for the neighbor and his fam
ily.

Both extremes have their price. Highly mobile societies do not form
stable communities,
immobile ones fall victim to changes such as you are seeing.

> If you have a pile of money, any time is a good time. <garbled_segment> A lot of folks

> don't have a pile of money or their investments have taken a beating or
> their home has lost value or they are unable to sell it.

Agreed. But even in good times it can be a challenge. For example,
even if the house can be sold fast for a good price, if the retire-to
place
is also expensive there's no savings.

> People flock to states with no income tax or with no tax on pensions or
> government pensions. • A lot of those states are in the warm, sunny
> southland.

Yep. But over time those tax situations may change. As the population
age
mix changes, those states see increasing burdens on Medicare and other
services and less revenue because of all the exclusions. Sooner or
later,
something has to give.

> > OTOH things like health care costs, rising energy prices, etc.,
> > work the other way.
>
> Exactly.

Look at the water shortage problem in Georgia. It really boils down to
having too many people in the wrong place.

> Look at the property. • Ask questions. • Get confirmation in writi
ng.
> Take along a portable receiver. • No place is a good amateur radio
> location if there's some noise source blotting out big pieces of the
> radio spectrum.

Agreed all around.

The big problem many folks face is lack of time. If a move is
100% voluntary, doing the research is easy, but when it's because
of a job relocation or such, there may not be time to wait for the
perfect place to come on the market.

When the local RE market was really hot, a couple of years ago, it
was not uncommon for a house to go on the market at noon and for
there to be multiple offers above the asking price before the sun went
down. Buyers had pre-approved mortgage papers in their back pockets
with the checkbook. Research CC&Rs? Line up a professional home
inspector? Make an offer with conditions? Forget about it, that house
is SOLD - to somebody else.

> > You have the most important resource, too: Flexibility. You don't have
> > to move this month, or this summer, or land in a specific school
> > district or some such.

> That's right, but I'm not looking forward to dismantling antennas and
> towers and putting something similar up in a new location. • I shudder

> when I think about holes to be dug, concrete to be poured, etc.

One Thing At A Time.

> Best is that she doesn't object to the aluminum and copper overcast. •
I
> have friends whose spouses have apparent veto power over towers and
> antennas.

The days when Dad was Final Authority on everything are long gone - if
they
ever really existed.

> One of my friends rented some of his land to a local farmer. • After a

> few years, it became more trouble than it was worth. I don't want to
> spend large chunks of my life just mowing grass. • Some land can be
> allowed to grow up, leaving cleared areas for towers. • Some can be
> planted in widely spaced clumps of trees. • I think my pal intends for

> some of that land to be used for beverage antennas for 160 and 80m. •
He
> has a farm tractor and will just brush hog the land a couple of times
> yearly.

(sigh)

> One local fellow (retired from the Postal Service) bought up better than
> 1,000 acres of hilly land out the ridge from me. • He became a
> millionaire after his retirement in just one short day. • How? • H
e sold a
> million dollars worth of timber to the Amish.

Great folks, but often misunderstood by outsiders. We could do well to
emulate some of their values IMHO. Lancaster County is not
far west of here.

> > One thing that was/is popular in WNY is to have a woodlot. Usually a
> > piece of land that is heavily wooded, had no utilities and won't pass
> > the perc test.

> > The owner cuts a couple of cords of wood every year, sells some, uses
> > the rest for heat. The profit on the wood sold pays the RE taxes. Only
> > the crowded and not-so-good trees are taken; the really good ones are
> > left to grow and given room.
>
> See above.

The difference is firewood vs. lumber.

> > Of course you have to love to cut, split and stack wood, but a lot of
> > us do.
>
> ...and a lot of us don't. I'll happily pay someone to cut, split and
> stack wood. • I did some of it when I was younger.
>
> > "Wood warms you twice - once when you cut it, again when you burn it"
>
> I don't think many folks have suffered a fatal heart attack while
> burning it, heh.
>
One way to prevent those heart attacks is to stay in shape with
exercise - like

splitting wood...

Back at the house on RadioTelegraph Hill, about 1982, there was a maple about
80 feet high which had few leaves one spring, so I called an arborist. Who said
"You better take that tree down before it falls down in a storm, it's sick and won't get well."

So I had the tree taken down and the wood cut into fireplace lengths. But that's when
I learned that "cut" and "split" meant different things: the wood was in fireplace lengths
but some parts were several feet in diameter. So I bought an axe and a couple of wedges
and learned to split wood by hand. I got pretty good, too.

It all went to the fireplace in that house.

73 de Jim, N2EY

295. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 18:51:14 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <2cdbf354-bcdb-4849-91fb-7a1bb661d712@s19g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3116

On Mar 24, 6:13 pm, AF6AY <LenAnder...@ieee.org> wrote:
> Paul Schleck posted on 24 Mar 08:
> >AF6AY <LenAnder...@ieee.org> writes:

> >>>According to this recent demonstration on the Tonight Show with Jay
> >>>Leno:

> >>>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhsSgcsTMd4

> >>Ahem...<quibble mode on>...that little bit on the Tonight Show was
> >>a 'setup' gig that employed two young local male actors as the
> >>(described) "text messaging experts"

No, it wasn't. They were not actors.

In the clip, the sending text messager is described by Jay Leno as
"the country's fastest text messager" and his name is given as
"Ben Cook". He says his record is sending a 160 character message
in 57 seconds. Those facts can be verified by watching the clip.

160 characters in 57 seconds at 5 characters per word works out to
approximately 33.68 wpm.

160 characters in 57 seconds at 6 characters per word (allowing for
spaces between words) works out to approximately 28.07 wpm.

The current Guinness Book of World Records for a 160 character
message is 41 seconds. That works out to about 46.83 and 39.02 wpm for
5 and 6 characters-per-word, respectively.

All are well below the world-record Morse Code speed, or the speed of
skilled Morse Code operators.

The 160 character message used in the text-message speed-record
attempts
is a standard message previously disclosed, so that all attempts use
the same
message. The Leno test used a message unknown to any of the
participants.

> >>but the two hams (one of which
> >>would very soon become marketing director for Heil Sound) were
> >>real. That is the input I got directly from a reliable staffer on
> >>the Tonight Show.

Whom you do not name, so his information cannot be verified
independently.

> >>Took a few phone calls to get that information
> >>but it is an advantage of living inside the entertainment capital of
> >>the USA (aka Los Angeles, CA)...and the NBC western Hq is only
> >>about 5 miles south of my place, down Hollywood Way to Alameda and
> >>then east about a mile.

What difference does that make?

> >>That whole bit was really a send-up on the
> >>popular fad of text messaging done by teeners and young adults.
> >>That bit is about as 'real documentary' as Leno's send-ups on the
> >>'street interviews' with ordinary (apparently clueless) younger
> >>folk on various kinds of knowledge. In short, ONLY for gag purposes.

> >Sorry, but I've got to call baloney on this one. The individual who
> >appeared on the Tonight Show who sent the text message was actually Ben
> >Cook, and not an actor. Ben held the world's record for fastest text
> >messaging:
>
> If you say so, then it is so.

No, it has been verified by several independent sources, including
people who
were actually there and part of the test.

> That 'recent demonstration' was over a year ago, was it not?

Yes - what difference does that make? The video clip can be
reviewed for confirmation.

> "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" is an entertainment vehicle. It is
> not a documentary source of absolute facts.

Yet the facts are clear: Neither the text message sender nor the Morse
Code operators were actors, according to named people who were
actually there.

> >The two Morse code operators, Chip Margelli, K7JA, and Ken Miller,
> >K6CTW, have attested to this being an actual contest with an actual,
> >previously unknown, message to send, which was sent both by Morse code,
> >and by text messaging. And there's no disputing that fast Morse code
> >would always beat an SMS text message of the same length.
>
> I have corresponded with Mr. Margelli in his new position as
> Director of Marketing for Heil Sound...about Heil products, not
> about this alleged 'test' or 'contest' on the 'Leno show.'

Yet you use the word "alleged" and imply he is wrong when he says
the text-messager was not an actor.

> I have
> NO complaints about Mr. Margelli's nor Mr. Miller's capabilities
> with manual morse code communications.

OK so far.

>I only have complaints
> about this entertainment gig being used as 'factual demonstration'
> of any comparison of manual morse code versus any other mode.

Why? What are the complaints? What was not factual about the
demonstration?

Do you think that text messaging is faster than Morse Code done
by skilled operators?

The text-messaging sender has been identified as a record-holder
named Ben Cook. The record text-messge speed is below that
of skilled Morse Code operators, and the text-messager simply
lost the speed race. Not just on the show, but in rehearsals.

The two Morse Code operators, K7JA and K6CTW, have publicly and
privately said it was a real test. Are they not telling the truth?
Why should
anyone believe your account of an unnamed ex-staffperson, and not
believe
two identified people who were actual participants?

> >Two named witnesses would appear to trump one anonymous source.
>
> >Therefore, your anonymous "reliable staffer" seems anything but.
>
> I cannot argue your statements or 'baloney' comments in this
> venue.

Why not?

What's wrong with "this venue"?

> My original source is now working for another show.
> No more access to Tonight show records is possible. If you or
> any other morse code mode champion say it was a 'real test,'
> then it must be a real test.

What was wrong with the test? Given the evidence, why would any
reasonable person say it was not a real test?

> As to the efficacy claim that manual morse code communications
> beats cellular telephone textual-only (by keypad) communications,
> I do not know of a single communications service or provider
> that uses 'text' (via cellphone) for two-way communications.

Mine does.

When I receive a text message, the cellphone display shows "reply"
in the lower left corner. All I have to do is push the right button,
type
in my message, and push "send". The recipient can text me back, too.

That's two-way communications. I've had long conversations via text
messaging that way. It's slow but it works. Effective in noisy

environments
or when having a voice call is otherwise not the best choice.

Text messaging is a useful communications tool. So is Morse Code.
I use both.

> Of what point was this entertainment venue 'test' actually proving?

It showed that old methods aren't necessarily slower or less useful
than
newer ones.

In the first part of the clip, Jay Leno selects a young lady from the
audience,
talks to her a bit, and asks if she thinks Morse Code or text
messaging is
faster. The young lady says text messaging is faster. The audience
agrees.

Jay Leno then brings out the "country's fastest text messager" (not an
actor) and the two Morse Code operators, introduces them, and explains
the test.
The audience and the young lady are confident that the new technology
of text
messaging will be faster than the old Morse Code.

Yet when the test is actually run, Morse Code proves to be faster, and
produces
a hard-copy printout for verification. The world-record-holder could
not beat a couple
of amateurs going at a fraction of the Morse Code record speed.

Not only is the bit entertaining, it proves the point of newer not
always being faster.

73 de Jim, N2EY

296. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 19:15:49 UTC
From: Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com>
Message-ID: <N%bGj.30178$R84.3788@newssvr25.news.prodigy.net>
Source record: 3117

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> Yet when the test is actually run, Morse Code proves to be faster, and
> produces
> a hard-copy printout for verification. The world-record-holder could
> not beat a couple
> of amateurs going at a fraction of the Morse Code record speed.

What serious CW operator cannot send Morse faster than he/she
can text-message? I don't know of anyone including me. But
give me a full sized keyboard and the situation changes.

> Not only is the bit entertaining, it proves the point of newer not
> always being faster.

Given no previous experience and one hour of training for
each mode, which would win? :-)
--
73, Cecil http://www.w5dxp.com

297. Re: Cost of internal keyer * nothing to do with cost!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 19:28:52 UTC
From: Mr Fed UP <mrfedup@bellsouth.net>
Message-ID: <JWaGj.25803$vr3.728@bignews2.bellsouth.net>
Source record: 3118

"Fabian Kurz" <usenet@fkurz.net> wrote in message
news:64snpcF2d9rdbU1@mid.dfncis.de...
> Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com> wrote:
>> Instead of a chip, wouldn't it make more sense
>> just to use a small subroutine in the CPU?
>
> That's what most radios do these days. Some with
> less-than-perfect priorities: The internal keyer
> of one particular YAECOMWOD flagship transceiver
> I recently had the pleasure to operate generated
> broken CW if the processor had other tasks, like
> starting the internal fan, to do...
>
> About the topic in general: The cost of adding a
> keyer is negligible, and no serious manufacturer
> will even consider to omit it from their radios.
>
> It *is* a selling point, no matter if people use
> it or not...
>
> 73,
> --
> Fabian Kurz, DJ1YFK * Dresden, Germany * http://fkurz.net/

I recently bought a high end HF rig and would not have considered it
if it had been the same rig with no keyer built in.
My code skills have been lost from years of not using them, but now
that I don't have to gain a certain word speed to "upgrade" I have a
paddle and will be starting CW again. Ashame that a hobby that is
suppose to promote experimentation and communication had blocked
of so many frequencies for "elitist" use.
********** Oh by the way straight from the
current ARRL QST April issue Page 12 "This Just In" "U.S. hams
who wish to operate with full privileges in European countries covered by
the
European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations
(CEPT) must now hold an Extra class licensee."**********
I was studying for my Extra, but if all it is to be, is another elitist" use
of
rules and reg's to validate the "high standing" of VEC's and 'higher ups'
then
maybe I should skip the Extra Class. I have heard OT's and many in the
Extra portions of the bands using as poor practices / illegal power / rude
and

foul language as in any other portions of the bands. If someone new or at
a
lower class licensee want so misbehave, restricting them to operate outside
Extra band plans will not create good manors and legal behavior. Didn't
anyone learn a thing from prohibition nearly a century ago. Same
philosophy.
73 Have a Nice Day

298. Re: Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 19:29:12 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <64st89F2dmakjU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 3119

"Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
news:fsb6r2$1eke$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu

[snip]

: Minor quibble... Do you really think it is that high a
: number? Keeping in mind that that roughly half of all
: hams are Technicians that probably wouldn't be expected
: to know. But of General and above, I would think that
: most would notice.

Another minor quibble - I take it by that you mean all *US* amateurs..?

73 Ivor G6URP

299. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 19:29:19 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <64sth7F2dk9teU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 3120

"Klystron" <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote in message
news:xxx-21D47C.20512523032008@news.verizon.net

[snip]

: Wouldn't it make more sense to include WWV and WWVH
: along with WWVB?

Or even MSF...

73 Ivor G6URP

300. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 19:29:35 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <64su1nF2ctdubU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 3121

<jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com> wrote in message
news:vurlb5-ajo.ln1@mail.specsol.com
: N2EY@aol.com wrote:
: > On Mar 23, 9:53???pm, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
: > > ???Paul W. Schleck <pschl...@oasis.novia.net>" wrote:
: > > ??? ???Wouldn't it make more sense to include
: > > WWV and WWVH along with WWVB?
:
: <snip>
:
: > Such a system requires connectivity to the internet.
: > WWVB does not; just requires a receiver.
:
: As does a GPS based time sytem.
:
: Both WWVB and GPS require decoding of the time
: information by something.
:
: > > Then, there is the
: > > matter of GPS, which has a time capability that is
: > > incidental to its navigation function.
:
: > GPS can only be used where the satellites can be "seen"
: > by the receiver.
:
: Which is the entire planet.

Those bits of it with an uninterrupted view of the sky, anyway. Doesn't work too well in my basement office. Or under the canopy of trees on the road outside my house.

73 Ivor G6URP

301. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 20:28:23 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <cbc93d30-bb67-46f1-adea-7978243271e4@d4g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3122

On Mar 25, 3:15 pm, Cecil Moore <nos...@w5dxp.com> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > The world-record-holder

(in text messaging)

> > could not beat a couple
> > of amateurs going at a fraction of the Morse Code record speed.

> What serious CW operator cannot send Morse faster than he/she
> can text-message? I don't know of anyone including me. But
> give me a full sized keyboard and the situation changes.

Of course! But what cell phone has a full sized keyboard?

And if the Morse operators are allowed full sized Morse keyboards,
the situation changes yet again.

With a decent 10 speed bicycle I could win the Boston Marathon
(as long as everybody else has to run).

> > Not only is the bit entertaining, it proves the point of newer not
> > always being faster.
>
> Given no previous experience and one hour of training for
> each mode, which would win? :-)

Bwaahaahaa! ;-) Good one!

73 de Jim, N2EY

302. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-25 23:24:23 UTC
From: jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com
Message-ID: <onbob5-sjg.ln1@mail.specsol.com>
Source record: 3123

Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote:

> <jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com> wrote in message
> news:vurlb5-ajo.ln1@mail.specsol.com
> : N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> : > On Mar 23, 9:53???pm, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> : > > ???Paul W. Schleck <pschl...@oasis.novia.net>" wrote:
> : > > ??? ???Wouldn't it make more sense to include
> : > > WWV and WWVH along with WWVB?
> :
> : <snip>
> :
> : > Such a system requires connectivity to the internet.
> : > WWVB does not; just requires a receiver.
> :
> : As does a GPS based time sytem.
> :
> : Both WWVB and GPS require decoding of the time
> : information by something.
> :
> : > > Then, there is the
> : > > matter of GPS, which has a time capability that is
> : > > incidental to its navigation function.
> :
> : > GPS can only be used where the satellites can be "seen"
> : > by the receiver.
> :
> : Which is the entire planet.

> Those bits of it with an uninterrupted view of the sky, anyway. Doesn't
> work too well in my basement office. Or under the canopy of trees on the
> road outside my house.

Neither do any of the traditional time and frequency stations without
a working antenna.

--
Jim Pennino

Remove .spam.sux to reply.

303. Re: Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-26 00:19:55 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <13uj5ku43k49r36@corp.supernews.com>
Source record: 3124

"Cecil Moore" wrote

> Instead of a chip, wouldn't it make more sense
> just to use a small subroutine in the CPU?

How would YOU know? ;-)

Cecil, are you ready to get on the air? I'm waitin'....

Howard

304. Re: Cost of internal keyer * nothing to do with cost!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-26 00:49:26 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <13uj5kug8gsfq37@corp.supernews.com>
Source record: 3125

"Mr Fed UP" wrote

> ********** Oh by the way straight from the
> current ARRL QST April issue Page 12 "This Just In" "U.S. hams
> who wish to operate with full privileges in European countries covered by
> the
> European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations
> (CEPT) must now hold an Extra class licensee."**********

Your concern misses the whole point. It is a *privilege* to hold an extra
class licensee... especially if she's cute!

Howard N7SO

305. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-26 02:06:44 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <64tkqiF2d06ebU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 3126

<jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com> wrote in message
news:onbob5-sjg.ln1@mail.specsol.com

[snip]

: > : > GPS can only be used where the satellites can be
: > : > "seen" by the receiver.
: > :
: > : Which is the entire planet.
:
: > Those bits of it with an uninterrupted view of the sky,
: > anyway. Doesn't work too well in my basement office. Or
: > under the canopy of trees on the road outside my house.
:
: Neither do any of the traditional time and frequency
: stations without a working antenna.

True, but my internet-connected computers don't need a working antenna,
they get their info from the ntp server :-)

73 Ivor G6URP

306. Re: Cost of internal keyer * nothing to do with cost!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-26 14:06:00 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <74609803-4fdf-4519-acbb-41ef45cb185b@m36g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3127

On Mar 25, 2:28 pm, "Mr Fed UP" <mrfe...@bellsouth.net> wrote:
> My code skills have been lost from years of not
> using them, but now
> that I don't have to gain a certain word speed to
> "upgrade" I have a
> paddle and will be starting CW again.

I don't see the connection. btw, all US amateur licenses that required code tests were available for just a 5 wpm code test and a doctor's note since 1990 (18 years) and for just a 5 wpm code test since 2000 (8 years).

> Ashame that a hobby that is
> suppose to promote experimentation and communication
> had blocked
> of so many frequencies for "elitist" use.

What frequencies were those?

The only CW/data spectrum reserved for Extras is the bottom 25 kHz of 80, 40, 20 and 15 meters.

> Oh by the way straight from the
> current ARRL QST April issue Page 12 "This Just In" "U.S. hams
> who wish to operate with full privileges in European countries
> covered by the
> European Conference of Postal and
> Telecommunications Administrations
> (CEPT) must now hold an Extra class licensee"

Extra or Advanced.

> I was studying for my Extra, but if all it is to be,
> is another elitist" use of rules and reg's to validate the
> "high standing" of VEC's and 'higher ups'
> then maybe I should skip the Extra Class.

The change has nothing to do with the VECs. It is the result of CEPT's Radio Regulatory Working Group re-evaluating the equivalence between CEPT country license requirements and US license requirements.

IOW, the CEPT folks decided that having a General or Technician class license does not qualify the licensee to have full operating privileges in CEPT countries. Since Techs and Generals don't have full US operating privileges, why should they have full privs in CEPT countries?

>&#65533;I have heard OT's and many in the
> Extra portions of the bands using as poor practices / illegal
> power / rude and
> foul language as in any other portions of the bands.

Have you heard those goings-on from hams using non-voice modes?

73 de Jim, N2EY&#65533;

307. Re: Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-26 14:12:53 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fsdlcf$1530$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3128

Ivor Jones wrote:
> "Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
> news:fsb6r2$1eke$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu
>
> [snip]
>
> : Minor quibble... Do you really think it is that high a
> : number? Keeping in mind that that roughly half of all
> : hams are Technicians that probably wouldn't be expected
> : to know. But of General and above, I would think that
> : most would notice.
>
> Another minor quibble - I take it by that you mean all *US* amateurs..?

That would be correct. Sometimes I/we forget that this is an
international group. Sorry about that.

Anyhow, the point is that there are a lot of Amateurs who might not be
expected to know that there is a Keyer or even a Key jack on an HF radio
because they wouldn't be expected to

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

308. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-26 14:15:13 UTC
From: jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com
Message-ID: <5iqob5-k0s.ln1@mail.specsol.com>
Source record: 3129

Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote:
> <jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com> wrote in message
> news:onbob5-sjg.ln1@mail.specsol.com

> [snip]

> : > : > GPS can only be used where the satellites can be
> : > : > "seen" by the receiver.
> : > :
> : > : Which is the entire planet.
> :
> : > Those bits of it with an uninterrupted view of the sky,
> : > anyway. Doesn't work too well in my basement office. Or
> : > under the canopy of trees on the road outside my house.
> :
> : Neither do any of the traditional time and frequency
> : stations without a working antenna.

> True, but my internet-connected computers don't need a working antenna,
> they get their info from the ntp server :-)

Where do you think most ntp servers get their time these days?

--
Jim Pennino

Remove .spam.sux to reply.

309. Re: Cost of internal keyer * nothing to do with cost!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-26 17:30:30 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fse04k$1g9m$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3130

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Mar 25, 2:28 pm, "Mr Fed UP" <mrfe...@bellsouth.net> wrote:
>> My code skills have been lost from years of not
>> using them, but now that I don't have to gain a certain word speed to
>> "upgrade" I have a paddle and will be starting CW again.
>
> I don't see the connection. btw, all US amateur licenses that
> required code tests were available for just a 5 wpm code
> test and a doctor's note since 1990 (18 years) and for just
> a 5 wpm code test since 2000 (8 years).

```
>> Ashame that a hobby that is
>> suppose to promote experimentation and communication
>> had blocked of so many frequencies for "elitist" use.
>
> What frequencies were those?
>
> The only CW/data spectrum reserved for Extras is the bottom
> 25 kHz of 80, 40, 20 and 15 meters.

The concept of reserving privileges by license class is not a bad one.
While some may argue that any sort of class distinctions are elitist,
there are many of us who believe in education and advancement.

While I would not want to mess with the license class band access as it
is now, I would not at all object to new license classes that were just
based on knowledge, and didn't confer any particular privileges.

Knowledge is way cool! 8^)
```

>> Oh by the way straight from the
>> current ARRL QST April issue Page 12 "This Just In" "U.S. hams
>> who wish to operate with full privileges in European countries
>> covered by the
>> European Conference of Postal and
>> Telecommunications Administrations
>> (CEPT) must now hold an Extra class licensee"
>
> Extra or Advanced.
>
>> I was studying for my Extra, but if all it is to be,
>> is another elitist" use of rules and reg's to validate the
>> "high standing" of VEC's and 'higher ups'
>> then maybe I should skip the Extra Class.
>

> The change has nothing to do with the VECs. It is the result of CEPT's
> Radio Regulatory Working Group re-evaluating the equivalence between
> CEPT country license requirements and US license requirements.

> IOW, the CEPT folks decided that having a General or Technician class
> license does not qualify the licensee to have full operating
> privileges in CEPT countries. Since Techs and Generals don't have full
> US operating privileges, why should they have full privs in CEPT
> countries?

It would seem consistent and appropriate.

>> I have heard OT's and many in the
>> Extra portions of the bands using as poor practices / illegal
>> power / rude and foul language as in any other portions of the bands.
>
> Have you heard those goings-on from hams using non-voice modes?

I've heard a little - not much. But by and large, most people who use non-voice modes such as PSK31 and OOK Morse are going to be less likely to engage in shenanigans because the very nature of the modes slows things down a little, and the Op is more likely to give a little more thought about what they type or key.

And let's not forget that everyone out there can hear what goes on on SSB, so statistically things will get skewed a bit.

Amateur radio is largely a knowledge and skill based activity, and it has been for a long time. I look at the different classes as a way to work up to a high level of that knowledge and skill, rather than require the highest level at the start. Even the technician level license allows significant privileges, such as the ability to construct high power stations and experiment in a lot of different areas.

That Ops are encouraged to gain in skills and knowledge are a great thing IMO. The increased privileges are a nice enticement.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

310. Re: Cost of internal keyer * nothing to do with cost!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-26 17:51:32 UTC
From: Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com>
Message-ID: <82wGj.36205$J41.22487@newssvr14.news.prodigy.net>
Source record: 3131

Michael Coslo wrote:
> I would not at all object to new license classes that were just
> based on knowledge, and didn't confer any particular privileges.

That was essentially the case in 1954 when the Extra
Class license didn't confer any particular frequency
privileges. With a lowly mail-order Conditional Class
license obtained by a lowly high school junior, I earned
access to all amateur radio frequencies. ex-WN5DXP
--
73, Cecil http://www.w5dxp.com

311. Re: Cost of internal keyer

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-26 17:53:24 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <64vgbeF29epf6U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 3132

"Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
news:fsdlcf$1530$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu
: Ivor Jones wrote:
: > "Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
: > news:fsb6r2$1eke$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu
: >
: > [snip]
: >
: > : Minor quibble... Do you really think it is that high a
: > : number? Keeping in mind that that roughly half of all
: > : hams are Technicians that probably wouldn't be
: > : expected to know. But of General and above, I would
: > : think that most would notice.
: >
: > Another minor quibble - I take it by that you mean all
: > *US* amateurs..?
:
:
: That would be correct. Sometimes I/we forget that this is
: an international group. Sorry about that.

No problem :-)

: Anyhow, the point is that there are a lot of Amateurs who
: might not be expected to know that there is a Keyer or
: even a Key jack on an HF radio because they wouldn't be
: expected to.

But I rather think those who do expect it would be rather annoyed if it
wasn't there. The question is what percentage of amateurs is that overall
in the market for HF radios..?

Personally I've never been interested in CW but it would be rather nice if
a radio I bought had the facility, just in case. Particularly if the
additional cost was negligible.

73 Ivor G6URP

312. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-26 23:10:11 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <killu31mphbgd7jhpf2p5fjks4pmghu5i9@4ax.com>
Source record: 3133

On Tue, 25 Mar 2008 16:28:23 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>Of course! But what cell phone has a full sized keyboard?

IIRC I can generate and send text-messages using the Motorola Phone
Tools computer software connected to my Motorola cellphone via a USB
port, thereby using a full-size screen and keyboard to do so. I use
that setup to edit my "call list" in the 'phone.

Although I have received text messages on that 'phone, I have yet had
no need to send one. Compared to the JHS and HS crowd, I am certainly
"deprived".
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

313. Re: Cost of internal keyer * nothing to do with cost!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-27 00:15:39 UTC
From: Mr Fed UP <mrfedup@bellsouth.net>
Message-ID: <pmBGj.15174$%15.8040@bignews7.bellsouth.net>
Source record: 3134

Thanks contributors.... even when all dont agree it is nice to have some reasonable idears to
ponder,

Cheers 73

314. Re: Cost of internal keyer * nothing to do with cost!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-27 14:18:30 UTC
From: Jon Kåre Hellan <dev@null.com>
Message-ID: <1mr6dwh5z0.fsf@persaunet.uninett.no>
Source record: 3135

Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> writes:

> N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> I've heard a little - not much. But by and large, most people who use
> non-voice modes such as PSK31 and OOK Morse are going to be less
> likely to engage in shenanigans because the very nature of the modes
> slows things down a little, and the Op is more likely to give a little
> more thought about what they type or key.

Heard on the 9X0R listening frequency on 40m last night, in excellent
CW:

CQ DX CQ DX CQ DX de QRM QRM

On top of all the malicious tuning and jamming.

73

LA4RT Jon, Trondheim, Norway

315. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-27 15:40:21 UTC
From: Jeff <jeff@local.host>
Message-ID: <47eb60f3$0$1349$834e42db@reader.greatnowhere.com>
Source record: 3136

">>Of course! But what cell phone has a full sized keyboard?
>
> IIRC I can generate and send text-messages using the Motorola Phone
> Tools computer software connected to my Motorola cellphone via a USB
> port, thereby using a full-size screen and keyboard to do so. I use
> that setup to edit my "call list" in the 'phone.
>

So given a typist of comparable proficiency to the Morse operators (
meaning probably in the region of 80 - 100 wpm) it is most likely that the
text message would win the race; depending on system delays, which again is
not a fair comparison to face to face Morse. You could wait for hours, or
days, or even years for the bands to open to a particular location!!

It all goes to show that you must compare like with like. I am sure that the
Morse operators would have also lost if they were forced to send extraneous
letters as they cycled through to find the correct one, as the text'er had
to.

73
Jeff

316. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-27 19:28:50 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-94E42C.15035527032008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3137

"Jeff" <jeff@local.host> wrote:

> So given a typist of comparable proficiency to the Morse operators (
> meaning probably in the region of 80 - 100 wpm) it is most likely that the
> text message would win the race; depending on system delays, which again is
> not a fair comparison to face to face Morse. You could wait for hours, or
> days, or even years for the bands to open to a particular location!!
>
> It all goes to show that you must compare like with like. I am sure that the
> Morse operators would have also lost if they were forced to send extraneous
> letters as they cycled through to find the correct one, as the text'er had
> to.

Ultimately, we need to treat these various modes as methods of
sending text - no more and no less. Two methods that send the same text
are competing modes, regardless of whether keyboards, a telephone keypad
or a telegraph key is used to send it. A method that sends those blocks
of text faster and with fewer errors is better. A slower, more error
prone method is inferior. Not all encoding schemes are equal. Some, like
ASCII, encode the entire alphabet, including upper and lower case.
Others, like ISO-Latin-1, can encode even more characters. In general,
the more inclusive encoding method is better. An encoding scheme that is
easily adapted to error correction (parity, automatic re-send, etc.) is
also considered better. So claiming that phones, data modes and Morse
can't be compared because they are somehow "different" ignores the
ultimate reason for their existence - text communication via radio.

--
Klystron

317. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-27 22:33:34 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fsh1rv$104o$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3138

Klystron wrote:
> "Jeff" <jeff@local.host> wrote:
>
>> So given a typist of comparable proficiency to the Morse operators (
>> meaning probably in the region of 80 - 100 wpm) it is most likely that the
>> text message would win the race; depending on system delays, which again is
>> not a fair comparison to face to face Morse. You could wait for hours, or
>> days, or even years for the bands to open to a particular location!!
>>
>> It all goes to show that you must compare like with like. I am sure that the
>> Morse operators would have also lost if they were forced to send extraneous
>> letters as they cycled through to find the correct one, as the text'er had
>> to.
>
>
>
> Ultimately, we need to treat these various modes as methods of
> sending text - no more and no less.

> Two methods that send the same text
> are competing modes, regardless of whether keyboards, a telephone keypad
> or a telegraph key is used to send it.

Respectfully I disagree. None of these methods compete with each other.
They are just different applications of technology, some simpler, some
more complex, and some quite strange (read feld-hell) Users can use
whatever mode they are interested in, and are on equal footing.

> A method that sends those blocks
> of text faster and with fewer errors is better. A slower, more error
> prone method is inferior.

Here is some difficulty when we try to apply your description to HF. It
is difficult to get a high data rate via HF due to the relatively noisy
conditions.

An example is Digital SSTV vs analog SSTV. On the face of it, digital
SSTV has it all over the old fashioned variety. No image size
restrictions, digital accuracy, and the jpeg you send looks the same on
the recipient's end. The problem is under certain conditions that exist
fairly often, the analog SSTV picture is sent, looked at and stored,
while the digital version never arrives, because noisy condx causr the
receiving end to send a continual stream of "Retry please".

NOw to apply this to text modes, this would make PSK31 inferior to
PSK64, 128. and so on. But the psk31 text reads about the same speed,

and takes up less bandwidth.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

318. Re: LQQKING for some info

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-27 23:37:22 UTC
From: Tom <holden_family@sympatico.ca>
Message-ID: <deec3d0f-bdc7-4d75-9c96-a4a36aa3e283@i29g2000prf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3139

I wonder if you are thinking of the XP version of the Asus EEE PC:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASUS_Eee_PC

Tom

319. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-27 23:41:24 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <0aa674a9-c22f-4e9b-9c46-3f4c8099a17a@y21g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3140

On Mar 27, 3:28 pm, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> Ultimately, we need to treat these various modes as methods of
> sending text - no more and no less.

I disagree! Morse Code is more than simply a method of sending text.

> Two methods that send the same text
> are competing modes, regardless of whether keyboards, a telephone keypad
> or a telegraph key is used to send it.

I disagree again! Lots of differences, for example, a simple telegraph
key can be made in a few minutes with simple tools. Keyboards are a
bit more work.

> A method that sends those blocks
> of text faster and with fewer errors is better. A slower, more error
> prone method is inferior.

If the only factors considered are speed and accuracy, that's true.
But there are other
factors when it comes to things like amateur radio - bandwidth,
required equipment,
etc.

> Not all encoding schemes are equal. Some, like
> ASCII, encode the entire alphabet, including upper and lower case.
> Others, like ISO-Latin-1, can encode even more characters. In general,
> the more inclusive encoding method is better. An encoding scheme that is
> easily adapted to error correction (parity, automatic re-send, etc.) is
> also considered better.

See above about what factors are considered.

> So claiming that phones, data modes and Morse
> can't be compared because they are somehow "different" ignores the
> ultimate reason for their existence - text communication via radio.

One can compare all sorts of things, and have the results come out
differently
depending on the factors considered. Is rollerblading "better" than
running because
the same person can go faster and farther for the same effort?

The real point of the Jay Leno clip was to show that the assumption of
"newer is faster/better" turned out to be exactly wrong. The audience
and the woman Leno talked to were *sure* the text-messager would win,
yet Morse Code was faster.

If all you want to do is send text from point A to point B, there are lots of good modes.

But consider these factors:

1) Morse Code can be manually encoded and decoded by humans and machines. RTTY, ASCII, etc., cannot, at least in practical terms. (Yes, I once got to the point where I could usually recognize "RYRYRY" and "W3ABT" in 45.45 baud Baudot FSK, but have you ever met anyone who could have conversations that way?)

2) Morse Code can be done with audio or video - by watching a flashing light, text on a screen, or simply listening to it. Audio reception is a big advantage in situations where a visual display isn't practical.

3) Morse Code can be implemented with a bare minimum of simple equipment, or with complex equipment, or anything in between.

There are lots more, that's just a sample.

None of this proves the idea that all radio amateurs must use Morse Code, or must pass some sort of test on it, etc. That issue has been decided (at least in the USA).

Should radio amateurs not *use* Morse Code any more?

73 de Jim, N2EY

320. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-28 04:02:59 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <s4pou3156t7897f9v665u9f75ppk8jjmrg@4ax.com>
Source record: 3141

On Thu, 27 Mar 2008 19:41:24 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>The real point of the Jay Leno clip was to show that the assumption of
>"newer is faster/better" turned out to be exactly wrong. The audience
>and the woman Leno talked to were *sure* the text-messager would win,
>yet Morse Code was faster.

As I said in both a print interview and a TV interview during the
December storms here while passing gobs of hospital traffic using PTT
UHF FM ham radios when the electrical power, cellphones, internet
circuits , landlines, and even the sat-phone connections were all
down to the hospitals on the Oregon coast, we showed that 1950s
technology can get through when 1990s technology fails.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

321. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-28 11:21:19 UTC
From: Jeff <jeff@local.host>
Message-ID: <47ecab86$0$1347$834e42db@reader.greatnowhere.com>
Source record: 3142

```
"
>
> Ultimately, we need to treat these various modes as methods of
> sending text - no more and no less. Two methods that send the same text
> are competing modes, regardless of whether keyboards, a telephone keypad
> or a telegraph key is used to send it. A method that sends those blocks
> of text faster and with fewer errors is better. A slower, more error
> prone method is inferior. Not all encoding schemes are equal. Some, like
> ASCII, encode the entire alphabet, including upper and lower case.
> Others, like ISO-Latin-1, can encode even more characters. In general,
> the more inclusive encoding method is better. An encoding scheme that is
> easily adapted to error correction (parity, automatic re-send, etc.) is
> also considered better. So claiming that phones, data modes and Morse
> can't be compared because they are somehow "different" ignores the
> ultimate reason for their existence - text communication via radio.
>

Indeed, compare it with "text communication via radio" not with sending
Morse across a table. Try the same test, but sending a message to ZL or VK,
I am sure that the SMS message would win. The text message would have
arrived long before the band opened and you tuned up your antenna.

Jeff
```

322. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-28 11:22:09 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <o1cub5-b18.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 3143

In article <xxx-94E42C.15035527032008@news.verizon.net>,
Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> Ultimately, we need to treat these various modes as methods of
>sending text - no more and no less. Two methods that send the same text
>are competing modes, regardless of whether keyboards, a telephone keypad
>or a telegraph key is used to send it. A method that sends those blocks
>of text faster and with fewer errors is better. A slower, more error
>prone method is inferior. Not all encoding schemes are equal. Some, like
>ASCII, encode the entire alphabet, including upper and lower case.
>Others, like ISO-Latin-1, can encode even more characters. In general,
>the more inclusive encoding method is better. An encoding scheme that is
>easily adapted to error correction (parity, automatic re-send, etc.) is
>also considered better.

I hope you'll pardon me when I ask "Which deity spoke to you and laid
down those particular points of Absolute Truth?". What's all this "We
need to" and "no more and no less" and "xxx is better" and "yyy is
inferior" and "... is also considered better"?

If you're willing to state those as _your_ personal opinions of the
basis on which two partially-competing methods of encoding and
communicating _should_ be compared (and that no other criteria need
apply), I have no objection at all.

I do, however, object in principle to the idea that these are the
highest (or only) criteria, or that they're somehow sacred.

And, I also object to the idea (which I think is implied by the tone
of your other messages - please correct me if I'm wrong) that the
choice of communication methods is somehow exclusive... that the fact
that a method which is superior (by your criteria, perhaps) means that
other methods that you find inferior should be wiped out or
abandoned... or that people who prefer to use the other methods are
somehow responsible for Holding Back The True Progress.

My own perspective is that people may have *many* criteria for chosing
a means of communication (by radio or otherwise). Bandwidth, or
bandwidth*reliability is not the sole criterion that people use, in
practice, nor do I think there's any reason that it should be. Life
is full of tradeoffs between different criteria - information
bandwidth per Hz of spectrum, robustness of encoding, suitability for
multi-point communication, resistance to different sorts of
interference, cost of equipment, availability of equipment, and so
forth. I communicate with my wife by voice, by email, by telephone,
by scribbling half-illegible notes on scraps of paper, and by bringing

home flowers... different methods, for different types of information-passing under varying conditions.

In commercial communications and public-safety, bandwidth (or payload) and reliability and cost all play a big factor. In military communications, reliability and security seem big, bandwidth is important, and cost (of equipment at least) tends to take a back seat.

Ham radio is a much more diverse motivation-space. Some people optimize their operations as for public safety and commercial (the EMCOM folks), others for "most distance per watt" or "per dollar spent on the radio" (QRP folks, homebrewers, and other experimenters), others for portability, others for plain ordinary fun (according to their own definition of fun... for some folks, using single-frequency crystal-oscillator transmitters is just what gets their rocks off :-)

There's plenty of room in ham radio for different modes of operation. Saying that we all *have* to abandon Morse (or SSB, or voice, or AM, or...) and strap computers to all of our rigs, in order to encourage experimentation and use with newer modes, is really missing the point... it's implicitly denying a large percentage of hams the right to explore those aspects of ham radio that *they* find interesting and worthwhile.

If we were all being paid to do all of this stuff, then the people paying us would perhaps have the right to set our agendas. We aren't (and by the rules of the game, cannot be... at least, not here in the US) and so we get to set our own priorities, operating-mode and otherwise.

[And, for the record - I operate CW only rarely, and have enjoyed experimenting with packet and the newer digital modes quite a bit.]

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

323. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-28 11:59:29 UTC
From: Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com>
Message-ID: <W35Hj.6253$6H.4523@newssvr22.news.prodigy.net>
Source record: 3144

Dave Platt wrote:
> There's plenty of room in ham radio for different modes of operation.

Not to mention other aspects not involving modes.
My favorite aspect of ham radio is pretty much mode
independent - experimenting with antennas.
--
73, Cecil http://www.w5dxp.com

324. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-28 13:03:28 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <VpmdnSCzYK3jcXHanZ2dnUVZ_hynnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 3145

Jeff wrote:

> Indeed, compare it with "text communication via radio" not with sending
> Morse across a table. Try the same test, but sending a message to ZL or VK,
> I am sure that the SMS message would win. The text message would have
> arrived long before the band opened and you tuned up your antenna.

But where's the fun and the challenge?

If I want to do business with someone in Australia, I'll pick up the telephone and avail myself of the investment of billions of dollars in research money and construction cost for a worldwide communications infrastructure. If my only objective in this case is to communicate with a specific individual in Australia, right now, reliably, that's the way to do it.

If I wait for a band opening and manage to snare some rare DX using only my modest radio equipment and my wits, that's a completely different goal. Comparing "communication" via ham radio and "communication" via sending a text message is a lot like comparing traveling over the ocean on a commercial airliner with doing it on your own sailboat. Yes, in both cases you are transported from point A to point B. But goals and priorities that determine "success" for these two endeavors are much different.

I'm bemused by where this discussion of the Leno "Morse vs. Texting" segment has gone. I have to give Leno's writers credit for coming up with something entertaining and unique. It even gave ham radio a bit of publicity. But a literal comparison of the two items misses the point of ham radio as a hobby and avocation.

73, Steve KB9X

325. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-28 14:19:30 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <e5285dd7-1a62-4ac6-8bd9-827871fff843@x41g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3146

On Mar 28, 7:21 am, "Jeff" <j...@local.host> wrote:

> Indeed, compare it with "text communication via radio" not with sending
> Morse across a table. Try the same test, but sending a message to ZL or VK
,
> I am sure that the SMS message would win.

That's not guaranteed at all.

> The text message would have
> arrived long before the band opened and you tuned up your antenna.

You're assuming the band isn't open and the antenna needs tuning. That changes the conditions of the test.

If the path from A to B is already set up and working, the Morse Code speed advantage may be even greater than it was on the Jay Leno show, because it only takes a fraction of a second for the direct radio signal to reach the Antipodes, but the text message will be relayed many times to go the same distance.

KB9X, in another post, makes a valid comparison between riding on a jet airliner and piloting your own sailboat. Are sailboats "obsolete" because they're slower?

73 de Jim, N2EY

326. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-28 18:04:50 UTC
From: Jeff <jeff@local.host>
Message-ID: <47ed031f$0$1347$834e42db@reader.greatnowhere.com>
Source record: 3147

<
> Indeed, compare it with "text communication via radio" not with sending
> Morse across a table. Try the same test, but sending a message to ZL or VK
,
> I am sure that the SMS message would win.

That's not guaranteed at all.

> The text message would have
> arrived long before the band opened and you tuned up your antenna.

>You're assuming the band isn't open and the antenna needs tuning. That changes the conditions of the test.

>If the path from A to B is already set up and working, the Morse Code speed advantage may be even greater than it was on the Jay Leno show, because it only takes a fraction of a second for the direct radio signal to reach the Antipodes, but the text message will be relayed many times to go the same distance.

>KB9X, in another post, makes a valid comparison between riding on a jet airliner and piloting your own sailboat. Are sailboats "obsolete" because they're slower?

The test made an interesting piece of tv, but nothing more than that. All it proved is that mobile phones have a slower and clumsier way of inputting text than a proficient cw operator.

Jeff

327. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-28 20:39:32 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fsjh7t$1cv8$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3148

Jeff wrote:

>
> Indeed, compare it with "text communication via radio" not with sending
> Morse across a table. Try the same test, but sending a message to ZL or VK,
> I am sure that the SMS message would win. The text message would have
> arrived long before the band opened and you tuned up your antenna.

Let's not forget that the texters have their own limitations, such as being in range of an antenna, hopefully no power outages or disasters that cut off the service.

But truly that wasn't the point of the demonstration anyhow. All other things being equal, texting is slower because of the physical aspect differences between the two.

Voice would have beaten either OOK Morse or texting. But who cares about that really? It's all good.

side trip....

I've alway thought that there are some interesting parallels between regular folks and Us Hams, with seemingly different impressions by the public.

humor alert!

Using an HT isn't cool, but Using a cell phone is.

Using OOK texting isn't cool, but using cell phone texting is.

My Suzuki Vitara with it's legal height Bugcatcher antenna isn't cool, but if I put a Penn State banner on it during football season I am waaaay kewl!

Humor alert off

I really need to post some pictures of the Vitara all set up. That 13+ foot antenna so completely overwhelms the thing that it almost becomes cool in it's own right. The only downside is that so many people want to come over to talk to me about it that I sometimes don't get to operate it as much. OTOH, I was talking to a Fish and Game officer who is going for his license now

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

328. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 12 (Friday, March 28, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-28 20:53:58 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080328165405.AB33C309A7@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 3149
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 12
March 28, 2008
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+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> ARRL EXPO REVVING UP FOR THE 2008 DAYTON HAMVENTION

ARRL EXPO Coordinator Katie Breen, W1KRB, tells that plans for the ARRL
EXPO <http://www.arrl.org/expo> at this year's Dayton Hamvention
<http://www.hamvention.org> are coming together nicely. "Our current
focus is on the new look and feel of our space. In past Hamventions,
Forum Room 5 was located adjacent to the ARRL space. It is now moving to
the Silver Arena, giving us more room and the opportunity to spread out
a bit and do more creative things inside the EXPO."
```

Breen said that the ARRL EXPO team is looking at expanding the Field Services area to accommodate more programs and activities, including a larger meet-and-greet area for members to visit with ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, as well as the many other League officials and staff who will be on hand to answer any questions.

"The Field Services area will boast a large interactive display devoted to Logbook of the World <http://www.arrl.org/lotw> for real time demonstrations, as well as a question-and-answer session with ARRL Web and Software Development Manager and LoTW developer Jon Bloom, KE3Z," Breen added.

Personnel from the ARRL DXCC Branch will be on hand to check DX cards and applications for all ARRL awards; JARL personnel will check cards and applications for JARL awards. All cards, including old cards, cards from deleted countries and cards for 160 meters, will be eligible for checking. Applications will be limited to 120 cards; more cards will be checked as time and volunteer Card Checkers are available. See the DXCC Web site <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc> for the latest program information and current forms.

The ARRL Bookstore and Membership area will continue to buzz with activity, particularly with all of the new publications and products being offered this year. QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, will be on hand to sign your new copy of "ARRL's VHF Digital Handbook." QST Contributing Editor and author of the popular QST column "Hands-On Radio" H. Ward Silver, N0AX, will also be available to sign copies of his latest book, "ARRL's Hands-on Radio Experiments." The new desktop and pocket-sized versions of the "ARRL Repeater Directory" are sure to be a hit with their new handy indexing tabs on the cover, easier-to-read listings and "Key to Repeater Notes" located right up front.

Visit the Dayton Hamvention Web site <http://www.hamvention.org/hv2008/tickets/tickets.html> to buy tickets at the discounted rate. Hotel rooms are filling up, so don't think twice -- if you've always wanted to attend Hamvention and have never had the chance, make this year your year to go. Hotels in the Dayton area can be found at the Dayton Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Bureau Web site <http://www.daytoncvb.com/accommodations/>. Keep updated with ARRL EXPO activities on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/expo>.

==> W1AW TO CELEBRATE WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY AS NU1AW

Each year on the anniversary of its founding, April 18, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) marks World Amateur Radio Day <http://www.iaru.org/rel030418.html>. On this, the 83rd anniversary of its inaugural meeting in Paris, the IARU dedicates World Amateur Radio Day to the radio amateurs, educators and administrators who use Amateur Radio to support technology education in the classroom.

To call attention to the occasion in advance, ARRL staffers will be activating W1AW in the CQ WPX SSB Contest <http://www.cqwpx.com> this weekend (March 29-30) using the IARU club call sign NU1AW. By

celebrating the event, staffers hope to provide an opportunity for hams worldwide to put NU1AW in their logs, chase the WPX award <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cqworldwidewpxawards.html> and learn about HF propagation as the world turns through day and night not once, but twice! Springtime propagation near the equinox is enhanced on the HF bands, even during the Solar Cycle minimum, so it's worth taking a listen even if the HF bands have been quiet lately.

This year's theme for World Amateur Radio Day is "Amateur Radio: A Foundation of Technical Knowledge." What better way to express the theme than by engaging in one of the largest international radiosporting events. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, said, "If you haven't tried HF contesting or the WPX contest, the general format is to exchange a signal report (a simple '59' will do nicely) and a serial number (the number of the contact in the contest for you). The contest Web site spells out the way to compute your score, but the fun of this contest is to contact as many different prefixes as possible. For example, NU1AW counts as the NU1 prefix and KX9X counts as KX9. If you're new to HF, your prefix might be one sought after by those calling CQ! The WPX contest also features a 'Rookie' category for new radiosport folk, so be sure to send in your log as described by the rules -- it's easy!"

World Amateur Radio Day is also an opportunity for publicizing Amateur Radio to the interested public that may not be familiar with ham radio activities. Radiosport is an excellent way to introduce our service to teachers and students, as well. Competitive activities are an important focus for students to take the opportunity to ask questions about how signals get "from here to there" while watching hams make rapid-fire contacts around the world or even making a contact or two themselves, Kutzko said.

"NU1AW is not expected to be seriously competitive in the event," Kutzko explained, "but will make every attempt to be on the air as propagation warrants, so we hope to hear you marking the day and making World Amateur Radio Day a part of your springtime ham radio operation."

==> W1AW ENDOWMENT FUND DRIVE

It's an unimposing brick building, sitting on a small knoll in a residential area, yet not out of place. Accented with unique detail, the architecture of the building sets it back in time and apart from its surroundings. Round windows grace the end walls of the rectangular building and a formal entrance, reserved for special occasions, lies at the top of steps leading down to Main Street in Newington, Connecticut.

This simple and graceful building represents far more history and accomplishment than most passersby would imagine. Cross the threshold and you enter another world, one in which the magic of radio communication has spanned several generations. You can feel the spirit of Hiram Percy Maxim, whose "Old Betsy" rotary spark gap transmitter graces the vestibule. You can almost see HPM sitting at his desk in the

era of Amateur Radio when sparks flew and each contact was a rare event. And his spirit of adventure and experimentation -- and above all, service -- is still alive at W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial station.

The days and nights spent at W1AW by generations of ham radio operators have paved the way for all amateurs. They have left their mark and we are bound to continue the traditions that define our history. While we celebrate that history, W1AW embodies so much more. Through its round windows you can glimpse the future as well as the past.

Today, W1AW is a showcase for an Amateur Radio Service with capabilities that surpass what HPM, with one of the most imaginative minds of his generation, could have envisioned. A vintage AM station sits gracefully alongside D-STAR and other advanced digital technologies. A matrix of antenna connections and a wall of transceivers and amplifiers for nearly every band bring daily bulletins and Morse code practice to every corner of the country and the world. The guest operating suites showcase the most up-to-date equipment.

W1AW has come a long way since his Old Betsy ionized the air with every dit and dah from Hiram Percy Maxim's fist! He would be glad to see the station that W1AW has become. In recent years, since the ARRL launched the W1AW Endowment Fund, the station has been modernized without sacrificing its character and history. Income from the Endowment Fund has contributed to the replacement of aging equipment and antennas. New band pass filters, computers and cables have been installed.

The ARRL is continuing to build the permanent fund -- The W1AW Endowment Fund -- to cover W1AW annual operations and capital needs. The next steps to improve the station will be to upgrade software and continue to replace equipment that is at or near the end of its reliable service. In 2008, new transceivers and amplifiers in the three operating suites will be installed to enhance your experience when you visit and contact hams back home, or even when you work W1AW from your own shack.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said, "Your financial commitment in 2008 will help ARRL maintain W1AW as America's Amateur Radio station. Your generosity will send a strong message that you honor the history of W1AW and are committed to a bright future for W1AW as the heart of our service. ARRL will use your contribution to build a fund to ensure that the flagship station, W1AW, will continue to represent the best of all of us. If you haven't visited ARRL and W1AW recently, I hope you'll plan a trip to Newington and arrange to operate W1AW and see for yourself the magical role that W1AW plays for Amateur Radio."

If you you'd like to discuss your giving plans, please call the Development Office at 860-594-0397 or contact ARRL Development Director Mary Hobart, K1MMH, via e-mail <k1mmh@arrl.org>.

==> TWO NEW INSTRUCTORS JOIN THE TEACHERS INSTITUTE TEAM

The ARRL is pleased to announce the addition of two new instructors to the ARRL Teachers Institute staff this year. "For the first time this year, the ARRL Teachers Institute <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html> will offer 72 teachers the opportunity to explore and experience wireless technology basics, teaching of basic electronic concepts integral to micro controllers and robotics, bringing space technology into the classroom, radio astronomy basics, building a radio telescope, building and programming a robot and more," said ARRL Education Services Manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ. "In past years, Mark Spencer, WA8SME, taught each course, but this year, he will have a little help." In past years, the ARRL Teachers Institute was limited to 48 teachers.

Miguel Enriquez, KD7RPP, was first licensed as a Novice in 1976 and learned about electronics by building a Heathkit; he upgraded to an Amateur Extra class license in 2002. Enriquez teaches mathematics, statistics and psychology at Pueblo High School in Tucson, Arizona, and has 10 years of experience teaching at the community college and university levels. In 2005, Enriquez established an Amateur Radio club at Pueblo High School. Through donations of equipment and support from individuals and ARRL, the club grew to 26 members and five licensed students exploring satellite communications, ATV, robotics, HF, EchoLink and weather satellite imagery.

Nathan McCray, K9CPO, is a sixth grade teacher at East Elementary School in Zion, Illinois where he has integrated Amateur Radio, electronics and robotics into the his science and math curriculum. McCray's knowledge areas include electronics, computer programming, communications, Amateur Radio, computer systems, leadership and teaching. His background includes instruction at the community college level, as well experience as a senior instructor at a US Navy technical school. McCray has been licensed for 24 years and holds an Amateur Extra class license.

Enriquez and McCray will each co-teach a Teachers Institute session this summer with lead instructor Mark Spencer WA8SME. They are expected to take on lead instruction responsibilities in 2009. Six Teachers Institute sessions will be offered in 2008: April 7-10, Tampa, Florida, Museum of Science & Industry; June 16-19, Rocklin, California, Parallax Facility; June 25-28, Tucson, Arizona, Pueblo Magnet High School; July 14-17, Dayton, Ohio, P&R Communications; July 28-31 and August 4-7, Newington, Connecticut, ARRL Headquarters.

==> FCC FINES COLORADO COMPANY FOR SELLING "NON-CERTIFIED CITIZENS BAND (CB) TRANSCEIVERS"

On Friday, March 21, the FCC released a "Forfeiture Order" <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-597A1.pdf> in the amount of $7000 to CB Shop and More in Loveland, Colorado for "willful and repeated violations of Section 302(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act), and Section 2.803(a)(1) of the Commission's Rules." According to the FCC, CB Shop and More was selling a "non-certified Citizens Band ('CB') transceiver." According to the Forfeiture Order, the CB Shop and More has been in the Commission's

sights since at least 2002.

Section 302(b) of the Act states: "No person shall manufacture, import, sell, offer for sale, or ship devices or home electronic equipment and systems, or use devices, which fail to comply with regulations promulgated pursuant to this section." Section 2.803(a)(1) reads that "Except as provided elsewhere in this section, no person shall sell or lease, or offer for sale or lease (including advertising for sale or lease), or import, ship, or distribute for the purpose of selling or leasing or offering for sale or lease, any radio frequency device unless in the case of a device subject to certification such device has been authorized by the Commission."

On January 26, 2007, and March 8, 2007, the Denver Office received complaints alleging that CB Shop and More was selling non-certified CB transmitters and modified 10 meter band radios. On March 30, 2007, the Denver agents again visited CB Shop and More and noted that one of the CB transceivers offered for sale was a Galaxy Model DX99V and asked if they could purchase the transceiver. "The Denver agents subsequently identified themselves as FCC agents, and proceeded to interview the owner of the CB Shop. The owner acknowledged that he once received a Citation from the FCC, but he thought it was still legal for them to sell the referenced CB transceivers."

On August 28, 2007, the Denver Office issued a "Notice of Apparent Liability" (NAL) in the amount of $7000 to CB Shop and More. In the "NAL," the Denver Office found that CB Shop and More "apparently willfully and repeatedly violated Section 302(b) of the Act, and Section 2.803(a)(1) of the Rules by offering for sale a non-certified CB transceiver." CB Shop and More filed a response on September 17, 2007 (Response). In its "Response," CB Shop argued that "Galaxy Model DX99V does not require certification by the Commission because it is not a CB transceiver." Consequently, CB Shop and More argued that the forfeiture should be cancelled.

According to the FCC, the proposed forfeiture amount in this case was assessed in accordance with Section 503(b) of the Act, Section 1.80 of the Rules and "The Commission's Forfeiture Policy Statement and Amendment of Section 1.80 of the Rules to Incorporate the Forfeiture Guidelines." In examining CB Store and More's "Response," Section 503(b) of the Act requires that "the Commission take into account the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violation and, with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, and other such matters as justice may require."

CB radio transceivers are subject to the equipment certification process and must be certified and properly labeled prior to being marketed or sold in the United States. Unlike CB radio transceivers, radio transmitting equipment that transmits solely on Amateur Radio Service frequencies is not subject to equipment authorization requirements prior to manufacture or marketing; however, some radio transmitters that transmit in a portion of the 10 meter band of the Amateur Radio Service

(28.000-29.700 MHz) are equipped with rotary, toggle or pushbutton switches mounted externally on the unit, allowing operation in the CB bands after completion of minor and trivial internal modifications to the equipment.

To address these radios, the Commission adopted changes to the CB-type acceptance requirements by defining a CB transmitter as "a transmitter that operates or is intended to operate at a station authorized in the CB." Section 95.655(a) of the Rules also states that "no transmitter will be certificated for use in the CB service if it is equipped with a frequency capability not listed in Section 95.625 of the Rules" (CB transmitter channel frequencies). Also, the Commission's Office of General Counsel released a letter on the importation and marketing of Amateur Radio transmitters, clarifying that transmitters that "have a built-in capacity to operate on CB frequencies and can easily be altered to activate that capacity, such as by moving or removing a jumper plug or cutting a single wire" fall within the definition of a CB transmitter under Section 95.603(c) of the Rules and therefore require certification prior to marketing or importation. The Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology "evaluated Galaxy Model DX99V here and determined that it could easily be altered for use as a CB transceiver."

The FCC examined CB Shop and More's Response to the NAL "pursuant to the statutory factors above," and in conjunction with the Forfeiture Policy Statement. As a result of the review, the Commission concluded that CB Shop and More "willfully and repeatedly violated Section 302(b) of the Act, and Section 2.803(a)(1) of the Rules. Considering the entire record and the factors listed above, we find that neither reduction nor cancellation of the proposed $7,000 forfeiture is warranted." The Commission ordered that, pursuant to Section 503(b) of the Act and Sections 0.111, 0.311 and 1.80(f)(4) of the Commission's Rules, "CB Shop and More is liable for a monetary forfeiture in the amount of $7,000 for willfully and repeatedly violating Section 302(b) of the Act, and Section 2.803(a)(1) of the Rules."

==> MERLE GLUNT, W3OKN (SK)

Merle Glunt, W3OKN, of Mount Union, Pennsylvania, passed away March 16. He was 90. Glunt served as the ARRL consultant for the World Administrative Radio Conference 1979 (WARC-79), and through years of hard work, was instrumental in gaining the 12, 17 and 30 meter bands for the Amateur Service.

During World War II, Glunt was the senior radio intercept analyst in the Radio Intelligence Division of the Federal Communications Commission, specializing in worldwide German espionage radio communications and Philippine guerrilla radio circuits. He served as the FCC Radio Intelligence Division (RID) liaison with the Office of Strategic Services (now the CIA) and the British Security Coordination. After the war, he was in charge of US Naval communications security surveillance and traffic analysis. He was a member on the US Navy task force charged with the creation of the Armed Force Security Agency (now the National

Security Agency).

Returning to the FCC during the Korean conflict, Glunt later held such positions as Chief of the Treaty Branch and Assistant Chief Engineer, responsible for the Frequency Allocation and Treaty Division and International and Operations Division. He was active in US preparation for various national and international telecommunications conferences, serving frequently as a US spokesman at NATO and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and international conferences in Canada, Great Britain, Spain and Brazil. As a consequence, Glunt served as a member of US delegations that were responsible for the development of international radio terms and definitions, the Maritime Mobile and Amateur Radio Services rules and regulations. Sponsored by the Agency for International Development (USAID), he organized and participated in a two-man team of experts, at the request of the prime minister of Thailand, to study and make recommendations to reorganize the Thailand Radio Communications Activity to facilitate communications in that area during the Korean conflict.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, remembered Glunt "as a key figure in gaining allocations at 10, 18 and 24 MHz for the Amateur Service at the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC-79). Anyone who ever operated on what we used to call the 'WARC bands' owes Merle a great debt. In 1973, as Assistant Chief Engineer of the FCC, Merle participated in a four-member study group that developed a report demonstrating the desirability of these amateur allocations. After retiring from the FCC, Merle became a consultant to the ARRL and was the most regular and most visible ARRL presence at dozens of Washington meetings during domestic preparations for WARC-79. He earned a position on the US delegation to the conference in Geneva specifically to represent the Amateur Services, and he did so with great skill and professionalism. It was my good fortune to have Merle as a mentor."

Richard L. Baldwin, W1RU, ARRL General Manager at the time of WARC-79, said, "Merle believed that there was no limit to what you could accomplish so long as you didn't worry about who got the credit for it and Merle lived that philosophy. As a member of the FCC staff, as a participant in many ITU meetings, as an advisor to ARRL and IARU, Merle was influential in organizing quiet and effective support for the Amateur Service. Those of us who worked with Merle know what a privilege it was to benefit from his expertise. Speaking personally, Merle was a good friend for many, many years and I shall miss him."

Glunt was a Life Member of the ARRL, the Quarter Century Wireless Association, the Radio Intelligence Division Association, the Old Old Timers Club, the Society of Wireless Pioneers and the Veterans Wireless Operators Association. Also active in the National Traffic System, he was also a member of the FISTS CW Club, the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, the US Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association and the US Naval Institute.

A funeral service was held March 21. Memorial contributions in remembrance of Merle Glunt may be given to the Home Nursing Agency, 900 Bryan St, Huntingdon, PA 16652 or to the American Cancer Society, 10955 Raystown Rd, Ste B, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

==> ARRL PRESIDENT APPOINTED TO ARKANSAS STATE BOARD

Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe has appointed ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, to a four year term on the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority <http://www.asta.arkansas.gov/index.html>. Harrison's appointment was approved by the Arkansas Senate. "It's an honor to be appointed by Governor Beebe to serve the people of Arkansas in this area that recognizes not only my professional accomplishments, but those related to Amateur Radio as well," Harrison said. The Arkansas Science & Technology Authority was created by statute in 1983 with the mission to bring the benefits of science and advanced technology to the people and state of Arkansas. This mission is addressed by strategies to promote scientific research, technology development, business innovation, and math, science and engineering education.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "How the March Sun feels like May!" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: It is exciting to see heightened solar activity one week into spring. Currently, three sunspots are visible: 987, 988 and 989. The consensus says that all seem to be old Solar Cycle 23 spots. But with the three sunspot groups so close to the Sun's equator, it is hard to tell for certain. We know that Cycle 24 spots should have magnetic polarity opposing the magnetic signature of Cycle 23 sunspots, but this is also true for sunspots below the equator relative to sunspots above. Average sunspot numbers for the reporting week (Thursday through Wednesday) rose more than 18 points from the previous week, to 23.4. The average daily solar flux was up nearly six points to 75.4. The average geomagnetic indicators were unchanged, but this is because they fell from the start of last week and rose this week. Sunspot numbers for March 20 through 26 were 0, 0, 0, 14, 35, 52 and 63 with a mean of 23.4. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.4, 68.2, 69.6, 72, 79.4, 88.6, and 81.6 with a mean of 75.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 8, 5, 5, 8, 4, 4 and 27 with a mean of 8.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 7, 4, 4, 7, 2, 3 and 16 with a mean of 6.1. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you courtesy of Robert Browning.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, another running of the NCCC Sprint is on March 28. The CQ WW WPX Contest (SSB) is March 29-30. Next

weekend, look for the YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest (CW) on April 4-6. The SP DX Contest, the EA RTTY Contest, the QCWA Spring QSO Party, the Missouri QSO Party and the Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest are all on April 5-6. The RSGB RoPoCo 1 is April 6, the RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (CW) is April 7, the ARS Spartan Sprint is April 8 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is April 9. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, April 6, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, April 18, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* "Hints and Kinks": Do you have an idea or a simple project that has improved your operating? Maybe you've taken something commonly found around the home and developed a ham radio use for it? Why not share your hints with fellow hams in "Hints and Kinks," a monthly column in QST. If we publish your hint, you will receive $20. Send your hints via e-mail to <h&k@arrl.org> or to ARRL Headquarters, Attn: "Hints and Kinks," 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please include your name, call sign, complete mailing address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address. Items in "Hints and Kinks" have not been tested by QST or ARRL unless otherwise stated. Although we can't guarantee that hints published will work for every situation, QST makes every effort to screen for harmful information.

* Communications Academy Set for April: The 10th Annual Communications Academy will be April 5-6 at South Seattle Community College. Communications Academy is a non-profit coalition of volunteer communications teams put together to provide a high quality, professional-grade training opportunity for the various emergency

communications teams around the Pacific Northwest. By providing a once-a-year large-scale venue for training, volunteer communicators are exposed to topics in emergency management, communications techniques and protocols, real-life emergency responses, and other pertinent subjects, that might not otherwise be available to them. The Communications Academy is open to anyone with an interest in emergency communications, volunteer or professional. The presentations are designed to promote the development of knowledgeable, skilled emergency communicators who will support their local communities during a disaster or emergency response. There will be two keynote speakers on Saturday: King County Emergency Management Coordinator Rich Tokarzewski, and Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP, astronaut on the International Space Station. The Sunday 2008 keynote speaker is ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD. Registration for both days is $50; if participants can only attend one day, the fee is reduced to $30. All fees include lunch. For more information, please visit the Communications Academy Web site <http://www.commacademy.org/2008/index.php>.

* Notes from the DXCC Desk: ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the following operations have been approved for DXCC credit: the 2008 VP6DX DXpedition to Ducie Island; the 2008 TX5C DXpedition to Clipperton Island, and the 2007 S05A operation to Western Sahara have been approved for DXCC credit. If you have any questions about these operations, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk <dxcc@arrl.org>.

* Corrections and Clarifications: Last week, we reported that Emmett Freitas, AE6Z (ex-W6OIA) (SK), participated in the first-ever VE testing session. Freitas participated in the first-ever ARRL VE testing session.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org

==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
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* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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329. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1598 - March 28, 2008 - Prefeed - Final Version

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-28 20:55:10 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080328101455.03d61818@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 3150
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1598 - March 28, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1598 with a release date of Friday, March 28tht, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Washington state invites it ham radio community to join the Amber Alert system, a ham radio satellite gets a workout in a rescue radio drill, CQ Magazine says Kosovo is an awards country and Pierre

is here with a look at the future of hand held wireless communications. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1598 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: WASHINGTON STATE INVITES HAMS TO JOIN AMBER ALERT SYSTEM

Hams in Washington state are officially invited to join that states Amber Alert public notification system. Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, reports:

--

According to a news report aired on Spokane television station KHQ, there are some 27,000 licensed radio Amateurs in Washington to whom the states Emergency Management System and State Patrol have jointly invited to take part in the Washington's Amber Alert program.

Representing the local Spokane ham community on the KHQ newscast was Jack Tiley, AD7FO. Tiley is the Spokane County ARES and RACES Assistant Emergency Coordinator. He indicated that the advantage ham radio it that it has people on the roads with two way radios in their vehicles. If they

are aware of an Amber Alert, and then spot the fugitive car with a kidnap victim, that they can quickly call in the information to authorities. He also noted that hams have communications into areas of Spokane where cellphones simply do not work.

Washington State Trooper Jeff Seventhy appeared by telephone in the KHQ report. He said that the addition of the ham radio community to the program is truly welcome. He said that the main goal is to find kids who are missing as quickly as possible and that the more people out there helping, the better.

No mention was made as to whether any of the states ham radio repeaters plan to install decoders to permit direct relay of Amber Alert messages. Some hams in other states do not think doing so is legal, others

do but nobody has ever petitioned the FCC to get a definitive ruling. You

can see the entire KHQ report at http://tinyurl.com/28tpjc

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, in Los Angeles.

--

For those not aware, the nations Amber Alert System is named in honor of Amber Hagerman of Arlington, Texas. She was only 9 years old when she

was abducted on January 13, 1996. Four days later her body was found in a drainage ditch four miles from her home. Her kidnapping and murder still remain unsolved. (KMQ-TV)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMSAT USED IN HOSPITAL DRILL

Ham radio in space became rescue radio in space. This, when Shands hospital in Gainesville, Florida conducted a simulated emergency communications drill on Wednesday, March 12.

Students and faculty with the Gator Amateur Radio Club at the University of

Florida participated. The University of Florida Dental School club station, W4DFU, used their satellite ground station to distribute an e-mail

test message though the GO-32 amateur radio satellite. This provided proof

of concept in a disaster scenario to augment Amateur Radio voice communication if all telephone and internet services were down.

Keeping patient privacy laws in mind the ham radio operators could not transmit sensitive personal or health related data. However, in support of

the larger disaster scenario the ham radio satellite e-mail concept could be useful for getting list of supplies, reporting hazardous situations, and

status reports.

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CUBESAT PROPOSES D-STAR OPERATIONS ONLY

D-Star may soon be heading into space. This as a new European Amateur Radio CubeSat project is proposing to using the D-STAR digital-communication protocol for all aspects of its operations.

Called OUFTI-1, the bird will be built by students at the University of Liege in Belgium. Its purpose is to provide hands-on experience to students in the design, construction, and control of complete satellite systems. One that will ultimately serve as the basis for a variety of

space experiments.

The most innovative feature of OUFTI-1 will be the use of the Japan Amateur Radio League-developed D-Star digital-communication protocol. D-Star would be used as a means of satellite control and telemetry, as well as for relay communications for hams operators worldwide.

Future plans call for D-Star to be used to command on-orbit experiments as well. More on this exciting development is on-line at http://www.leodium.ulg.ac.be/cmsms/ (OUFTI-1 release)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS RESPOND TO GEORGIA TORNADOES

Meantime, ham radio was on scene when tornadoes swept through Georgia on Friday, March 14th. At 9:38 PM Eastern time an F-2 tornado touched down in downtown Atlanta. The National Weather Service said the twister was 6 miles long and 200 yards wide. An F-2 tornado has wind speeds from 111 to 135 miles per hour and the ability to tear roofs off houses, completely destroy mobile homes and snap apart tress as if they were toothpicks.

And as seen in T-V coverage the damage was extensive. Eyewitness accounts said that huge hunks of metal and broken glass were everywhere in Atlanta and that the Olympic Centennial Park was a mess. The high winds caused major damage to several other landmarks including the Georgia World Congress Center. Grady Memorial Hospital, the major trauma center for the Atlanta metro area, had its 100 foot tall communications tower blown off the hospital roof, disabling communications with emergency medical personnel.

According to the ARRL Letter, soon after the twister hit, hams sprang into action. According to ARRL Georgia Section Manager Susan Swiderski, AF4FO, William Chandler, KG4JTK, went from house to house in the wind and the rain checking for any injuries in the homes that had sustained damage by falling trees and debris. At the same time, he issued reports via radio to Barry Kanne, W4TGA, the Emergency Coordinator for neighboring DeKalb County regarding fallen trees, billboards, power lines and other threats to public safety. Kanne relayed this information to the Atlanta 911 center and to the Grady Hospital Emergency Operations Center.

In Effingham County, near Savannah on Georgia's coastline a tornado took down six power towers during the annual St Patrick's Day celebrations, and thrusting the community into total blackout conditions. A local 2 meter SKYWARN net, with Greg Tillman, N4VAD, serving as net control, provided a vital link for the staff at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah.

And there has already been words of praise for the volunteer work performed

by Georgia's ham radio community. Dr Ra Meguiar, N4RVM, a physician and senior hospital administrator, sent a letter of appreciation in recognition. He thanked the local hams for staying with us through the weather and the power outage. (ARRL, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: PHILADELPHIA NWS TO OFFER SKYWARN TRAINING

If you live in and around Philadelphia Pennsylvania or Southern New Jersey

and want to become a SKYWARN trained operator, listen up. The National Weather Service, in conjunction with the Skywarn Program of the Camden County Office of Emergency Management, will conduct the Basic Skywarn training program on Wednesday, April 9th. The venue is the Camden County Boathouse in Pennsauken with the class beginning at 7:00 pm Eastern time. To reserve a pace please pre register by calling 1-866-CAMDEN COUNTY. That's 1-866-226-3362. More information on the overall SKYWARN

program is on-line at www.nws.noaa.gov/skywarn/ (N2PHI via QRZ.com)

**

WITH NEWSLINE: SPEAKERS NEEDED FOR HAM RADIO TOWN MEETING

If you are planning to attend the 2008 Dayton Hamvention and would like to

be a speaker at one of the major sessions, then listen up. Have we got a deal for you.

Each year, we at the Amateur Radio Newsline host an open discussion forum called the Ham Radio Town Meeting. Its where we take a topic of interest,

bring in some experts and then open it up for discussion with the live studio audience. In years past we have covered such controversial topics as no code licensing, and the digitalization of ham radio to mention only a

few. But this year, we have decided to make it a truly fun two hours by taking a trip back in time to what some might call a kinder and gentler ham

radio.

This years topic is titled "Grandpa's Ham Radio - The Magic of Yesteryear." It will take a look back at the hobby over the past half-century to see where it was in the latter 1950's through the mid 1980's. We have already assembled some top names in ham radio whose career go back into the latter half of the 20th century, but we still have

a few spots open that need to be filled. First we need someone who remembers what it was like to take a Novice or Technician test by mail and

then face the local FCC office to upgrade to General or higher. We also need someone who can talkk on the old days of emergency communications before the advent of F-M and repeaters. Last but by no means least, we are

looking for a female ham who was first licensed as a teen or pre-teen in the early 1960's who can talk about what it was like to be one of the few gals in what was then a make dominated hobby.

If you are planning to be at Hamvention 2008, and would like to have a bit

of fun talking for about 10 minutes on any of these topics, please send us

an e-mail to newsline@arnewsline.org with the name of the topic, your contact information including a phone number and a short bio. We will get

back to you very quickly.

Again that e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org And whether you are a

participant or an audience member we hope to see you at the Ham Radio Town

Meting at Hamvention 2008. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W1JLI Memorial repeater serving Norwood, Massachusetts.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO AWARDS: CQ TO ACCEPT KOSOVO FOR ITS AWARDS PROGRAMS

CQ says that Kosovo is a country and effective immediately it is being added to the list of countries and territories recognized for CQ DX awards. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, has more:

--

Kosovo's status has been the subject of some controversy in the amateur radio community as well as the world community. Ham radio wise, the ARRL recently declared that the special operations from there on February 17 will count as Serbia, not Kosovo, in terms of DXCC credit. The League says

it is waiting for Kosovo to become a member state of the United Nations or

be issued a callsign block by the International Telecommunications Union before taking any action to recognize it as a separate DXCC entity.

While CQ the magazine's editor says that because it is their policy to grant credit for contacts with 'new' entities as of the date that their status changes, it has decided not to wait for U.N. action. Instead it will follow the lead of the United States and other countries that have recognized Kosovo's independence. Therefore it will grant credit for contacts made with stations in Kosovo as of its independence day. That date was February 17, 2008. Its also good news for those radio amateurs who have made contact with stations in Kosovo and are anxious to have it

recognized as a new nation by all.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

--

In a related development, on March 26th it was announced that the Worked All Europe award committee of the Deutsche Amateur Radio Club had voted to

add Kosovo to the W-A-E country list. The CQ World Wide DX Contests and the CQ DX Marathon both use a combination of the DXCC and WAE lists as the

basis for their country lists. Therefore, Kosovo will now be considered a separate entity for both the CQ DX Marathon held this past February 17th and for the upcoming CQ World Wide DX Contests, beginning with the RTTY DX

Contest this coming September 27th and 28th. (CQ)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: ZS6GCM ON HIS WAY TO MARION ISLAND

Some breaking news from the world of D0X. Petrus Kritzinger, ZS6GCM says that he will be active from Marion Island within the next month or so. Definitely by mid-May.

Hardly having touched soil in South Africa after his trip to Bouvet, Kritzinger is already on his way to Marion and will be operating as ZS8T. ZS6GCM says that he will be active on 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 12 and 10 meters using SSB, CW and RTTY. He expects to start operation in May

2008 depending on his work load on the island.

Further information on Krizinger's D-X exploits is on-line at www.sarl.org.za. We will have more D-X news at the end of this weeks newscast. (OPDX)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC PROPOES $7000 FINE FOR NON CERTIFIED CB GEAR

The FCC has proposed a $7000 fine against CB Shop & More, LLLP of Loveland,

Colorado. This for willful and repeated violations of of the Communications Act and the Commission's Rules by offering for sale non certified transceivers capable of operation in the 11 meter Citizens Radio

service.

The story is an all to familiar one. A retailer caught by the FCC selling

what it claims to be 10 meter ham radio gear but which the FCC says is easy

to make work on 11 meters. In this case it was transceivers carrying the Connex and Galaxy brand name labels.

CB Shop was specifically cited on a Galaxy transceiver. The FCC says that

the unit is really C-B sets disguised as ham gear in order to skirt their rules. CB Shop argues that the gear at issue and does not require Commission approval because it is not a CB transceiver. The company has hired a lawyer who already responded to the FCC's initial notice in this case. Chances are that this one could eventually wind up being adjudicated

in the federal courts. (FCC)

**

RADIO LAW: MOTOROLA KOREA FINED FOR FAIR TRADE VIOLATIONS

The subsidiary of one of the worlds largest telecommunications equipment providers has some legal issues overseas. Fred Vobbe, W8 HDU,

has the details:

--

South Korea's Fair Trade Commission has levied a fine of 696 million won, or $729,000, on Motorola Korea Inc.. This, for allegedly helping three South Korean companies collude to get orders from government agencies.

Leenos Corp. and two other South Korean companies were fined a combined 282

million won or $295,000 for their part in conspiring to coordinate their bidding prices for the supply of mobile telecommunications devices to state

police agencies, the antitrust agency said in a statement.

The three companies worked as sales agents for Motorola's trunked radio system, sold in the South Korean market. Motorola Korea, the South Korean unit of U.S. electronics manufacturer Motorola Inc. as might be expected, it criticized the Fair Trade Commission ruling.

--

No word whether any of the companies involved plan to appeal. (BN)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC SAYS NO APPARTMENT HOUSE CABLE EXCLUSIVITY

A divided panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit has refused to bar the Federal Communications Commission from enforcing rules that abolish exclusive contracts between cable companies and apartment building owners.

The request for stay, rejected in a February 28th order, was sought by the

National Cable and Telecommunications Association. The N-C-T-A wanted a stay pending appeal insofar as the FCC's rules voided existing contracts to

serve multiple dwelling units. Without issuing an opinion, the panel voted

2-1 to deny NCTA's request, stating that the trade group failed to satisfy

the stringent standards governing requests for such relief. (BD)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: THE DTV TRANSITION - AN UPDATE

In less than a year most of the nations analog television transmitters will

fall silent by government decree. And, if you want to keep watching your favorite shows, and are not subscribed to either cable or satellite, you will need a set top converter. Up till now these units have been scarcer than hens teeth and almost so expensive that you might think they were made

of gold. But that too is changing as Uncle Sam puts your tax money where his mouth is to subsidize the purchase of these units. Jack Parker, W8ISH,

is in Indianapolis, with more:

--

Come February 2009 your analog TV may be useless. On that day TV stations

across America will turn off their analog transmitters and broadcast only in digital. Viewers who get their television over the air from a roof mounted antenna or rabbit ears will turn on their sets and see nothing but

snow. That is, unless you have received a government issued coupon or bought a converter box on your own.

Each home may get two forty-dollar coupons to purchase an analog to digital converter box giving your old TV set a new lease on life. Most big

box electronic stores now carry the converter box as well as new High Definition TV's. As of Christmas 2007, most stores no longer carry analog

TV's.

While the move to high def will make your sitcoms look better and sound better, the Environmental Protection Agency has cause for concern. Discarded analog TV's contain about five pounds of lead. They

fear that could cause widespread contamination of America's landfills.

So, if you have a cable TV or satellite TV converter box then you are already ahead of the game. Like old ham radios, you can sit back and enjoy what you have while the broadcast television industry gets ready for

its February 2009 analog to digital transition.

Reporting for Amateur Radio Newsline, this is Jack Parker W8ISH.

--

So what now? Well if you watch TV with an antenna on your roof or rabbit ears on your set, now is the time to get you set top converter boxes coupons. The coupons will became available this past January 1, 2008 and you can get them through March 31, 2009. All households that own a TV using

over-the-air analog reception are eligible. A link to the needed application is on line at www.dtv.gov (W8ISH from FCC information)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: VO1VZ NEW LABRADOR SM

Some names in the news. First up is Charles Marsh, VO1VZ, who has been elected Radio Amateurs of Canada Section Manager for Newfoundland and Labrador. Marsh ran unopposed, thereby eliminating the need for a balloted

election. He begins a two-year term on July 1, 2008. (RAC)

**

RADIO HAPPENINGS: WHAT GOES UP MAY NOT STAY UP
The saga of the KFI AM radio tower rebuild in Los Angeles continues. This

after the installation of the stations new antenna structure grinds to a halt as the structure crumbles to the ground.
The story goes this way. Back on December 19, 2004 the main tower for KFI

A-M on 640 kHz, was hit by a private plane. The entire tower came crashing to the ground, folding into pieces but for the most part missing

the buildings around the tower base. About 2 weeks ago, construction of the

replacement tower finally got underway. But on Tuesday, March 18th, as the

new tower had almost reached the 300 foot mark when it suddenly collapsed. According to eye witness Dino Darling, K6RIX, afternoon around 2:00PM. Darling says that two levels of guy wires were in place. The third

set of guys were slowly being brought into place, when the failure occurred.

Thankfully, nobody was on the tower during this phase of the installation.

Only one person was hurt when the North East guy structure gave way. There

was some minor damage to a couple of trailers and the top 8' of the gin pole came through a warehouse roof.

Darling says that the third level guys were slacked at the time of the failure. Right now it looks as if the KFI tower installation is kind of back to square one. (K6RIX)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States

of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from

our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: RETIRED NEWSMAN ROBERT DYK, NW1A, SK

The changing of the guards in Amateur Radio continues. This with word that former ABC network correspondent and longtime Maine broadcaster Robert

Dyk, NW1A, died of cancer at his Falmouth home on March 22nd.

Dyk, who had a background in radio and television, was an anchor and reporter for WMTW from 1987 to 2004. He began his professional career as a

page at CBS television in Los Angeles and transferred to CBS News as an editorial assistant during the network's coverage of the 1960 Democratic

convention, working with broadcast luminaries such as Edward R. Murrow, Walter Cronkite and Don Hewitt.

Among the highlights of his career was being the only American network correspondent on the scene in Tehran in 1979 for the first four days of the

Iranian hostage crisis, when radical students stormed the U.S. embassy in support of Iran's revolution and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

He came out of retirement last year to work as a part-time anchor-reporter

for WGAN and was working as recently as last month. Robert Dyk, NW1A, was 71. (KT1B)

**

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: NEWSLINE REPORTER MICHAEL CORBIN, K0ACL - S.K.

And we are very sad to report the passing of one of the newest members of the Newsline family. Michael Corbin K0ACL, who had done reports for Newsline died of complications following a stroke on Wednesday, March 19th,

Michael Corbin, lived in Denver, Colorado, and was host of the nationally-syndicated talk radio program called A Closer Look.. He had become a member of the ham radio community in March of 2006. He had only joined the Amateur Radio Newline team earlier this year after volunteering

to cover ham radio happenings in the United States Mountain time zone area.

According to one report Michael suffered a massive stroke and was found in

his car at the side of a Denver road by a passer-by on Tuesday March 18th. He passed away the following day. Michael Corbin, K0ACL, was only age 52. (WY0X)

**

HAM RADIO FROM SPACE: SOLAR ACTIVITY IS SURGING

Spaceweather dot com says that solar activity is surging. Three large sunspots have materialized and at least one of them holds the promise of energy for strong solar flares.

An M2-class eruption on March 25th hurled a coronal mass ejection or C-M-E

into space and emitted radio bursts audible in shortwave receivers on Earth.

Translated into information useful to ham radio operators this all means you can expect some interesting propagation or lack of propagation depending on the bands you frequent and the amount of solar activity that actually develops in the coming days. (Spaceweather)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: GIVE THE CUSTOMER A NEW TV SET

Sometimes even big business takes the easy way out. Witness the recent incident where it appears as if UK telecommunications giant British Telecom bought a customer a new TV set. Because of interference. No, not

interference to the customers television reception. Rather because of the

amount of interference to operations that the old one was causing to broadband users. It seems that a faulty power supply in the old television

receiver was disrupting broadband services for a 200 meter radius. (MM0KGB)

**

WORLDBEAT - AFRICA: NEW FOUR BEACON ON 70 MHZ FROM GUNIA BISSAU

The SV2DCD blog carries a report that J5FOUR is a new 70 MHz 4 meter beacon

is now operational from Guinea-Bissau. According to CT1FFU, the J5FOUR beacon came to life on March 10th using 20 watts out to a 4 element yagi designed by YU7EF specifically for this project. The antenna is beaming 20 ï¿½
to cover all Europe.

Formerly the Portuguese colony of Portuguese Guinea, Gunia Bissau is one of

the smallest nations in continental Africa. It is bordered by Senegal to the north, Guinea to the south and east, with the Atlantic Ocean to its west.

And its not at all surprising to hear that a new 70 MHz beacon has taken to

the air from Gunia Bissau. Interest in 4 meters seems to be spreading with

a growing world-wide with the number of countries granting their Amateurs some form of access to 70 MHz increasing every month. (Southgate)

**

ON THE AIR: NEW 2 METER SSB NET IN CALIFORNIA

On the air, if you live in California and operate on VHF, this is for you.

A newly created Santa Barbara Two Meter SSB Roundtable meets every Wednesday evening at 8:30 PM Pacific time on 144 point 210 MHz on Upper Sideband. The net is dedicated to developing interest in the use of SSB

above 50 MHz. More information is available on-line at
www.n6kth.com/vhf (Press release)

**

WORLDBEAT - POLAND: CELECRATING 75 YEARS OF THE SP DX CONTEST

The 2008 SP DX Contest takes place on April 7th and 8th. This year edition

celebrates the 75th anniversary of the contest which was first organized
in 1933. To celebrate the Polish Amateur Radio Union and SP DX Club are
sponsoring a special Jubilee Award. Called the SP DX Contest - 75th
Anniversary Award it is available free to all licensed operators and SWL's

who meet specific criteria. Complete rules are on line at
www.spdxcontest.info. (SP8AJK - SP75N)

**

DX

In D-X, HB9BEI and HB9AUZ will be at work in Liberia through the end of
April. Expect activity only during their rare spare time. Listen ouut for

HB9BEI will on CW and the digital modes. HB9AUZ works only CW. QWSL as
directed on the air.

JD1BMM will be active from Minami Torishima on H-F working in
CW/SSB/digital modes through about April 7th. QSL via the JARL bureau or

to his address on QRZ.com.

F6BUM is going to activate several islands belonging to the Gulf of
Tongking South Group through April 2nd. QSL via the bureau to F6BUM.

Also, word that the ARRL DXCC desk has approved two recent operations for
DXCC credit These are the VP6DX DXpedition to Ducie Island and the TX5C
DXpedition to Clipperton Island. Both were considred as highly uccessful
operations in the world of D-X.

Lastly, this one looks like it could be the first ever no-code
DXpedition. This as several operators from Belgian and members of South
Africa's Radio Club Secunda activate as 7P8FC from Katse Dam in Lesotho.
The operation runs from March 27th to April 3rd and they will use SSB only

on 160 meters, SSB and RTTY on 80 metres and SSB, RTTY and PSK all other HF

bands except 30 metes. They do not appear not to be using any CW. Further
information can be obtained from www.7p8fc.be.

(Above from various DX newsletters and other ources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: NEW HT MAY COMBINE HAM RADIO - CELLPHONE - CB SET --
WAFFLE IRON AND MORE

And finally this week, cellular telephone technology has come a long, long

way since Motorola introduced its first lug along cellphone more than three

decades ago. Nowadays a cellphone not only fits in your pocket, but can also function as a camera, a music player and even provide Internet access

and e-mail on the go. When might some of this technology show up in our ham

rigs? Our April 1st roving reporter Pierre Pullinmyleg says that day may not be all that far away:

--

Eef you, like me, follow all of ze latest whistles and cowbells een technologee, zen you are most likely aware of ze new Sumsing Turbo 3000 XI

Multitasking cellular telephone recently seen demonstrated on zee YouToob.

Eef you have not seen eet, eet is not only a telephone, a camera and a museek player, but also a hair dryer, air pump, waffle iron and more.

I am pleased to announce excluseevelee here on Newsline zat in a unique technology-sharing agreement wis Sumsing, amateur radio manufacturer I-Ken-Ten-su-rola will soon introduce a multitasking handheld as well. Ze new unit will not only operate on all ham bands as well as C-B, F-R-S and MURS, but it also will include a talking GPS system zat will be able to tell you where to go -- and how to get zere -- in a dozen languages, as well as an S-W-R bridge, frequency counter, soldering iron, propane torch,

five-kilowatt amplifier, emergency power generator and seex-thousand candlepower spotlight.

Oh yes, it will also include a cell phone in case no one is listening when

you call for help on your local repeeeater. Ze new radio, from Sumsing and

Ken-Ten-su-rola, will sell for five dollars and ninety-five cents, and will

be called "Sumsing Else."

For ze Amateur Radio Newsline, zees ees Pierre Pullinmyleg reporting.

--

Until the "Sumsing Else" ham rig becomes available, you can see an actual demonstration of the amazing Turbo 3000 all purpose communications device on-line at www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYIOIM6hHBk

You may be amazed by what you see. Then again, maybe not.

And lest we forget -- a happy April Fools Day to one and all.

(Courtesy of the Annual April 1st Pierre Pullinmyleg Ever Roving Report News Service)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the

RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can

also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go we want to remind you that the nominating period for the 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year is now open. Any licensed radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in the United States or Canada is

eligible for the award. Full details and both downloadable and on-line nominating forms are in cyberspace at www dot YHOTY dot org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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330. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-28 21:46:32 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-8DF773.17053428032008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 3001

dplatt@radagast.org (Dave Platt) wrote:

> I hope you'll pardon me when I ask "Which deity spoke to you and laid
> down those particular points of Absolute Truth?". What's all this "We
> need to" and "no more and no less" and "xxx is better" and "yyy is
> inferior" and "... is also considered better"?
>
> If you're willing to state those as _your_ personal opinions of the
> basis on which two partially-competing methods of encoding and
> communicating _should_ be compared (and that no other criteria need
> apply), I have no objection at all.
>
> I do, however, object in principle to the idea that these are the
> highest (or only) criteria, or that they're somehow sacred.

I think of them as matters of economics and practical reality. To
wit: it should be obvious that we cannot have every possible mode
available on every band. Some limits must be imposed on the number of
modes and the way in which they share limited bandwidth. This is one of
the reasons why the FCC exists. This is one of the (ostensible) reasons
why digital modes were not allowed for many years.

> And, I also object to the idea (which I think is implied by the tone
> of your other messages - please correct me if I'm wrong) that the
> choice of communication methods is somehow exclusive... that the fact
> that a method which is superior (by your criteria, perhaps) means that
> other methods that you find inferior should be wiped out or
> abandoned... or that people who prefer to use the other methods are
> somehow responsible for Holding Back The True Progress.
>
> My own perspective is that people may have *many* criteria for chosing
> a means of communication (by radio or otherwise). Bandwidth, or
> bandwidth*reliability is not the sole criterion that people use, in
> practice, nor do I think there's any reason that it should be. Life
> is full of tradeoffs between different criteria - information
> bandwidth per Hz of spectrum, robustness of encoding, suitability for
> multi-point communication, resistance to different sorts of
> interference, cost of equipment, availability of equipment, and so
> forth. I communicate with my wife by voice, by email, by telephone,
> by scribbling half-illegible notes on scraps of paper, and by bringing
> home flowers... different methods, for different types of information-
> passing under varying conditions.

Again, if you can't fit every possible mode onto a given band (by the
way, every possible mode means exactly that, not just modes that are

commonly used by hams - otherwise, we would have APCO 25, in addition to DV, to give just one example). Therefore, we must prioritize; some modes will be authorized, while some other modes will be excluded. This goes back to my claim that it is a matter of economics; it represents a managed resource (a limited "supply") in the face of potentially unlimited demand. It is from that perspective that I claim that old time Morse zealots are impeding progress and are attempting to arrogate to themselves a finite public good, much like cattlemen grazing their cows on public grasslands while excluding others from using those public lands for other purposes.

> In commercial communications and public-safety, bandwidth (or payload)
> and reliability and cost all play a big factor. In military
> communications, reliability and security seem big, bandwidth is
> important, and cost (of equipment at least) tends to take a back seat.
>
> Ham radio is a much more diverse motivation-space. Some people
> optimize their operations as for public safety and commercial (the
> EMCOM folks), others for "most distance per watt" or "per dollar spent
> on the radio" (QRP folks, homebrewers, and other experimenters),
> others for portability, others for plain ordinary fun (according to
> their own definition of fun... for some folks, using single-frequency
> crystal-oscillator transmitters is just what gets their rocks off :-)
>
> There's plenty of room in ham radio for different modes of operation.
> Saying that we all *have* to abandon Morse (or SSB, or voice, or AM,
> or...) and strap computers to all of our rigs, in order to encourage
> experimentation and use with newer modes, is really missing the
> point... it's implicitly denying a large percentage of hams the right
> to explore those aspects of ham radio that *they* find interesting and
> worthwhile.
>
> If we were all being paid to do all of this stuff, then the people
> paying us would perhaps have the right to set our agendas. We aren't
> (and by the rules of the game, cannot be... at least, not here in the
> US) and so we get to set our own priorities, operating-mode and
> otherwise.

Considering the small, aggregate size of the HF bands, can you offer some suggestions as to how many modes can plausibly 'share the road?' What modes must be forbidden so that the modes that you like can be allowed? If you say that there are none, then perhaps we can have APCO 25, DV and DD on HF? What do you say to the hams who claim that AM shouldn't be used on HF, because it uses to much bandwidth?

> [And, for the record - I operate CW only rarely, and have enjoyed
> experimenting with packet and the newer digital modes quite a bit.]

--
Klystron

331. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-29 00:46:48 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <c3539344-2612-4253-b3ac-300fe1860d5e@b64g2000hsa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3002

On Mar 28, 4:46 pm, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:
> dpl...@radagast.org (Dave Platt) wrote:
>
> > I do, however, object in principle to the idea that these are the
> > highest (or only) criteria, or that they're somehow sacred.
>
> I think of them as matters of economics and practical r
eality. To
> wit: it should be obvious that we cannot have every possible mode
> available on every band.

Well, not every *possible* mode.

> Some limits must be imposed on the number of
> modes and the way in which they share limited bandwidth. This is > one of
the reasons why the FCC exists.

Of course. But there are other factors, such as how popular a mode is,
how much bandwidth it occupies, how it is implemented, etc.

>This is one of the (ostensible) reasons
> why digital modes were not allowed for many years.

Please elaborate, particularly on the dates and where you got thise
idea.

The information I have seen says that the main reason FCC limited the
modes amateurs could use was that FCC has to be able to monitor
amateur transmissions. So if they allowed hams to use a new mode,
their monitoring stations had to be able to decode it.

45.45 baud 5 level Baudot RTTY was authorized for amateurs in the USA
about 1948. Analog SSTV (an image mode) followed in the very early
1960s.

In the late 1970s-early 1980s, new monitoring equipment made it
possible for FCC to decode lots of modes, so US amateurs were
authorized to use ASCII RTTY, AMTOR, packet, and lots of other modes.
We're talking 20-25 years.

Of course not all modes are well-adapted to all bands. HF packet as
used by amateurs turned out to be a bit of a bust, due to being ill-
suited to HF propagation. PSK31, OTOH, has been a big hit.

The biggest impediment to digital modes in the ARS, IMHO, is the cost
of implementing them. Inexpensive PCs and "soundcard modes" have
changed all that.

> > And, I also object to the idea (which I think is implied by the tone
> > of your other messages - please correct me if I'm wrong) that
> > the
> > choice of communication methods is somehow exclusive...
> > that the fact
> > that a method which is superior (by your criteria, perhaps)
> > means that
> > other methods that you find inferior should be wiped out or
> > abandoned... or that people who prefer to use the other
> > methods are
> > somehow responsible for Holding Back The True Progress.
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> > My own perspective is that people may have *many* criteria
> > for chosing
> > a means of communication (by radio or otherwise). &#65533;
> > Bandwidth, or
> > bandwidth*reliability is not the sole criterion that people use, in
> > practice, nor do I think there's any reason that it should be. &#65533;
Life
> > is full of tradeoffs between different criteria - information
> > bandwidth per Hz of spectrum, robustness of encoding,
> > suitability for
> > multi-point communication, resistance to different sorts of
> > interference, cost of equipment, availability of equipment,
> > and so
> > forth. &#65533;I communicate with my wife by voice, by email, by
> > telephone,
> > by scribbling half-illegible notes on scraps of paper,
> > and by bringing
> > home flowers... different methods, for different
> > types of information-
> > passing under varying conditions.
>
> &#65533; &#65533;Again, if you can't fit every possible mode onto a give
n
> band (by the
> way, every possible mode means exactly that,
> not just modes that are
> commonly used by hams - otherwise, we would have APCO 25,
> in addition to
> DV, to give just one example). Therefore, we must prioritize;
> some modes
> will be authorized, while some other modes will be excluded.
> This goes
> back to my claim that it is a matter of economics; it represents a
> managed resource (a limited "supply") in the face of potentially
> unlimited demand.

With all due respect, I think you are avoiding the question. Under
current FCC rules, almost any conceivable mode can be used on the

amateur bands if it is properly documented, does not involve
encryption, and is reasonably spectrum-efficient.

Look at how PSK31 came to amateur radio for an example. It was
developed by hams, not manufacturers. It's relatively easy to
implement without a big investment of special equipment, it's well-
adapted to HF conditions and spectrum-efficient. Most of all, a
considerable number of hams find it to be fun.

> It is from that perspective that I claim that old time
> Morse zealots are impeding progress and are attempting to
> arrogate to
> themselves a finite public good, much like cattlemen grazing
> their cows
> on public grasslands while excluding others from using
> those public
> lands for other purposes.

How have "Morse zealots" done what you claim? In the US regulations,
there are no Morse-code-only segments of the HF bands - all are shared
with either data modes or voice modes. Every Hz. And it's been that
way at least 46 years.

Except for 2.5% of 6 and 2 meters, all of VHF/UHF and 160 are wide
open to all authorized modes for the various bands.

How are Morse-Code-using hams doing what you claim?

The cows-grazing-on-public-land analogy isn't really valid, because
amateur radio isn't a commercial venture, nor does the use of one mode
damage the band for use by others at a later time.

Try this one:

The amateur bands are like a public park system. Some are small, some
are large, some easily accessible, some remote. Depending on their
characteristics, different parks/bands are used for different
activities at different times. The question is how to best allocate
the resources to accomodate those who want to use them.

> > In commercial communications and public-safety,
> > bandwidth (or payload)
> > and reliability and cost all play a big factor. In military
> > communications, reliability and security seem big, bandwidth is
> > important, and cost (of equipment at least) tends
> > to take a back seat.
>
> > Ham radio is a much more diverse motivation-space.
> > Some people
> > optimize their operations as for public safety and
> > commercial (the
> > EMCOM folks), others for "most distance per watt"
> > or "per dollar spent

> > on the radio" (QRP folks, homebrewers, and other
> > experimenters),
> > others for portability, others for plain ordinary fun (according to
> > their own definition of fun... for some folks,
> > using single-frequency
> > crystal-oscillator transmitters is just what gets their rocks off :-)

Nice pun!

> > There's plenty of room in ham radio for different modes of
> > operation.
> > Saying that we all *have* to abandon Morse (or SSB, or
> > voice, or AM,
> > or...) and strap computers to all of our rigs, in order to
> > encourage
> > experimentation and use with newer modes, is really missing the
> > point... it's implicitly denying a large percentage of hams
> > the right
> > to explore those aspects of ham radio that *they*
> > find interesting and worthwhile.

That's exactly the point. Well worth repeating!

> > If we were all being paid to do all of this stuff, then the people
> > paying us would perhaps have the right to set our
> > agendas. ⊠We aren't
> > (and by the rules of the game, cannot be... at least,
> > not here in the
> > US) and so we get to set our own priorities, operating-mode and
> > otherwise.
>
> ⊠ ⊠Considering the small, aggregate size of the HF bands,
> can you offer
> some suggestions as to how many modes can plausibly
> 'share the road?'

That depends on the modes and their characteristics. For example, it's
not a good idea to allow 30 kHz FM voice on 40 meters, because that
band is only 300 kHz wide, but the same mode is fine for VHF/UHF
bands.

> What modes must be forbidden so that the modes that
> you like can be allowed?

> If you say that there are none, then perhaps we can
> have APCO 25, DV and DD on HF?

If they meet the criteria of not being encrypted, being suitable
for HF use, and being reasonably spectrum-efficient, why not?

As long as they are grouped with similar modes, what's the problem?

> What do you say to the hams who claim that AM
> shouldn't be used on HF, because it uses to much bandwidth?

That depends on how "too much bandwidth" is defined. Certainly transmitting hi-fi AM that's 10-15 kHz wide on a busy HF band is spectrum-inefficient and inconsiderate. OTOH, good-quality voice AM can be had in 6 kHz or so, and when a band is not too busy, why not use it? Similar

It seems odd that "Morse zealots", whose favorite mode uses only a few hundred Hz at most, are being held responsible for "impeding progress", when most of the HF amateur bandspace in the US are allocated to voice modes that take up much more spectrum.

Should hams stop using Morse Code? Or any other mode they now use?

73 de Jim, N2EY

332. Re: WPM to BPS calculation

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-29 03:25:55 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <83o0c5-3n5.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 3003

In article <xxx-8DF773.17053428032008@news.verizon.net>,
Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> I think of them as matters of economics and practical reality. To
>wit: it should be obvious that we cannot have every possible mode
>available on every band.

We can't have all of the modes, simultaneously, with an unlimited number of users, on every band band, at the same time. Bandwidth is limited - granted.

It does not follow from that, that we must be limited to a strictly-enumerated set of modes at all times. The FCC used to assert that this was the case, but has eliminated many of those constraints in favor of an approach which favors more experimentation and development.

> Some limits must be imposed on the number of
>modes and the way in which they share limited bandwidth.

I agree that a policy that users of the band must share bandwidth in a reasonable and respectful way, is reasonable and proper.

I do *not* agree that this necessitates that only a specific set of modes be allowed.

> Again, if you can't fit every possible mode onto a given band (by the
>way, every possible mode means exactly that, not just modes that are
>commonly used by hams - otherwise, we would have APCO 25, in addition to
>DV, to give just one example). Therefore, we must prioritize; some modes
>will be authorized, while some other modes will be excluded. This goes
>back to my claim that it is a matter of economics; it represents a
>managed resource (a limited "supply") in the face of potentially
>unlimited demand. It is from that perspective that I claim that old time
>Morse zealots are impeding progress and are attempting to arrogate to
>themselves a finite public good, much like cattlemen grazing their cows
>on public grasslands while excluding others from using those public
>lands for other purposes.

The portion of the band which is restricted to CW-only by the FCC is *tiny* - small portions of the 2- and 6-meter bands, plus a portion of 80 which is CW-only for Novices and Technicians but not for anyone else.

Almost all of the non-phone portions of the band are *already* open to various digital modulations (per the FCC regs and per the ARRL bandplans and gentlepersons' agreements), and are quite extensively used in that fashion today.

>From where I sit out here in the cheap seats, your own attitude strikes me as more zealous, and less willing to cooperate and share, than what I observe in the people I know who operate a lot of CW.

> Considering the small, aggregate size of the HF bands, can you offer >some suggestions as to how many modes can plausibly 'share the road?'

I don't think it's a question which can meaningfully be measured in "number of modes". Some modes co-exist well, others do not.

I think it's a question of the number of _users_ of the band, at any given time, and the type and quality of the conversations that they can carry on.

>What modes must be forbidden so that the modes that you like can be >allowed?

Well, I tend to agree with the FCC that broad-spectrum audio (e.g. SSB with a DC-to-10-kHz bandwidth, or [worse] AM with a similar passband) is excessively wide - it's using more bandwidth than is reasonable for the conversation in question.

> If you say that there are none, then perhaps we can have APCO >25, DV and DD on HF? What do you say to the hams who claim that AM >shouldn't be used on HF, because it uses to much bandwidth?

I think there's room for AM, and that SSB is more bandwidth-efficient, and that the de facto practice of having AM operators voluntarily hang out in a sub-portion of the HF band works pretty well.

I guess I just don't see why you're so intent on suppressing a mode of operation which allows quite a lot of individual operators to carry on multiple independent conversations within a limited bandwidth, at one of the lowest potential equipment costs per operator of any mode.

Granted, other modes may get more *total* data traffic through the same amount of spectrum width... but these modes tend to use more spectrum width per conversation/session, and you end up with less individual users of the band at any given time.

Applying a purely "economic" model to the ham spectrum (i.e. most traffic per available Hz of bandwidth) rather misses the point, I think, because it completely discounts all of the other values (personal enjoyment, learning, development of personal skills and knowledge) in ham radio. Ham radio is *NOT* a commercial service with just a single agenda.

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

333. Band plans

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-29 13:20:38 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <MvWdnX7uRpSM33PanZ2dnUVZ_sWdnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 3004

The recent discussions got me to thinking about how the current bands are partitioned. Taking a quick look at the current US allocations indicates these portions of the HF bands in which phone is not allowed (what I would have called "CW bands" in another era):

160: None
80: 3500-3600 20%
40: 7000-7125 41%
30: None
20: 14100-14150 42%
17: 18068-18110 42%
15: 21000-21200 44%
12: 24890-24940 40%
10: 28000-28300 18%

The conclusion is that, with some exceptions, an individual who is only interested in running SSB is excluded from around 40% of most of the US allocations. Is that reasonable? Is this bandplan maximizing the use of the resource?

One definition of "optimum allocation" is providing the same usability for operators of every mode. In order to accomplish this, one needs to know the number of people who wish to use each mode. It's not possible to directly and accurately obtain this number, but perhaps counting the number of QSOs in progress might approximate it.

In the absence of any data, I'm not going to speculate about whether 40% is a reasonable number. Have there been any attempts at measuring utilization in an objective way?

73, Steve KB9X

334. Re: Band plans

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-29 15:00:32 UTC
From: Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com>
Message-ID: <zPsHj.22886$0o7.14372@newssvr13.news.prodigy.net>
Source record: 3005

Steve Bonine wrote:
> In the absence of any data, I'm not going to speculate about whether 40%
> is a reasonable number. Have there been any attempts at measuring
> utilization in an objective way?

How about narrow band modes on the lower 1/3 of a band,
wide band on the upper 1/3, and any mode allowed in the
middle 1/3? It would be interesting to see what happens
in the middle 1/3.
--
73, Cecil http://www.w5dxp.com

335. Re: Band plans

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-29 15:50:44 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <a638939a-6a1d-4781-b470-9207ac90b181@e39g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3006

On Mar 29, 8:20 am, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> The recent discussions got me to thinking about how the current bands
> are partitioned. Taking a quick look at the current US allocation
s
> indicates these portions of the HF bands in which phone is not allowed:

> 160: None
> 80: 3500-3600 20%
> 40: 7000-7125 41%
> 30: None
> 20: 14100-14150 42%

Typo Alert: should be 14000-14150

> 17: 18068-18110 42%
> 15: 21000-21200 44%
> 12: 24890-24940 40%
> 10: 28000-28300 18%
>
> The conclusion is that, with some exceptions, an individual who is > only
interested in running SSB is excluded from around 40% of
> most of the US allocations.

40%? Let's do the math...

Setting aside the five channels called 60 meters, an Extra Class ham
in Region 2 has 3750 kHz of spectrum available in 9 bands:

160: 1800-2000
80/75: 3500-4000
40: 7000-7300
30: 10100-10150
20: 14000-14350
17: 18068-18168
15: 21000-21450
12: 24890-24990
10: 28000-29700

Of that 3750 kHz, 2743 kHz is available for voice modes, most
typically SSB and AM. That's 73.1% of the available HF/MF amateur
spectrum available for voice modes, and only 26.9% unavailable.

26.9%, not 40%.

Of course 160, 80/75 and 10 meters skew the numbers slightly.

But there is another factor to consider: DX 'phone.

It is common for DX stations to work 'phone down below the US 'phone bands, to avoid QRM from US hams, who greatly outnumber the DX. So when a band is open, the top end of the non-phone segments are frequently full of DX phone QSOs, and unusable by US CW/data operators. Every time the US phone subbands have been widened, the 'phone DXers have moved lower too.

The end result of this is that, when the bands are open for DX, the amount of band available to non-phone modes is effectively reduced below that 26.9%

> Is that reasonable? Is this bandplan maximizing the use
> of the resource?

Depends what you mean by "maximize". The digital/data folks are squeezed into only 1217 kHz of the 3750, which is 32.45%.

> One definition of "optimum allocation" is providing the
> same usability for operators of every mode.

But is that a definition we hams should use without question? Should the users of wide modes be rewarded by getting more and more of a limited band?

Imagine if the price you paid for gas depended on the MPG of the car you drove, with low MPG cars paying less and high MPG cars paying more. Or suppose gasoline were rationed, and ration cards distributed the same way. Would that make the best use of a limited fuel supply, by rewarding those who use the most?

> In order to accomplish this, one needs to
> know the number of people who wish to use each mode.
> It's not possible
> to directly and accurately obtain this number,
> but perhaps counting the
> number of QSOs in progress might approximate it.

That depends on when a sample is taken, though. During a contest or other operating activity that favors one mode, the results may be very unrepresentative.

> In the absence of any data, I'm not going to speculate about
> whether 40%
> is a reasonable number. Have there been any attempts at
> measuring
> utilization in an objective way?

One way to consider is how the bands are used in a situation like Field Day, where voice, data and Morse Code modes are all in use simultaneously, and records of how many QSOs actually resulted available. Of course the results are somewhat skewed by the fact that 12, 17 and 30 meters are not part of Field Day, that FD isn't just HF, and the different skill levels needed to use various modes.

73 de Jim, N2EY

336. Re: Band plans

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-29 15:51:22 UTC
From: crn@NOSPAM.netunix.com
Message-ID: <47ee5eea$0$715$bed64819@news.gradwell.net>
Source record: 3007

Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
>
> One definition of "optimum allocation" is providing the same usability
> for operators of every mode. In order to accomplish this, one needs to
> know the number of people who wish to use each mode. It's not possible
> to directly and accurately obtain this number, but perhaps counting the
> number of QSOs in progress might approximate it.
>
> In the absence of any data, I'm not going to speculate about whether 40%
> is a reasonable number. Have there been any attempts at measuring
> utilization in an objective way?

The USA band restrictions serve a very usefull purpose for the rest of
the world. It gives us a chance of finding a frequency that is not
full of american chatter. If the band is open the USA general section
is almost invariably solid with high power QRM.

g4jci

337. Re: Band plans

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-29 18:18:43 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <xJvHj.828$NU2.171@news01.roc.ny>
Source record: 3008

crn@NOSPAM.netunix.com wrote:
> Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
>> One definition of "optimum allocation" is providing the same usability
>> for operators of every mode. In order to accomplish this, one needs to
>> know the number of people who wish to use each mode. It's not possible
>> to directly and accurately obtain this number, but perhaps counting the
>> number of QSOs in progress might approximate it.
>>
>> In the absence of any data, I'm not going to speculate about whether 40%
>> is a reasonable number. Have there been any attempts at measuring
>> utilization in an objective way?
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> The USA band restrictions serve a very usefull purpose for the rest of
> the world. It gives us a chance of finding a frequency that is not
> full of american chatter. If the band is open the USA general section
> is almost invariably solid with high power QRM.
>
> g4jci

That's a double-bladed sword you're waving there. Plenty of foreign phone signals are to be found in the upper portions of various bands. Where to the U.S. radio amateurs go to avoid the non-U.S. chatter.

I don't think there is any was to determine whether U.S. ops are running high power or not. Propagation may favor one area over another; someone might be running low power with an outstanding antenna system. Defining the mere presence of signals as "QRM" might cause some to take offense.

One question which begs asking is why foreign phone stations should have a shelter from U.S. stations when U.S. stations have no similar shelter available to them? Another puzzler is why foreign CW stations seem to get by just fine without a similar refuge from Americans.

Dave K8MN

338. Re: Band plans

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-29 19:02:35 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <6776fcb5-bae1-4ff9-acfc-c163de6f54cf@k13g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3009

On Mar 29, 1:18 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:

> One question which begs asking is why foreign
> phone stations should have
> a shelter from U.S. stations when U.S. stations
> have no similar shelter
> available to them?

Because there are so many more US stations than foreign ones in any particular country (except Japan 4th class). Working the USA is 1 DXCC country.

Here's a similar question: Why do 'phone stations need to be protected from data signals but CW signals don't need that protection? IOW, why not allow data modes in the 'phone bands?

73 de Jim, N2EY

339. Re: Band plans

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-31 00:37:58 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <lnWHj.916$Cn4.773@news02.roc.ny>
Source record: 3010

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Mar 29, 1:18 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>
>> One question which begs asking is why foreign
>> phone stations should have
>> a shelter from U.S. stations when U.S. stations
>> have no similar shelter
>> available to them?
>
> Because there are so many more US stations than foreign ones in any
> particular country (except Japan 4th class). Working the USA is 1 DXCC
> country.

That's an explanation, though perhaps not a valid one. We W's manage to work all the DX there is to work despite the presence of strong QRM from W QRM--both those who are ragchewing and those who are working DX. Things aren't the same as in the old days when many DX stations were rock bound or ran lesser quality equipment or had less than optimal antenna systems. In fact much of the world runs the same Kenwood, Icom, Yaesu and Ten-Tec equipment as the American stations. The garden variety foreign stations sometimes QRM's the rare stuff. Many of the garden variety foreigners are also in the chase for that same rare DX. The time is long past for divided phone band segments. I believe that the phone bands should be harmonized worldwide.

> Here's a similar question: Why do 'phone stations need to be protected
> from data signals but CW signals don't need that protection? IOW, why
> not allow data modes in the 'phone bands?

I think the answer to that is that CW ops are typically using narrow receiving filters while phone ops may be listening through 2.4 or 2.7 KHz filters. A little of that digital signal cacophony can wreak havoc with a phone QSO.

Dave K8MN

340. Re: Band plans

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-31 02:44:59 UTC
From: "Paul W. Schleck" <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>
Message-ID: <47f03942$0$29641$540ea2cf@novia.net>
Source record: 3011

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
Hash: SHA1

In <6776fcb5-bae1-4ff9-acfc-c163de6f54cf@k13g2000hse.googlegroups.com> N2EY@aol.com writes:

[...]

> Working the USA is 1 DXCC country.

[...]

Actually, according to the DXCC list:

http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/dxcclist.txt

somewhere between 3 and 19 DXCC "entities," depending on how you define "USA."

Three, if you consider only the 50 states:

K,W,N,AA-AK United States of America
KL7 Alaska
KH6-7 Hawaii

Fifteen more if you consider territories, possessions, and commonwealths:

KH0 Mariana Islands
KH1 Baker, Howland Islands
KH2 Guam
KH3 Johnston Island
KH4 Midway Island
KH5 Palmyra, Jarvis Islands
KH5/K Kingman Reef
KH7K Kure Island
KH8 American Samoa
KH8 Swains Island
KH9 Wake Island
KP1 Navassa Island
KP2 U.S. Virgin Islands
KP3,4 Puerto Rico
KP5 Desecheo Island

And then of course there's this one, under U.S. control, but energetically debated over whether it's a "jurisdiction" of the United States:

KG4 Guantanamo Bay

- --
73, Paul W. Schleck, K3FU
pschleck@novia.net
http://www.novia.net/~pschleck/
Finger pschleck@novia.net for PGP Public Key

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----
Version: GnuPG v1.4.5 (SunOS)

iD8DBQFH8DkO6Pj0az779o4RAvzKAJwM3eNKVtrsHya37HKjtoexGrpNUQCgx0Ae
HFWX7VrY7xr7bmGLRWPpMro=
=eItq
-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----

341. Re: Band plans

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-31 02:50:16 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <cfbcdccb-6daf-4386-99cf-21b84d0fa945@m44g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3012

On Mar 30, 7:37 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Mar 29, 1:18 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:

> >> One question which begs asking is why foreign
> >> phone stations should have
> >> a shelter from U.S. stations when U.S. stations
> >> have no similar shelter
> >> available to them?

> > Because there are so many more US stations
> > than foreign ones in any
> > particular country (except Japan 4th class).
> > Working the USA is 1 DXCC
> > country.
>
> That's an explanation, though perhaps not a valid one.
> We W's manage to
> work all the DX there is to work despite the presence
> of strong QRM from
> W QRM--both those who are ragchewing and those who are
> working DX.

Sort of. Remember that often the DX is transmitting outside the US
'phone subband.

> Things aren't the same as in the old days when
> many DX stations were
> rock bound or ran lesser quality equipment or had
> less than optimal
> antenna systems. In fact much of the world runs
> the same Kenwood, Icom,
> Yaesu and Ten-Tec equipment as the American stations.

Good point!

> The garden
> variety foreign stations sometimes QRM's the rare stuff. Many
> of the
> garden variety foreigners are also in the chase for that
> same rare DX.

Agreed.

> The time is long past for divided phone band segments.
> I believe that

> the phone bands should be harmonized worldwide.

Be careful what you ask for.

In much if not most of the rest of the world, there are no subbands-by-mode. The amateur regs simply state which modes are allowed on each band, and leave the rest up to gentleman's agreements.

Harmonizing the US phone subbands to the rest of the world would mean either imposing US regs on other countries, or removing subbands-by-modes from US regs.

It seems to me that countries which do not have subbands-by-mode would resist following the US example and adding them, if for no other reason than that they'd no longer have a refuge from US 'phone QRM.

Proposals to remove subbands-by-mode from the US regs have met with clear and strong opposition from US hams. The recent proposal from the "Communications Think Tank", which would have eliminated subbands-by-mode, was strongly opposed in comments to FCC - so much that CTT removed the proposal. Any such proposal means "data in the phone bands", too.

> > Here's a similar question: Why do 'phone stations need
> > to be protected
> > from data signals but CW signals don't need that protection?
> > IOW, why
> > not allow data modes in the 'phone bands?

> I think the answer to that is that CW ops are typically using narrow
> receiving filters while phone ops may be listening through 2.4 or
> 2.7
> KHz filters. • A little of that digital signal cacophony can wreak
> havoc with a phone QSO.

Can't such interference be dealt with using a notch filter? A PSK31 signal is only a few dozen Hz wide, for example.

Even more basic, isn't it the responsibility of all operators to avoid transmitting on top of existing QSOs? Why would digital ops behave differently in this regard when faced with 'phone signals vs. CW signals?

73 de Jim, N2EY

342. Re: Band plans

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-31 03:02:40 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <SuYHj.890$NU2.189@news01.roc.ny>
Source record: 3013

N2EY@aol.com wrote:

> Setting aside the five channels called 60 meters, an Extra Class ham
> in Region 2 has 3750 kHz of spectrum available in 9 bands:
>
> 160: 1800-2000
> 80/75: 3500-4000
> 40: 7000-7300
> 30: 10100-10150
> 20: 14000-14350
> 17: 18068-18168
> 15: 21000-21450
> 12: 24890-24990
> 10: 28000-29700

Let's not forget that while 160m is not partitioned in the U.S., the
ARRL band plan for the band calls for no phone below 1843 KHz
Digital signals stay between 1800-1810 and the 1995-2000 portion is used
for experimental/beacon use.

Dave K8MN

343. Re: Band plans

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-31 03:43:44 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <v4ZHj.892$NU2.396@news01.roc.ny>
Source record: 3014

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Mar 30, 7:37 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>> On Mar 29, 1:18 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>
>>>> One question which begs asking is why foreign
>>>> phone stations should have
>>>> a shelter from U.S. stations when U.S. stations
>>>> have no similar shelter
>>>> available to them?
>
>>> Because there are so many more US stations
>>> than foreign ones in any
>>> particular country (except Japan 4th class).
>>> Working the USA is 1 DXCC
>>> country.
>> That's an explanation, though perhaps not a valid one.
>> We W's manage to
>> work all the DX there is to work despite the presence
>> of strong QRM from
>> W QRM--both those who are ragchewing and those who are
>> working DX.
>
> Sort of. Remember that often the DX is transmitting outside the US
> 'phone subband.

Rare stuff, yes. Less rare stuff, not as often.

>> Things aren't the same as in the old days when
>> many DX stations were
>> rock bound or ran lesser quality equipment or had
>> less than optimal
>> antenna systems. In fact much of the world runs
>> the same Kenwood, Icom,
>> Yaesu and Ten-Tec equipment as the American stations.
>
> Good point!
>
>> The garden
>> variety foreign stations sometimes QRM's the rare stuff. Many
>> of the
>> garden variety foreigners are also in the chase for that
>> same rare DX.
>

> Agreed.
>
>> The time is long past for divided phone band segments.
>> • I believe that
>> the phone bands should be harmonized worldwide.
>
> Be careful what you ask for.
>
> In much if not most of the rest of the world, there are no subbands-by-
> mode. The amateur regs simply state which modes are allowed on each
> band, and leave the rest up to gentleman's agreements.

Point well taken. It works pretty well for the most part. Contests are
a different matter. Let's take the 40m band as an example of when it
doesn't work well. In a phone contest, foreign SSB stations can often
be heard CQing as low as 7.010 despite the fact that the IARU bandplan
calls for them to no go below 7.030 or .035 as I recall.

> Harmonizing the US phone subbands to the rest of the world would mean
> either imposing US regs on other countries, or removing subbands-by-
> modes from US regs.

> It seems to me that countries which do not have subbands-by-mode would
> resist following the US example and adding them, if for no other
> reason than that they'd no longer have a refuge from US 'phone QRM.

I'd like to get away from that "refuge" concept as some sort of foreign
entitlement. I'd also like to get away from the idea that U.S. phone
operation is "QRM". We're big boys and they're big boys. We don't
piddle in our end of the pool and they don't piddle in theirs.

> Proposals to remove subbands-by-mode from the US regs have met with
> clear and strong opposition from US hams. The recent proposal from the
> "Communications Think Tank", which would have eliminated subbands-by-
> mode, was strongly opposed in comments to FCC - so much that CTT
> removed the proposal. Any such proposal means "data in the phone
> bands", too.

I'm not proposing that we do away with sub-bands by mode. What I'm
proposing is to expand our phone bands down to 14.112 and 21.151 on SSB

>>> Here's a similar question: Why do 'phone stations need
>>> to be protected
>>> from data signals but CW signals don't need that protection?
>>> IOW, why
>>> not allow data modes in the 'phone bands?
>
>> I think the answer to that is that CW ops are typically using narrow
>> receiving filters while phone ops may be listening through 2.4 or
>> 2.7
>> KHz filters. • A little of that digital signal cacophony can wreak
>> havoc with a phone QSO.

>
> Can't such interference be dealt with using a notch filter? A PSK31
> signal is only a few dozen Hz wide, for example.

...but a Pactor signal is a couple of hundred Hz wide and an RTTY signal
is only a little less. I can vary the width of my notch filter as well
as the center frequency. Can everyone do that? Passband tuning helps too.

> Even more basic, isn't it the responsibility of all operators to avoid
> transmitting on top of existing QSOs? Why would digital ops behave
> differently in this regard when faced with 'phone signals vs. CW
> signals?

That's one reason that I think it is a good idea to maintain sub-bands
by mode. Many digital ops aren't listening to audio at all. Many CW
ops are using filters as narrow as 100 Hz. Phone ops may hear them but
they may not hear a phone signal, especially if it is weak.

Dave K8MN

344. Re: Band plans

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-31 13:57:11 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fsqocd$13i6$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3015

N2EY@aol.com wrote:

> Can't such interference be dealt with using a notch filter? A PSK31
> signal is only a few dozen Hz wide, for example.

The short answer is yes. The longer answer is that we have all these wonderful controls on our radios, sometimes we need to use them.

I learned a lot about CW filters, PBT, notching etc, with my PSK31 waterfall setup. As you invoke and adjust the various functions, the noise floor of the waterfall gives a nice graphic display of what each filter does.

> Even more basic, isn't it the responsibility of all operators to avoid
> transmitting on top of existing QSOs? Why would digital ops behave
> differently in this regard when faced with 'phone signals vs. CW
> signals?

Yes, and they don't as far as I know.

I think that on some bands, such as 20 meters, a person can accidentally stomp on another due to propagation, So often we only hear (or see) one side of the QSO. We fire up, and soon the Ham we can hear and can hear us tells us of our error.

I wonder what frequencies G4JCI is referring to? And note to G4JCI:I think you might have a typo in your call sign, there isn't any reference on QRZ to that call.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

345. Re: Band plans

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-31 16:00:14 UTC
From: crn@NOSPAM.netunix.com
Message-ID: <47f0fbe5$0$711$bed64819@news.gradwell.net>
Source record: 3016

Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>
> I think that on some bands, such as 20 meters, a person can accidentally
> stomp on another due to propagation, So often we only hear (or see) one
> side of the QSO. We fire up, and soon the Ham we can hear and can hear
> us tells us of our error.
>
> I wonder what frequencies G4JCI is referring to? And note to G4JCI:I
> think you might have a typo in your call sign, there isn't any reference
> on QRZ to that call.

The call is perfectly OK since around 1977, in the UK we have a privacy
option which stops the RSGB and others including us in callbooks etc.
The call was previously ZS6N but that has since been re-issued to
someone else after I left ZS land in 1982.

My point is that here in Europe we have to get by with a concealed
wire antenna in the attic and QRP to avoid TVI complaints etc.
All too often some clown (usually in the USA) can barely hear us and
cranks up with a few kilowatts and an antenna farm. This same clown
usually gets a 30/9 report from someone and chews the rag for half
an hour at the same output instead of reducing power to the minimum
required to maintain communications.

It is this inconsiderate behaviour which gives USA operators a bad
reputation in the rest of the world. Of course there are plenty
of good guys out there, as always it is the bad operators who set
the bad standards.

g4jci

346. Re: Band plans

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-31 19:11:59 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <nil7c5-vek.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 3017

In article <fsqocd$13i6$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>,
Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

>I think that on some bands, such as 20 meters, a person can accidentally
>stomp on another due to propagation, So often we only hear (or see) one
>side of the QSO. We fire up, and soon the Ham we can hear and can hear
>us tells us of our error.

That can happen on any HF band, I believe.

This issue was behind a lot of the protest over one aspect of the
ARRL's now-withdrawn "sub-bands by bandwidth" proposal. The proposal
had suggested opening up a much larger portion of the band to
unattended and semi-attended digital stations (typically, email
servers). Such systems are rather notorious for "stepping on" QSOs in
progress, due in part to this "only can hear one half of the existing
QSO" problem.

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will
boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

347. Re: Band plans

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-31 19:20:30 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <67ee8cff-a856-4701-a21f-62b85d171fe2@b64g2000hsa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3018

On Mar 30, 11:43 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Mar 30, 7:37 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> >> N...@aol.com wrote:
> >>> On Mar 29, 1:18 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> > Remember that often the DX is transmitting outside the US
> > 'phone subband.

> Rare stuff, yes. Less rare stuff, not as often.

> >> The time is long past for divided phone band segments.
> >> I believe that
> >> the phone bands should be harmonized worldwide.
>
> > Be careful what you ask for.
>
> > In much if not most of the rest of the world, there are no subbands-by-
> > mode. The amateur regs simply state which modes are allowed on each
> > band, and leave the rest up to gentleman's agreements.
>
> Point well taken. It works pretty well for the most part. Cont
ests are
> a different matter. Let's take the 40m band as an example of when it

> doesn't work well. In a phone contest, foreign SSB stations can ofte
n
> be heard CQing as low as 7.010 despite the fact that the IARU bandplan
> calls for them to no go below 7.030 or .035 as I recall.

Right. Now add a couple hundred thousand US hams to that mix....

> > It seems to me that countries which do not have subbands-by-mode would
> > resist following the US example and adding them, if for no other
> > reason than that they'd no longer have a refuge from US 'phone QRM.
>
> I'd like to get away from that "refuge" concept as some sort of foreign
> entitlement.

Point is, the foreign 'phone folks may not agree with you. How do we
in the USA
sell the idea that other countries should add limited phone subbands
to their rules?

> I'd also like to get away from the idea that U.S. phone
> operation is "QRM". We're big boys and they're big boys. We do
n't

> piddle in our end of the pool and they don't piddle in theirs.

Yet the calling CQ well below where the bandplan says no.

> I'm not proposing that we do away with sub-bands by mode. &#65533; What I'm
> proposing is to expand our phone bands down to 14.112 and 21.151 on SSB

OK, but what will happen is that the DX phones will simply move even
further down the band. It's happened every time.

> > Can't such interference be dealt with using a notch filter? A PSK31
> > signal is only a few dozen Hz wide, for example.
>
> ...but a Pactor signal is a couple of hundred Hz wide and an RTTY signal
> is only a little less.

So if one plops down on top of a CW QSO the mess is at least as bad as
if one plops down on a 'phone QSO. But 'phone QSOs are protected from
such interference while CW QSOs aren't.

>&#65533; I can vary the width of my notch filter as well
> as the center frequency. &#65533; Can everyone do that? &#65533; Passband tuning
helps too.

Yep. So does a good antenna system and lotsa watts.

> > Even more basic, isn't it the responsibility of all operators to avoid
> > transmitting on top of existing QSOs? Why would digital ops behave
> > differently in this regard when faced with 'phone signals vs. CW
> > signals?

> That's one reason that I think it is a good idea to maintain sub-bands
> by mode. &#65533; Many digital ops aren't listening to audio at all. &#65533; Ma
ny CW
> ops are using filters as narrow as 100 Hz. &#65533; Phone ops may hear them b
ut
> they may not hear a phone signal, especially if it is weak.

The problem is that under current rules, as the US phone subbands get
wider, the CW/data subbands get narrower, and the spectrum-efficient
modes get squeezed more and more. That's just not right.

I think W5DXP's idea has the most merit: Wide modes at the top of the
band, narrow modes at the bottom, shared space in the middle.

73 de Jim, N2EY

348. Re: Band plans

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-03-31 22:23:44 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fsrihq$13n0$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3019

Dave Platt wrote:
> In article <fsqocd$13i6$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>,
> Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>> I think that on some bands, such as 20 meters, a person can accidentally
>> stomp on another due to propagation, So often we only hear (or see) one
>> side of the QSO. We fire up, and soon the Ham we can hear and can hear
>> us tells us of our error.
>
> That can happen on any HF band, I believe.

True, I used 20 meters as an example because it is the most common band
with the "worst" problem.

> This issue was behind a lot of the protest over one aspect of the
> ARRL's now-withdrawn "sub-bands by bandwidth" proposal. The proposal
> had suggested opening up a much larger portion of the band to
> unattended and semi-attended digital stations (typically, email
> servers). Such systems are rather notorious for "stepping on" QSOs in
> progress, due in part to this "only can hear one half of the existing
> QSO" problem.

Many is the time that those robot stations have obliterated the PSK-31
segment of 20 meters. Two of them close the band. They don't check, they
just start transmitting, and they keep it up, presumably until they get
acknowledgment from another robot station.

It got so bad that Digipan added a decoder for the mode (no transmit) so
that we gould catch the callsigns, record the disruption, and and turn
them in to the FCC. Apparently this worked, because the problem is
diminishing.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

349. Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1599 - April 4, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-04 13:20:28 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080404021842.02197970@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 3020
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1599 - April 4, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1599 with a release date of
Friday, April 4tht, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. KiwiSAT goes green, unlicensed devices play
havoc with U-K repeaters, some good news on the ham radio numbers
front and we ask how far you will drive to a hamfest if gasoline
climbs to $4 a gallon or more. Find out how to answer the question on
Amateur Radio Newsline" report number 1599 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NZ KIWISAT TO BE HAM RADIO ENVIRO-BIRD

The planned New Zealand KiwiSAT ham radio satellite will also be a ham
radio environmental research bird as well. Amateur Radio Newsline's
Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, is in Auckland with more:

--

Late word from AMSAT New Zealand is that the KiwiSAT ham radio
satellite will now carry an additional special beacon available for
use by radio amateurs around the world. This, to collect data on
atmospheric aberrations and to assist with information collection
directly associated with global warming concerns and carbon balance
monitoring.

Details have yet to be finalized however the KiwiSAT structure has
been modified to incorporate a second 70cm monopole antenna and a high
level of filtering has been incorporated to minimize any desensitizing
of the on-board 70 centimeter receivers. Once in space, the beacon
will be switched as required but will normally be "on" for a given
whole orbit to provide for data collection

Meantime, the KiwiSAT linear flight transponder is currently
transmitting from the Whangaparaoa area with beam antennas pointing
South. This transponder is inverting type to compensate for Doppler
shift when in orbit. Its transmit Power is 2 Watts PEP. Its uplink
is Uplink is from 435.265 to 435.235 MHz on lower sideband and the
downlink 145.850 to 145.880 MHz on upper sideband. The inverting
transponder is used to correct for Doppler shift.

Reporting from Auckland, I'm Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, for the Amateur
Radio Newsline.

--

KiwiSAT is currently planned for launch in mid to late 2009. Its planners say that KiwSAT is designed for low duty cycle modes and the use of FM wile not outright banned will be discouraged. Further information is on-line at www.kiwisat.org and we will have more ham radio space related items later on in this weeks news. (AMSAT ZL)

**

RADIO RULES: LEGAL UNLICENSED TRANSMITTERS HARMING UK REPEATER OPERATIONS

Unlicensed low power devices are creating a problem for some UHF repeater operations in the U-K. And its all quite legal. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, explains:

--

A concern to both the amateur radio services and the MoD is the growing proliferation of Short Range Devices (SRDs) that are operating in the 70 cm band and raising the noise floor. A recent trial that used 433MHz channels as inputs for D-Star equipment tests proved to be unsuccessful due to the high noise floor.

According to an EU Directive the official SRD sub-band within 70cms is 433.05-434.79MHz using a maximum of 10mW ERP. This includes handheld Low Power Devices (LPDs) permitted to use FM voice on channels that include a number of repeater inputs.

I'm Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, and you are listening to the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

What if anything can be done by U-K hams to elevate this situation is, at airtime, unknown. (Adapted from GB2RS story)

**

RADIO POLITICS: RSGB SAYS 70 CM PETITION FILLED WITH MISINFORMATION

Still in the U-K, an electronic petition to Great Britain's Prime Minister's office titled "70 cmsband", has generated what is being described by the Radio Society of Great Britain as a "lemming like" response from the U-K amateur radio community. And from the society's public response, the petition also seems to have more than just annoyed the political leaders at the RSGB.

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Ofcom and the Ministry of Defense in regard to the 70 centimeter and other shared bands.

This RSGB says that the type of dis-information as that contained in the mysterious petition could undermine the relationship between the society and government policy makers. It also strongly advised all U-K hams to check the facts with the society before adding their name to such petitions.

And less we forget, the encyclopedia describes a lemming as a mouse-like rodent living in arctic or northern regions. The Norway lemming is the best known because of its spectacular periodic swarming that sometimes leads the migrating rodents to jump from cliffs into bodies of water as they migrate. (Adapted from GB2RS story)

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According to George, the Technician and Technician Plus category had large increases while General had small increases. As expected. Novice and Advanced declined.

According to George, it appears as if the Technician license is still the most popular entry to the hobby for newcomers, making good gains over the last 2 quarters. Also, the movement to upgrade to Extra class is continuing. On the downside, it seems like the large movement from hams upgrading to General after the last round of restructuring has slowed to trickle over the last 6 months.

The bottom line. George says that this is the largest quarterly increase he has seen in a long time. You can read the good numbers on the news pages at www dot qrz dot com under the title Amateur Radio Growth in the 1st Quarter 2008: A look at the numbers. And our thanks to George Mc Couch, K3UD, for his ongoing volunteer effort to keep the ham radio public so well informed.

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(K3UD via QRZ.com)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KA9EKG

Repeater serving the Amateur Radio community of Delavan, Wisconsin.

(5 sec pause here)

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Ham radio has once again proven it can provide emergency communications to the outside world when cellphones can't. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, is in Reno with more:

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ENFORCEMENT: UK COMPONENT SALES TO PIRATE BROADCASTERS BRINGS HEAVY FINE

Turning to enforcement news, word that selling electronic parts that might wind up being used for illegal purposes can get you in trouble in the United Kingdom. Witness the case of two directors of a U-K radio parts supplier who recently pleaded guilty of supplying gear to what we in the U-S-A call pirate broadcasters.

The pleas were recently entered in Croydon Magistrates Court by the Broadcast Warehouse, which is a Croydon area radio and component supplier. According to a report in the London Register, the firm pleaded guilty to the charges after Broadcast Warehouse components were found in transmitters seized by U-K telecommunications regulator Ofcom from unlicensed stations.

The paper says that the company and the directors were each fined ï¿½10,000. An additional ï¿½90,000 was also assessed in court fees. The full story is on-line at www.theregister.co.uk/2008/03/28/ofcom_broadcast_warehouse/ (Southgate)

**

ENFORCEMENT: UNLICENSED STATION OPERATOR FINED $17000

The Federal Communications Commission has issued a o$17,000 monetary forfeiture to Craig Watkins for operating an unlicensed radio transmitter on the frequency 106.3 MHz in Bronx, NY and willfully violating the Communications Act by refusing an inspection of the station. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the details:

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On March 7, 2007, the FCC New York Office received a complaint from an engineer representing FM station WFAF, which operates on 106.3 MHz in Mt. Kisco, NY. The engineer reported that an illegal broadcast station operating on 106.3 MHz in Bronx, NY was causing interference

to WFAF.

Three days later FCC Commission agents, using a mobile direction finding vehicle, monitored 106.3 MHz. The agents observed a broadcast on 106.3 and identified the source of the transmissions as an FM broadcasting antenna on a roof on East 229th Street in the Bronx..

Commission agents then conducted an investigation on the roof and observed an FM broadcast antenna mounted to the chimney of the building that was connected to a coaxial cable leading into a window of an upstairs apartment. The agents then knocked on the door to the upstairs apartment of the two-family house. When the man who answered the door was asked about the radio station, he stated that he was a visitor and that he knew nothing about the radio station. When agents asked him to turn off the transmitter, he did so. The man also advised the agents that the apartment's resident was not at home.

While speaking to the man at the upstairs apartment door, the agents were approached by the building owner. The agents advised the owner that an unauthorized radio station was being operated by someone in the upstairs apartment. He phoned the resident, Craig Watkins, and asked him to return to the residence. When Watkins arrived, the agents questioned him about the radio station and he admitted that there was radio equipment in his apartment, but he stated that no radio station existed. Watkins refused to allow the agents to inspect the equipment. The agents issued Watkins a Notice of Unlicensed Radio Operation for operating an unlicensed radio station on 106.3 MHz and for refusing to allow inspection of the radio equipment. After returning to the vehicle, the agents monitored 106.3 MHz and noted that the station was off the air.

But it did not stay off. On March 14th, a Commission agent, observed a radio broadcast on 106.3 MHz and identified the source of the transmissions as an FM broadcasting antenna on the roof of the same East 229th Street building. The agent took field strength measurements and determined that the signals being broadcast exceeded the limits for operation under Part 15 of the Rules and therefore required a license. So on July 27th the Commission's New York Field Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $17,000 to Watkins for operating an unlicensed radio transmitter and refusing to allow an inspection of the radio station equipment..

Watkins filed a response to the NAL on August 25, 2007. In his response, Watkins did not deny that there was radio station equipment in his apartment and he did not claim that the equipment was there without his permission. He did however claim that he did not know anything about the operation of a radio station. He indicated that he questioned his brother-in-law and his brother-in-law's friends about the radio station equipment and the antenna on the roof, but he was not able to obtain any information from them. Watkins did not address his refusal to allow the agents to inspect the equipment.

In affirming the fine, the FCC says that Watkins was identified by the building owner as the resident of the upstairs apartment and in his response to the Notice of Apparent Liability, Watkins states that he does resides at that address. Although Watkins does not admit to operating the radio station, he confirmed that there is radio station equipment in his apartment. Watkins does not state that such equipment was there without his permission. As a result, they found that Watkins provided services and facilities incidental to the transmission of communications by radio occurring on 106.3 MHz from his home.

The FCC says that it has previously held that liability for unlicensed operation may be assigned to any individual taking part in the operation of the unlicensed station, regardless of who else may be responsible for the operation. This is because Section 301 of the Communications Act says that no person shall use, or operate, radio transmission equipment without an FCC license.

Taken together, the FCC finds that Watkins's actions amounted to willful and repeated violations of the Communications Act and that the $17,000 fine is affirmed.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in the newsroom in Los Angeles.

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Watkins was given the customary 30 days to pay or to file an appeal. (FCC)

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WITH THE FCC: FCC SEEKS ENGINEERING SCHOOL GRADS FOR EIT

The Federal Communications Commission says it is seeking applications from engineering school graduates with superior academic credentials and an interest in communications engineering. This, for its 2008 Engineer-in-Training Program.

The Engineer-in-Training Program helps the commission recruit new and recent engineering school graduates to the agency and the field of communications. Recent engineering grads and candidates for graduation this spring are invited to apply for openings in the program's 2008 class.

Additional information is available on the FCC's EIT Program page at www.fcc.gov/EITprogram, or by contacting the FCC's Human Resources Office at area code 202 -418-0130. You can also e-mail for more information to <mailto:recruit%40fcc.gov>recruit@fcc.gov. (FCC)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: THE K0S STRANGE ANTENNA CHALLANGE

Now here's one that should catch the attention of a lot of you. Erik Weaver N0EW sent along a note to tell us about the upcoming K Zero-S Strange Antenna Challenge slated for Memorial Day weekend, May 24th to the 26th.

What is a strange antenna challenge you ask? According to Erik, its an event where antennas are not permitted to be constructed of wire or metal pipe. Rather, those taking part must use their imagination to design radiators that are untraditional. Erik says that past antennas have included such items as metal folding chairs, chicken wire, fences, ladders, and even a trampoline.

If this sound like a fun way to spend Memorial Day weekend, you can get more information on-line at www.n0ew.org/k0s/ (N0EW)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: THE WORLD WIDE ATV OPEN HOUSE

The A-T-V Newsletter is putting together a World Wide ATV Open House . In this case ATV means Amateur Television and it will be a virtual open house aimed at getting more members for Amateur Television groups and clubs while making all radio amateurs aware of ATV.

The Open House will run for 24 hours on a date somewhere between September and the first part of December yet to be finalized and will be open to all radio amateurs that want in on the fun. By taking advantage of the Voice over I P technology and the Internet and using streaming communications via Skype, Echolink, and the like, numerous virtual QSO can be made. For more information please e-mail world-wide-atv-repeater-network at hotmail dot com (N6IFU)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: AN INVITE TO JOIN THE FLYING HAMS REMAILRT

If you are a ham licensed as a pilot, a student pilot or just interested in aviation, you might want to consider joining the Flying Hams User Group. Formed by Daniel Hileman, N9WX, in Peru, Indiana, the group currently meets only in cyberspace using a yahoogroups remailer. Topics discussed range from technical issues to flight training to discussions of aircraft and the social aspect of both hobbies. To join just send a blank e-mail to <mailto:Flying_Hams-subscribe%40yahoogroups.com>Flying_Hams-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
(Flying Hams)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: LSDXA HAM COM DX DINNER IN JUNE

The Texas-based Lone Star DX Association has announced that Eric Scace, K3NA, will be the keynote speaker for the organizations DX Dinner Banquet at HamCom 2008. Eric Scace was the co-leader of the recent record breaking VP6DX Ducie Island operation. His presentation

is long awaited. HamCom is slated for June 13th and 14th at the Plano Center, north of Dallas. More information about the DX dinner and the convention is on line at www.hamcom.org (LSDXA)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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THE DIGITALIZATION OF HAM RADIO: NEW DVD ON DIGITAL VOICE MODES FROM ARVN

"Digital Voice for Amateur Radio" is a new DVD designed as a club meeting program to introduce hams to the various digital voice modes now coming to both the High Frequency and VHF bands.

Produced by well known documentary film maker Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, the 60 minute show highlights High Frequency systems such as those from AOR and WinDRM. It also delves into the emerging worlds of APCO P25 and D-Star that are in growing use in the VHF and UHF spectrum.

"Digital Voice for Amateur Radio" is being distributed by the North Carolina-based Amateur Radio Video Network. A free 8 minute preview along with pricing and ordering information is on-line at www.arvidnews.com. Questions go to Gary Pearce by e-mail to kn4aq at arvidnews dot com. (ARVIDNEWS)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ASTRO HAMS TO BE TRAINED

An Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) training session has been planned for astronauts Bob Thirsk, VA3CSA, and Chris Hadfield, KC5RNJ. Hadfield is dual licensed as VA3OOG. The session will take place on Thursday, April 17. Thirsk is a scheduled crew member on Expedition 19 and Hadfield is his back-up. (ARISS)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES AIR & SPACE MUSEUM ADOPTS HAM RADIO

Ham radio is an integral part of the Wings Over The Rockies Air and Space Museum. Amateur Radio, using the call K0WAR has a prominent place in the Denver, Colorado museum with working stations located in the Avionics Room as well as the Space Station module exhibit.

The museum is Denver's newest historical and educational facility, and is dedicated to education, science, mathematics, technology and the rich history of flight in the Rocky Mountain region. One of its primary missions is to teach the younger generation about the science of aviation and space travel.

With 165,000 square feet in a 1930's-era Air Force hangar, 30 aircraft and special exhibits including Amateur Radio, Wings Over The Rockies is not only Denver's first aerospace museum, it is also the official air and space museum of the State of Colorado. More information about the museum and the part played in it by ham radio is on line at wings.rmhcn.org (KB6CC)

**

WORLDBEAT - BOSNIA: NEW CALL SIGNS ISSUED IN BOSNIA - HERTZEGOVENIA

Hitting the worldbeat, effective as of 23:00 U-T-C on March 21st, hams in Bosnia-Herzegovina were told to begin using their new E7 callsigns. Boris Knezovia, E73TW, says that the country's Communications Regulatory Agency has issued only two and three letter callsigns suffixes. Applications for one letter suffixes can be applied for starting April 14th and hopefully will be issued in late May. The International Telecommunications Union announced last August 8th that they replaced the callsign series prefix block of Bosnia-Herzegovina from T9 to E7. (Southgate)

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WORLDBEAT - SABLE ISLAND: MAGIC BAND DXPEDITION ANNOUNCED

If you operate on the Magic Band, listen up. A 6-meter DXpedition to Sable Island scheduled to take place from June 25th through July 7th. The Ohio Penn DX Newsletter reports that VE3IKV, K5AND and W3CMP will be active from the rare enclave using the callsign CY0X on both CW and SSB.

Their fixed location 6 meter station will be in grid square FN93. The group will also try to activate rare grid GN03 using the callsign CY0RA if there is a solid opening. For this they are totting along a portable station with a 5 element yagi. In both cases the operators will be transmitting on 50.117 MHz and requests that those they might make contact with not send their grid square as it consumes valuable time during a DX opening.

This CY0X operation will also operate on 20 meters and 40 meter CW and SSB but the High Frequency operation will take lower priority over the 6 meters. QSL's go via VE3IKV and there is more on this upcoming operation is on-line at www.cy0x.com (OPDX)

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RADIOSPORTS: 2007 FALL SPRINT SCORES NOW ON LINE

Jim Worsham, W4KXY, says that the results for the 2007 Fall Sprints, sponsored by the Southeastern VHF Society, are now available for viewing on line. Jim also says that all of the first, second and third place winners are invited to attend the Southeastern VHF Society conference in Orlando, Florida on April 25th and 26th to receive their award certificates at the Saturday night banquet. Information on attending the conference is available at www.svhfs.org. (W4KXY)

**

DX

In DX, word that ON5AX and ON3AX continue to be active from the Pacific locations on their three month tour. Their next stop is Australia with both operating portable V-K-4 through April 7th. QSL direct to ON5AX or ON3AX.

And here's one that hams all along the North American East coast with 4 meter receive capability might want to listen out for. Sunday 6th April between 09.00 and 12.00 UTC sees the RSGB 70MHz contest. All modes are permitted and the exchange is the normal R-S-T, serial number and locator. While hams this aide of the Atlantic cannot transmit on 70 MHz, they can listen in and use the contest as a propagation study of the 4 meter band.

Thanks to good weather conditions, the ship SA Agulhas has reached Marion Island and Petrus Kritzinger, ZS8T, is now there for at least 12 months. According to announced plans, the science work for the first few weeks will take precedence and ZS8T's activity won't start earlier than the end of April. This means any station using that call will be a pirate. Once operations are ready to start, an announcement will be made on the ZS8T.net website.

Lastly the 9-X-zero-R operation from Rwanda is now QRT. During the operation The multi-national DXpedition team made just under 63,000k QSO's. Of these about 31,000 of these were on CW, 26,000 on SSB and 4,900 on RTTY. If you worked this one, QSL via EA5RM.

Above from various DX news sources

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RESULTS OF AR NEWSLINE POLL RESULTS: SHOULD D-STAR REPEATERS OPERATE ONLY IN REPEATER SUBBANDS?

Finally this week, the answer to the survey question that asked if D-Star digital voice repeaters be restricted to operate in the same designated subbands as traditional analog FM. The results were not at all surprising.

83% of those responding wanting D-Star repeaters to be restricted to existing repeater subbands. 17% said its OK for them to operate wherever in a given band that the owner might desire. These results seem to echo what's being read on various VHF and UHF remailers and public posting websites.

There is one caveat to this survey. Of the tens of thousands of you out there with web access, only 324 of you took the time to vote in this one. We have no idea if this means a lack of interest in the mode or that you are not that concerned about band planning. We do thank those of you who took the time to go to www.arnewsline.org to do so. (ARNewsline")

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THAT FINAL ITEM - APRIL 2008 POLL: GAS PRICES VS. HAMFESTS

Now, we are switching gears for our next on-line survey. According to the Department of Energy, the national average retail price of a gallon of regular grade gasoline now about $3.40. The DoE has also long been hinting that the pre-tax cost could soon exceed $4 a gallon or more. Now, add on federal, state and even local taxes and a gallon could easily hit $4.50. With this in mind, we would like to know how high will the pump price of a gallon of gasoline have to go to keep you from driving that 50 or 60 mile round trip to your favorite hamfest of convention?

Taking part in this survey is easy. Just take your web browser over to www.arnewsline.org. Then scroll down the page until you see the word polls on the left hand side. Then just click on the dollar amount that's closest to the maximum you would bay for a gallon of gas before leaving the car in your driveway and bypassing this years event. The up to the minute results will be displayed once you have cast your vote.

We will leave this survey on-line through the end of April. Again, that's www.arnewsline.org on the left side of the page under the word polls to make your opinion known on this one. (ARNewsline")

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline". Our e-mail address is <mailto:newsline%40arnewsline.org>newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur
Radio Newsline's" only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline", P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go we want to remind you that the nominating period for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year is now open. Any licensed radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in the United States or Canada is eligible for the award. Full details and both downloadable and on-line nominating forms are in cyberspace at www dot YHOTY dot org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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350. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1599 - April 4, 2008 - Updated

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-04 19:51:55 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080404122318.021a93b8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 3021
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1599 - April 4, 2008 -Updated

(Includes full text of Utah rescue story)

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1599 with a release date of Friday, April 4tht, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. KiwiSAT goes green, unlicensed devices play havoc with U-K repeaters, some good news on the ham radio numbers front and we ask how far you will drive to a hamfest if gasoline climbs to $4 a gallon or more. Find out how to answer the question on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1599 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NZ KIWISAT TO BE HAM RADIO ENVIRO-BIRD

The planned New Zealand KiwiSAT ham radio satellite will also be a ham radio environmental research bird as well. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, is in Auckland with more:

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Late word from AMSAT New Zealand is that the KiwiSAT ham radio satellite will now carry an additional special beacon available for use by radio amateurs around the world. This, to collect data on atmospheric aberrations and to assist with information collection directly associated with global warming concerns and carbon balance monitoring.

Details have yet to be finalized however the KiwiSAT structure has been modified to incorporate a second 70cm monopole antenna and a high level of filtering has been incorporated to minimize any desensitizing of the on-board 70 centimeter receivers. Once in space, the beacon will be switched as required but will normally be "on" for a given whole orbit to provide for data collection

Meantime, the KiwiSAT linear flight transponder is currently transmitting from the Whangaparaoa area with beam antennas pointing South. This transponder is inverting type to compensate for Doppler shift when in orbit. Its transmit Power is 2 Watts PEP. Its uplink is Uplink is from 435.265 to 435.235 MHz on lower sideband and the downlink 145.850 to 145.880 MHz on upper sideband. The inverting transponder is used to correct for Doppler shift.

Reporting from Auckland, I'm Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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KiwiSAT is currently planned for launch in mid to late 2009. Its planners say that KiwSAT is designed for low duty cycle modes and the use of FM wile not outright banned will be discouraged. Further information is on-line at www.kiwisat.org and we will have more ham radio space related items later on in this weeks news. (AMSAT ZL)

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RADIO RULES: LEGAL UNLICENSED TRANSMITTERS HARMING UK REPEATER OPERATIONS

Unlicensed low power devices are creating a problem for some UHF repeater operations in the U-K. And its all quite legal. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, explains:

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A concern to both the amateur radio services and the MoD is the growing proliferation of Short Range Devices (SRDs) that are operating in the 70 cm band and raising the noise floor. A recent trial that used 433MHz channels as inputs for D-Star equipment tests proved to be unsuccessful due to the high noise floor.

According to an EU Directive the official SRD sub-band within 70cms is 433.05-434.79MHz using a maximum of 10mW ERP. This includes handheld Low Power Devices (LPDs) permitted to use FM voice on channels that include a number of repeater inputs.

I'm Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, and you are listening to the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

What if anything can be done by U-K hams to elevate this situation is, at airtime, unknown. (Adapted from GB2RS story)

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According to George, it appears as if the Technician license is still the most popular entry to the hobby for newcomers, making good gains over the last 2 quarters. Also, the movement to upgrade to Extra class is continuing. On the downside, it seems like the large movement from hams upgrading to General after the last round of restructuring has slowed to trickle over the last 6 months.

The bottom line. George says that this is the largest quarterly increase he has seen in a long time. You can read the good numbers on the news pages at www dot qrz dot com under the title Amateur Radio Growth in the 1st Quarter 2008: A look at the numbers. And our thanks to George Mc Couch, K3UD, for his ongoing volunteer effort to keep the ham radio public so well informed.

A direct link to article: http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t7889
(K3UD via QRZ.com)

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(5 sec pause here)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO TO THE RESCUE WHERE CELLPHONES DON'T WORK

Ham radio has once again proven it can provide emergency communications to the outside world when cellphones can't. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, is in Reno with more:

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In the most recent instance KSL television reported on March 28th that a driver passing through Utah's remote Logan Canyon lost control of her truck in the snow. The vehicle fell more than 100 feet over a cliff. Two of her three passengers were thrown out.

Other drivers stopped to help, but with no cell phone coverage in the isolated area, it was at least a 30 minute drive to make a phone call. But Eldon Kearl, K7OGM, of Fish Haven, Idaho, had a communications system that could call for assistance out of the remote canyon area.

Using his portable ham gear, Kearl contacted Roger Ellis, KE7THE, of Logan, Utah. Ellis, who says he's still new to Amateur Radio says that he was able to relay information to the 911 emergency response dispatchers. A half hour later, help was on the scene.

Late word is that everyone survived the crash with only minor injuries. The Utah Highway Patrol says if not for Kearl and Ellis getting help to the scene so quickly, those injuries could have become a lot worse.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

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You can see the entire KSL report that includes interviews with both K7OGM and KE7THE at www.ksl.com/index.php?nid8&sid)60552# (N9MSM)

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On March 7, 2007, the FCC New York Office received a complaint from an engineer representing FM station WFAF, which operates on 106.3 MHz in Mt. Kisco, NY. The engineer reported that an illegal broadcast station operating on 106.3 MHz in Bronx, NY was causing interference to WFAF.

Three days later FCC Commission agents, using a mobile direction finding vehicle, monitored 106.3 MHz. The agents observed a broadcast on 106.3 and identified the source of the transmissions as an FM broadcasting antenna on a roof on East 229th Street in the Bronx..

Commission agents then conducted an investigation on the roof and observed an FM broadcast antenna mounted to the chimney of the building that was connected to a coaxial cable leading into a window of an upstairs apartment. The agents then knocked on the door to the upstairs apartment of the two-family house. When the man who answered the door was asked about the radio station, he stated that he was a visitor and that he knew nothing about the radio station. When agents asked him to turn off the transmitter, he did so. The man also advised the agents that the apartment's resident was not at home.

While speaking to the man at the upstairs apartment door, the agents were approached by the building owner. The agents advised the owner that an unauthorized radio station was being operated by someone in the upstairs apartment. He phoned the resident, Craig Watkins, and asked him to return to the residence. When Watkins arrived, the agents questioned him about the radio station and he admitted that there was radio equipment in his apartment, but he stated that no radio station existed. Watkins refused to allow the agents to inspect the equipment. The agents issued Watkins a Notice of Unlicensed Radio Operation for operating an unlicensed radio station on 106.3 MHz and for refusing to allow inspection of the radio equipment. After returning to the vehicle, the agents monitored 106.3 MHz and noted that the station was off the air.

But it did not stay off. On March 14th, a Commission agent, observed a radio broadcast on 106.3 MHz and identified the source of the transmissions as an FM broadcasting antenna on the roof of the same East 229th Street building. The agent took field strength measurements and determined that the signals being broadcast exceeded the limits for operation under Part 15 of the Rules and therefore required a license. So on July 27th the Commission's New York Field Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $17,000 to Watkins for operating an unlicensed radio transmitter and refusing to allow an inspection of the

radio station equipment..

Watkins filed a response to the NAL on August 25, 2007. In his response, Watkins did not deny that there was radio station equipment in his apartment and he did not claim that the equipment was there without his permission. He did however claim that he did not know anything about the operation of a radio station. He indicated that he questioned his brother-in-law and his brother-in-law's friends about the radio station equipment and the antenna on the roof, but he was not able to obtain any information from them. Watkins did not address his refusal to allow the agents to inspect the equipment.

In affirming the fine, the FCC says that Watkins was identified by the building owner as the resident of the upstairs apartment and in his response to the Notice of Apparent Liability, Watkins states that he does resides at that address. Although Watkins does not admit to operating the radio station, he confirmed that there is radio station equipment in his apartment. Watkins does not state that such equipment was there without his permission. As a result, they found that Watkins provided services and facilities incidental to the transmission of communications by radio occurring on 106.3 MHz from his home.

The FCC says that it has previously held that liability for unlicensed operation may be assigned to any individual taking part in the operation of the unlicensed station, regardless of who else may be responsible for the operation. This is because Section 301 of the Communications Act says that no person shall use, or operate, radio transmission equipment without an FCC license.

Taken together, the FCC finds that Watkins's actions amounted to willful and repeated violations of the Communications Act and that the $17,000 fine is affirmed.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in the newsroom in Los Angeles.

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Watkins was given the customary 30 days to pay or to file an appeal. (FCC)

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WITH THE FCC: FCC SEEKS ENGINEERING SCHOOL GRADS FOR EIT

The Federal Communications Commission says it is seeking applications from engineering school graduates with superior academic credentials and an interest in communications engineering. This, for its 2008 Engineer-in-Training Program.

The Engineer-in-Training Program helps the commission recruit new and recent engineering school graduates to the agency and the field of communications. Recent engineering grads and candidates for graduation this spring are invited to apply for openings in the program's 2008 class.

Additional information is available on the FCC's EIT Program page at www.fcc.gov/EITprogram, or by contacting the FCC's Human Resources Office at area code 202 -418-0130. You can also e-mail for more information to recruit@fcc.gov. (FCC)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: THE K0S STRANGE ANTENNA CHALLANGE

Now here's one that should catch the attention of a lot of you. Erik Weaver N0EW sent along a note to tell us about the upcoming K Zero-S Strange Antenna Challenge slated for Memorial Day weekend, May 24th to the 26th.

What is a strange antenna challenge you ask? According to Erik, its an event where antennas are not permitted to be constructed of wire or metal pipe. Rather, those taking part must use their imagination to design radiators that are untraditional. Erik says that past antennas have included such items as metal folding chairs, chicken wire, fences, ladders, and even a trampoline.

If this sound like a fun way to spend Memorial Day weekend, you can get more information on-line at www.n0ew.org/k0s/ (N0EW)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: THE WORLD WIDE ATV OPEN HOUSE

The A-T-V Newsletter is putting together a World Wide ATV Open House . In this case ATV means Amateur Television and it will be a virtual open house aimed at getting more members for Amateur Television groups and clubs while making all radio amateurs aware of ATV.

The Open House will run for 24 hours on a date somewhere between September and the first part of December yet to be finalized and will be open to all radio amateurs that want in on the fun. By taking advantage of the Voice over I P technology and the Internet and using streaming communications via Skype, Echolink, and the like, numerous virtual QSO can be made. For more information please e-mail world-wide-atv-repeater-network at hotmail dot com (N6IFU)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: AN INVITE TO JOIN THE FLYING HAMS REMAILRT

If you are a ham licensed as a pilot, a student pilot or just interested in aviation, you might want to consider joining the Flying Hams User Group. Formed by Daniel Hileman, N9WX, in Peru, Indiana, the group currently meets only in cyberspace using a yahoogroups remailer. Topics discussed range from technical issues to flight training to discussions of aircraft and the social aspect of both hobbies. To join just send a blank e-mail to Flying_Hams-subscribe@yahoogroups.com (Flying Hams)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: LSDXA HAM COM DX DINNER IN JUNE

The Texas-based Lone Star DX Association has announced that Eric Scace, K3NA, will be the keynote speaker for the organizations DX Dinner Banquet at HamCom 2008. Eric Scace was the co-leader of the recent record breaking VP6DX Ducie Island operation. His presentation is long awaited. HamCom is slated for June 13th and 14th at the Plano Center, north of Dallas. More information about the DX dinner and the convention is on line at www.hamcom.org (LSDXA)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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THE DIGITALIZATION OF HAM RADIO: NEW DVD ON DIGITAL VOICE MODES FROM ARVN

"Digital Voice for Amateur Radio" is a new DVD designed as a club meeting program to introduce hams to the various digital voice modes now coming to both the High Frequency and VHF bands.

Produced by well known documentary film maker Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, the 60 minute show highlights High Frequency systems such as those from AOR and WinDRM. It also delves into the emerging worlds of APCO P25 and D-Star that are in growing use in the VHF and UHF spectrum.

"Digital Voice for Amateur Radio" is being distributed by the North Carolina-based Amateur Radio Video Network. A free 8 minute preview along with pricing and ordering information is on-line at www.arvidnews.com. Questions go to Gary Pearce by e-mail to kn4aq at arvidnews dot com. (ARVIDNEWS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ASTRO HAMS TO BE TRAINED

An Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) training session has been planned for astronauts Bob Thirsk, VA3CSA, and Chris Hadfield, KC5RNJ. Hadfield is dual licensed as VA3OOG. The session will take place on Thursday, April 17. Thirsk is a scheduled crew member on Expedition 19 and Hadfield is his back-up. (ARISS)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: WINGS OVER THE ROCKIES AIR & SPACE MUSEUM ADOPTS HAM RADIO

Ham radio is an integral part of the Wings Over The Rockies Air and Space Museum. Amateur Radio, using the call K0WAR has a prominent place in the Denver, Colorado museum with working stations located in the Avionics Room

as well as the Space Station module exhibit.

The museum is Denver's newest historical and educational facility, and is dedicated to education, science, mathematics, technology and the rich history of flight in the Rocky Mountain region. One of its primary missions is to teach the younger generation about the science of aviation and space travel.

With 165,000 square feet in a 1930's-era Air Force hangar, 30 aircraft and special exhibits including Amateur Radio, Wings Over The Rockies is not only Denver's first aerospace museum, it is also the official air and space museum of the State of Colorado. More information about the museum and the part played in it by ham radio is on line at wings.rmhcn.org (KB6CC)

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WORLDBEAT - BOSNIA: NEW CALL SIGNS ISSUED IN BOSNIA - HERTZEGOVENIA

Hitting the worldbeat, effective as of 23:00 U-T-C on March 21st, hams in Bosnia-Herzegovina were told to begin using their new E7 callsigns. Boris Knezovia, E73TW, says that the country's Communications Regulatory Agency has issued only two and three letter callsigns suffixes. Applications for one letter suffixes can be applied for starting April 14th and hopefully will be issued in late May. The International Telecommunications Union announced last August 8th that they replaced the callsign series prefix block of Bosnia-Herzegovina from T9 to E7. (Southgate)

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WORLDBEAT - SABLE ISLAND: MAGIC BAND DXPEDITION ANNOUNCED

If you operate on the Magic Band, listen up. A 6-meter DXpedition to Sable Island scheduled to take place from June 25th through July 7th. The Ohio Penn DX Newsletter reports that VE3IKV, K5AND and W3CMP will be active from the rare enclave using the callsign CY0X on both CW and SSB.

Their fixed location 6 meter station will be in grid square FN93. The group will also try to activate rare grid GN03 using the callsign CY0RA if there is a solid opening. For this they are totting along a portable station with a 5 element yagi. In both cases the operators will be transmitting on 50.117 MHz and requests that those they might make contact with not send their grid square as it consumes valuable time during a DX opening.

This CY0X operation will also operate on 20 meters and 40 meter CW and SSB but the High Frequency operation will take lower priority over the 6 meters. QSL's go via VE3IKV and there is more on this upcoming operation is on-line at www.cy0x.com (OPDX)

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RADIOSPORTS: 2007 FALL SPRINT SCORES NOW ON LINE

Jim Worsham, W4KXY, says that the results for the 2007 Fall Sprints, sponsored by the Southeastern VHF Society, are now available for viewing on line. Jim also says that all of the first, second and third place winners are invited to attend the Southeastern VHF Society conference in Orlando, Florida on April 25th and 26th to receive their award certificates at the Saturday night banquet. Information on attending the conference is available at www.svhfs.org. (W4KXY)

**

DX

In DX, word that ON5AX and ON3AX continue to be active from the Pacific locations on their three month tour. Their next stop is Australia with both operating portable V-K-4 through April 7th. QSL direct to ON5AX or ON3AX.

And here's one that hams all along the North American East coast with 4 meter receive capability might want to listen out for. Sunday 6th April between 09.00 and 12.00 UTC sees the RSGB 70MHz contest. All modes are permitted and the exchange is the normal R-S-T, serial number and locator. While hams this aide of the Atlantic cannot transmit on 70 MHz, they can listen in and use the contest as a propagation study of the 4 meter band.

Thanks to good weather conditions, the ship SA Agulhas has reached Marion Island and Petrus Kritzinger, ZS8T, is now there for at least 12 months. According to announced plans, the science work for the first few weeks will take precedence and ZS8T's activity won't start earlier than the
end of April. This means any station using that call will be a pirate. Once operations are ready to start, an announcement will be made on the ZS8T.net website.

Lastly the 9-X-zero-R operation from Rwanda is now QRT. During the operation The multi-national DXpedition team made just under 63,000k QSO's. Of these about 31,000 of these were on CW, 26,000 on SSB and 4,900 on RTTY. If you worked this one, QSL via EA5RM.

Above from various DX news sources

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RESULTS OF AR NEWSLINE POLL RESULTS: SHOULD D-STAR REPEATERS OPERATE ONLY IN REPEATER SUBBANDS?

Finally this week, the answer to the survey question that asked if D-Star digital voice repeaters be restricted to operate in the same designated subbands as traditional analog FM. The results were not at all surprising.

83% of those responding wanting D-Star repeaters to be restricted to existing repeater subbands. 17% said its OK for them to operate wherever in a given band that the owner might desire. These results seem to echo what's being read on various VHF and UHF remailers and public posting websites.

There is one caveat to this survey. Of the tens of thousands of you out there with web access, only 324 of you took the time to vote in this one. We have no idea if this means a lack of interest in the mode or that you are not that concerned about band planning. We do thank those of you who took the time to go to www.arnewsline.org to do so. (ARNewsline(tm))

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THAT FINAL ITEM - APRIL 2008 POLL: GAS PRICES VS. HAMFESTS

Now, we are switching gears for our next on-line survey. According to the Department of Energy, the national average retail price of a gallon of regular grade gasoline now about $3.40. The DoE has also long been hinting that the pre-tax cost could soon exceed $4 a gallon or more. Now, add on federal, state and even local taxes and a gallon could easily hit $4.50. With this in mind, we would like to know how high will the pump price of a gallon of gasoline have to go to keep you from driving that 50 or 60 mile round trip to your favorite hamfest of convention?

Taking part in this survey is easy. Just take your web browser over to www.arnewsline.org. Then scroll down the page until you see the word polls on the left hand side. Then just click on the dollar amount that's closest
to the maximum you would bay for a gallon of gas before leaving the car in your driveway and bypassing this years event. The up to the minute results will be displayed once you have cast your vote.

We will leave this survey on-line through the end of April. Again, that's www.arnewsline.org on the left side of the page under the word polls to make your opinion known on this one. (ARNewsline(tm))

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go we want to remind you that the nominating period for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year is now open. Any licensed radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in the United States or Canada is eligible for the award. Full details and both downloadable and on-line nominating forms are in cyberspace at www dot YHOTY dot org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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351. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 13 (Friday, April 4, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-04 22:16:44 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080404214811.6E7B93074D@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 3022
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 13
April 4, 2008
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Fourteenth Annual AES Superfest a Super Success
* + ARRL Recognition Awards Available
* + Get Ready for World Amateur Radio Day on April 18
* + ARRL Compiles Complete Works of Larson E. Rapp, WIOU
* + Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test Scheduled for May
* + 2008-2009 ARRL Repeater Directories Now Shipping
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ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
Notes from the DXCC Desk
+ Hams Come to Rescue in Utah
+ Dick Jansson, KD1K, Wins March QST Cover Plaque Award
Exhibit Kits Available for Field Day
Field Day Station Locator Up and Running
Transatlantic Balloon to Launch this Weekend
Tim Hulick, W9QQ (SK)
Des Moines Hamfest Location Update
Belgian Satellite to Feature D-STAR Technology

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, <k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========================================================

==> FOURTEENTH ANNUAL AES SUPERFEST A SUPER SUCCESS

ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, attended the 14th
Annual AES Superfest <http://www.aesham.com/superfest.shtml> at the
headquarters store of Amateur Electronic Supply in Milwaukee, Wisconsin March
28-29. This event is an ARRL sanctioned hamfest that included forums, VE
testing (sponsored by MRAC), DXCC card checking and a fox hunt. ARRL Central
Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG; Vice Director Howie Huntington, K9KM,
and ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager Don Michalski, W9IXG, were also on hand
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for the event.

More than 30 vendors made the trek to Wisconsin to show off their wares. "It was fun to visit with all of the AES staff and sales people, too. I enjoyed discussing our new publications, especially the new format of the 'The ARRL Repeater Directory,'" Inderbitzen said.

ARRL Volunteer Counsel Jim O'Connell, W9WU, offered a forum Saturday afternoon -- Legal Issues for Hams -- giving advice for avoiding restrictive antenna covenants, presenting a case for installing a tower (before legislative or zoning officials) and information on the latest court rulings on RFI and PRB-1. ARRL Instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA, presented a forum, encouraging the crowd to recruit, mentor and most of all, have fun!

Inderbitzen heard from many hams while he was at the ARRL booth at Superfest: "Most of the comments I received were very positive. There were lots of nice words about the 'direction' of ARRL, the layout of QST and the one-on-one experiences members have with the ARRL staff and officials. A few folks mentioned having great visits to ARRL headquarters."

On March 27, the night before Superfest, Inderbitzen attended a meeting of the Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club (MRAC) and spoke about sharing the passion for Amateur Radio with friends and family members. This club, founded in 1917, will celebrate 90 years of ARRL Club Affiliation in 2009. In recognition of this milestone, Inderbitzen presented MRAC President Howard Parks, AB9FH, with an ARRL Recognition Award "for its commitment to Amateur Radio and to the American Radio Relay League."

==> ARRL RECOGNITION AWARDS AVAILABLE

As a service to its members, the ARRL now offers custom awards for clubs, groups and individuals for recognition and achievement, offering a wide range of styles and price levels. Each award is customized with your text and the ARRL logo. The ARRL has introduced these items in response to requests by members.

Products offered include a tan leather rectangular key fob with a call sign on one side and the ARRL diamond on the other; a rosewood pen and pencil set with personalization available on the pen and pencil, as well as the presentation box; an 8x10 inch wood plaque with blue plate engraved with up to 14 lines of gold text; a swiveling wood desk clock that holds a photo or an insert -- personalize this with up to 25 characters on two lines, and a beautiful crystal 3-inch etched globe on a crystal base, presented in a velvet-lined gift box.

Do you have that one ham in your group who comes out every Field Day, rain or shine, who stays from beginning to end, helping out in any way possible? Acknowledge their involvement with a beautiful gift that shows how much you value their service. What about the ham in your club that has been a member for 25 years and has yet to miss a meeting? Show them how much you appreciate their contribution with a small personalized token. Do you have an Elmer you would like to thank with more than words? A personalized gift with their name and call sign on it would remind them of you every time they use it.

Each item features the ARRL diamond logo. Award orders will be processed and delivered within 20 working days. View the entire award product line, as well as ARRL clothing items, at the Barker Specialties Web site <http://www.barkerstores.com/arrl>.

==> GET READY FOR WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY ON APRIL 18

Each year on the anniversary of its founding, April 18, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) marks World Amateur Radio Day. On this 83rd anniversary of its inaugural meeting in Paris, the IARU dedicates World Amateur Radio Day to the future of Amateur Radio with its theme, "Amateur Radio: A Foundation for Technical Knowledge."

It is no secret that many professionals in the field of radio, TV, communications and electronics have started their technical education as young radio amateurs. Although Amateur Radio has a different face nowadays -- Digital Communications, Voice over Internet Protocol, Satellite up- and downlinks and more -- it is even of greater value as a foundation for technical knowledge for youngsters. And much more -- it is and should be used as a unique attraction for future young radio amateurs.

World Amateur Radio Day provides an occasion to promote and publicize Amateur Radio. Amateur Radio clubs are encouraged to find suitable ways of celebrating World Amateur Radio Day. Many ways can be considered -- inviting youngsters to visit radio clubs, showing up on the air with a special call sign, organizing a station in a public area with media coverage or publicly honoring amateurs who have made significant contributions. Whatever method is chosen, clubs should think about publishing a press release for the media, giving the background to World Amateur Radio Day and promoting the value of Amateur Radio as a foundation for a technical career.

The ARRL will be very pleased to hear how Amateur Radio clubs chose to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. Share your stories and photos with us, so that they may be shared with the Amateur Radio community. E-mail your submissions to ARRL Affiliated Club/Mentor Program Supervisor Norm Fusaro, W3IZ <clubs@arrl.org>. Please be sure to put "World Amateur Radio Day" in the subject line. -- Information provided by IARU

==> ARRL COMPILES COMPLETE WORKS OF LARSON E. RAPP, WIOU

Thanks to the efforts of ARRL volunteer Bob Allison, WB1GCM, the League has assembled the complete known works of noted QST author Larson E. Rapp, WIOU <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/larson/>. Rapp's remarkable contributions spanned a period of more than three decades (1941-1962, 1972), primarily during the month of April. Rapp was said to be from Kippering-on-the-Charles, Massachusetts, just off Route 128.

"Like most visionaries unafraid of pushing technology beyond conventional limitations, Larson at times was controversial among his peers and contemporaries," ARRL Lab Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG, said. "You can now be the judge of just how well Rapp's theorems and trademark 'radical approach' have withstood the test of time."

The first Rapp article, "Putting Dynamic Prognostication to Work," appeared in the April 1941 issue of QST. In the article, Rapp expounded on his efficient one-tube transmitter. When Rapp discussed the tuning of the transmitter, he said, "The high coupling efficiency of the unit results in a minimum plate current of resonance of about 0.9 ma. at 7 Mc. This is too low a value to show on the 0-250 milliammeter that should be used for the circuit, so you'll have to take our word for it." The transmitter was described as having a "simple construction of the chassis which is made from cardboard fastened by wire staples and glue. The underside is covered with tin foil."

In "The Circular Band Theorem: Operational Advantages of Concentric Frequency Allocations" [April 1946], Rapp theorized if the FCC assigned "amateur frequencies in concentric circles instead of bands [the end result would be] the consequent elimination of out-of-band operation and band edge crowding...[making] it possible to work someone 40 or 50 kc. removed from one's frequency." This was brought on by Rapp's claim that amateurs, "realizing that after calling 'CQ' they had to start listening somewhere and that somewhere was usually the edge of the band." Rapp called for bands to be designed in "concentric circles, and the beginners should be encouraged to start in the smallest circle. Thus, even if one managed to get out of band -- we don't see how he could, but someone would find a way! -- he would still be inside the next circle and amateur radio would have no black mark against it for out-of-band operation. Further, the fact that a beginner was encouraged to start in the
inner circle would make him feel like he was one of the boys right off, being allowed into the inner circle!"

In the April 1960 issue of QST, a phony full-page ad announced the formation of "Larsen E. Enterprises, Inc," supposedly off Route 128 in Kippering-on-the-Charles, Massachusetts, with Larsen E. Rapp as president. Bearing a "Not a Advertisement" disclaimer, the ad offered customers free access to the company's air-conditioned "Wonder Workshop" with each kit purchase. "If you don't have the time to assemble the entire kit yourself, one of our engineers will be glad to do it for you, just for the pleasure it gives him," the ad promised. "No tipping please." In the "Print Shoppe," customers could purchase "authentic reproductions of the rarest QSL cards in the world." The price included having the company's "patient penman" fill in the card with your call sign and a signal report, duplicating the original ink and handwriting.

Rapp himself said that "In assembling this list of my articles and letters over the years, I noticed that QST always chose to publish them in the springtime. This practice was especially meaningful to me as spring has historically been a time of new beginnings and in our radio hobby, a time for new insights into old technical problems. I hope you, too, will be helped and inspired by these writings of an old ham."

==> ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND TEST SCHEDULED FOR MAY

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual Military/Amateur Radio communications tests in celebration of the 58th anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD). Although the actual Armed Forces Day

is celebrated on May 17, the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted on May 10 to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention, scheduled for May 16-18.

The annual celebration features traditional military to amateur crossband communications SSB voice tests and copying the Secretary of Defense message via digital modes. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and short wave listeners an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and to receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense and/or the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations. Special commemorative certificates will be awarded to anyone who receives and copies the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense.

Look for schedules and frequencies of participating military stations to be published in May on the Army MARS Web site <http://www.netcom.army.mil/MARS>.

==> 2008-2009 ARRL REPEATER DIRECTORIES NOW SHIPPING

With more than 20,000 listings for VHF/UHF repeaters across the US and Canada, "The ARRL Repeater Directory 2008-2009" is a must have. Once again, the ARRL is offering two sizes of the "Repeater Directory" -- pocket size <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1271> and desktop <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1298>.

This year, not only is the pocket-sized Repeater Directory a half-inch larger than previous editions, it boasts a larger font size, making for easier reading. For the first time ever, this year's editions feature handy indexing tabs on the cover, easier to read listings and a "Key to Repeater Notes" located right up front in the Directory.

Along with these new features, both editions have the features you know and enjoy from prior years: Repeater operating practices, repeater lingo and hints for newly licensed hams; Frequency Coordinator contact information; listings for D-Star and APCO 25 repeaters; a guide to using CTCSS tones and Digital Coded Squelch (DCS); VHF/UHF band plans and a 2 meter channel-spacing map; IRLP (Internet linked) nodes; tips for handling interference; listings for IRLP, WIRES-II and EchoLink (Internet linked) nodes; emergency message handling procedures, and a transceiver memory log.

Order your copy of The ARRL Repeater Directory 2008-2009 today at the ARRL Online Store <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?category=What's%20New>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Who bade the Sun clothe you with rainbows" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: The past few days have had very stable geomagnetic conditions. After unsettled to active geomagnetic indicators on March 26-28, conditions quieted down dramatically. Combined with the nearly two-week run of sunspots and the spring season, this makes good HF conditions. There were actually three sunspots, beginning on March 23 with the first one and a sunspot number of 14. March 24 and 25 each brought one new spot; the sunspot number rose to 35 and 52 on those days. Activity peaked between March 26-29 with daily sunspot

numbers of 63, 57, 63 and 50. Yesterday, April 3, the sunspot number was back to 14 again, as one-by-one, the three spots drifted from view. Today's sunspot number may be back to zero, and it may stay that way until April 18-20. Sunspot numbers for March 27 through April 2 were 57, 63, 50, 41, 45, 25 and 24 with a mean of 43.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 84.8, 82.9, 82.6, 80.5, 79.2, 77.8
and 75.9 with a mean of 80.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 31, 21, 8, 8, 4, 4 and 1 with a mean of 11. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 19, 13, 6, 6, 2, 5 and 1, with a mean of 7.4. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you courtesy of Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, look for the YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest (CW) on April 4-6. The SP DX Contest, the EA RTTY Contest, the QCWA Spring QSO Party, the Missouri QSO Party and the Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest are all on April 5-6. The RSGB RoPoCo 1 is April 6, the RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (CW) is April 7, the ARS Spartan Sprint is April 8 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is April 9. The CQ WW WPX Contest (SSB) is March 29-30. Next weekend is the LRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest (SSB) on April 11-13. The EU Spring Sprint (CW) is April 12. The JIDX CW Contest, Radio Maritime Day and the Georgia QSO Party are April 12-13. Be sure to check out the SKCC Weekend Sprintathon and the UBA Spring Contest (SSB) on April 13. The RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (SSB) is scheduled for April 16. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/> and the WA7BNM Contes
t Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, April 20, 2008, for these on-line course sessions beginning on Friday, May 2, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001); Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006); Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009); Analog Electronics (EC-012), and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well a
s providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course

Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Notes from the DXCC Desk: ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that DXCC has completed processing applications for 2007. As such, St Barthelemy (FJ) has been added to the DXCC computer system and Logbook of The World <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>. With the addition, this moves the #1 Honor Roll position to 338 current entities; operators now need 329 entities to qualify for Honor Roll. ARRL "While DXCC has completed applications for 2007, there are a number of application returns still being mailed, so it may be another 2-3 weeks before applicants receive their 2007 return," Moore said. "LoTW is now accepting certificate requests for St Barthelemy; once those logs are submitted, the matches should occur and applicants can claim DXCC credit." For programmers who use the DXCC entity numbering system, the entity code for St Barthelemy is 516. Moore also noted that the 2007 G4GIR/KH9 DXpedition to Wake Island has been approved for DXCC credit: "If you had cards rejected for

this operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk <dxcc@arrl.org> to have your DXCC record updated."

* Hams Come to Rescue in Utah: Eldon Kearl, K7OGM, of Fish Haven, Idaho, was driving in the Logan Canyon, Utah area last week when he came upon a driver who lost control of her truck in the snow. Her truck fell more than 100 feet over a cliff, and two of the three passengers were thrown from the truck. Witnesses tried to call for help on their cell phones, but the closest cell coverage was more than a 30 minute drive away. Kearl, however, had a radio in his car and was able to get a hold of another ham, Roger Ellis, KE7HTE, of Logan, Utah. Kearl relayed to Ellis information about the accident scene and Ellis called 911. First responders were on the scene within half an hour. Although the driver and passengers in the truck suffered only minor injuries, a spokesman for the Utah Highway Patrol said that if Kearl and Ellis had not responded in getting help so quickly, the injuries could have been much worse. As Kearl said, "It all worked out pretty good." Kearl and Ellis have nev
er met, but live relatively close to each other; they plan on meeting each other in person soon. -- Information provided by KSL-TV, Salt Lake City, Utah

* Dick Jansson, KD1K, Wins March QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for March is Dick Jansson, KD1K, for his article "HF Antennas and Restricted Living." Congratulations, Dick! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qstvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the April issue by Wednesday, April 30.

* Exhibit Kits Available for Field Day: Visit the ARRL Field Day information page <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday> for all the details on Field Day rules, frequencies, forms, pins, logos and T shirts. The complete Field Day packet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2008-packet.pdf> can be downloaded from the site as well. If you have unanswered questions about Field Day, contact ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, via e-mail <fdinfo@arrl.org> or by phone at 860-594-0236. If you want to order exhibit kits containing printed flyers about Amateur Radio, you may order these

materials on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/brochures/>. The cost of the exhibit kits ranges from $8-$12 depending on shipping. To make sure you'll have the display material in time for Field Day, your order must be received before June 13. ARRL Field Day is always the fourth full weekend in June; in 2008, it is June 28-29.

* Field Day Station Locator Up and Running: This year, for the first time, the ARRL has put together a Station Locator <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php> to help amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/> site near them. According to ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, many amateurs have been asking for something like this for many years: "So far, 287 groups in 45 states and 3 Canadian provinces had registered their Field Day site with the Station Locator." If your group would like to be a part of the Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started. Just go to the Field Day Station Locator Web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php> and follow the instructions.

* Transatlantic Balloon to Launch this Weekend: The trans-Atlantic balloon flight of the Spirit of Knoxville V is set to launch April 5 at 2000 EDT (0000 UTC April 6). The balloon, designed to stay aloft for more than 24 hours, will be inserted into the current jet stream at normal flight altitudes of 30,000-40,000 feet. This will take the balloon into Europe over the UK and France at around 40 hours into the flight if all goes well. Using radio frequencies, the balloon transmits data detailing its current location, distance traveled, speed, height and health of the balloon. Last month, the Spirit of Knoxville IV made two-thirds of its journey and crossed the tectonic plate to Europe; organizers hoped the balloon would make to Europe, but after 40 hours and 3300 miles, the balloon lost altitude and went into the ocean as it neared Ireland. The balloon's payload consists of hand-made computers and radios along with a GPS and self-authored software. The onboard computer gathers
information from the GPS like altitude, speed and temperature; the computer then determines whether it needs to drop weight to maintain its altitude and sends this information, via Amateur Radio frequencies, to volunteers around the globe. Track the mission live (the live status page will only become active at launch). See the Spirit of Knoxville Web page <http://www.spiritofknoxville.com/> for more information.

* Tim Hulick, W9QQ (SK): ARRL has learned that Tim Hulick, PhD, W9QQ (ex W9MIJ), Captain, USNR retired, of Schwenksville, Pennsylvania, passed away December 28, 2007 after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 65. Hulick, an ARRL Life Member, also held the calls V47QQ, KG4QQ, HL9QQ and PJ9Q. A 1964 graduate of the US Naval Academy, Hulick served his country for 29 years. Upon retiring from the Navy, he operated Watts Unlimited, producing a lightweight HV Power Supply designed for use as a replacement in older amplifiers. Hulick wrote several articles for QST and QEX, including "Switching Power Supplies for High Voltage" (QEX, February 1991), "PSK31 on the Road!" (QST, March 2000), and "A Two-Element Vertical Parasitic Array for 75 Meters" (QST, December 1995). Hulick was on the ARRL DXCC Honor Roll with 356 countries; he only needed BS7, but was too sick to mount a serious effort

to get them while it was most recently on the air. He worked more than 230 counties while mobile.
He also operated /MM from a number of ships during his Naval career. Hulick was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. He is survived by his wife JoAnne, three sons, a daughter and several grandchildren.

* Des Moines Hamfest Location Update: The Des Moines Radio Amateur Association (DSMRAA) will hold their hamfest on April 27 at the 92.5 KJJY Event Center, located at 2100 NW 100th Street in Clive, Iowa. The April issue of QST inadvertently stated the hamfest would be held at the Iowa State Fairgrounds.

* Belgian Satellite to Feature D-STAR Technology: Students at the Universite de Liege in Belgium have built OUFTI-1 <http://www.leodium.ulg.ac.be/cmsms/>, a new Amateur Radio CubeSat featuring D-STAR digital-communication protocol that is used for control and telemetry. Amateur Radio operators from all over the world are able to listen in on the ON0ULG D-STAR repeater on 70 cm <http://www.jfindu.net/dstarlh.aspx?rptr=ON0ULG>; 2 meters will be operational soon. The objective of this nanosatellite project is to provide hands-on experience to students in the design, construction and control of complete satellite systems, ultimately serving as the basis for a variety of space experiments. The first satellite in the series, OUFTI-1, is a CubeSat -- a 10ï¿½10ï¿½10 cm cube weighing in at no more than one kilogram. -- Information provided by the OUFTI Team

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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352. Re: The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 13 (Friday, April 4, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-05 14:14:06 UTC
From: Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com>
Message-ID: <oOLJj.967$GO4.74@newssvr19.news.prodigy.net>
Source record: 3023

ARRL Letter Mailing List wrote:
> Rapp's remarkable contributions
> spanned a period of more than three decades (1941-1962, 1972),

I remember an article, probably April '55, where
Rapp described a method of "amplitude discrimination".
If one used such a method, one could simply tune
in the weak signal by tuning out the strong ones.
Such amplitude discrimination required "back to
back limiters". When I asked my Elmer, W5OLV, how
to build a "back to back limiter", he couldn't stop
laughing.
--
73, Cecil http://www.w5dxp.com

353. Re: The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 13 (Friday, April 4, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-05 23:34:05 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <6u2gv3hsgq23f1n8hu12c848jgbd7idu6a@4ax.com>
Source record: 3024

On Sat, 5 Apr 2008 10:14:06 EDT, Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com> wrote:

>ARRL Letter Mailing List wrote:
>> Rapp's remarkable contributions
>> spanned a period of more than three decades (1941-1962, 1972),
>
>I remember an article, probably April '55, where
>Rapp described a method of "amplitude discrimination".
>If one used such a method, one could simply tune
>in the weak signal by tuning out the strong ones.
>Such amplitude discrimination required "back to
>back limiters". When I asked my Elmer, W5OLV, how
>to build a "back to back limiter", he couldn't stop
>laughing.

And I remember one solution of his to TVI was to "find seats for the
standing waves...."

Those were the days. It would be the ultimate joke on us if someone
really was going to publish the "collected works".
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

354. Re: The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 13 (Friday, April 4, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-06 01:11:58 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <6224915e-d235-43ee-9c08-701e1142b5b1@a23g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3025

On Apr 5, 6:34 pm, Phil Kane <Phil.K...@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> It would be the ultimate joke on us if someone
> really was going to publish the "collected works".
> --
Well, they're all on the website! Not limited to members-only, either.

The article to read, though, is the one about the QS-59 receiver. Many of the features described are common in today's rigs.

73 de Jim, N2EY

355. Re: The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 13 (Friday, April 4, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-06 20:51:41 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <hsOdnZjFMLcormTanZ2dnUVZ_gudnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 3026

Dan, W2IQD wrote:
> N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>> On Apr 5, 6:34ï¿½pm, Phil Kane <Phil.K...@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wro
te:
>>> It would be the ultimate joke on us if someone
>>> really was going to publish the "collected works".
>>> --
>> Well, they're all on the website! Not limited to members-only, either.
>>
>> The article to read, though, is the one about the QS-59 receiver. Many
>> of the features described are common in today's rigs.
>
> God, I remember reading that one and almost being taken in (I was about
13
> at the time). Years later I went on to write some April spoofs for othe
r
> mags, but Larson E. was always my hero. I think Byron Goodman, W1DX, wa
s
> the author?
>

QST actually had a story on a magnetic Morse key that drew so much irate
mail the League promised to tone done future April foolery and to
include "tip off" language in future articles.

Bill, W1AC

--
Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

356. Re: The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 13 (Friday, April 4, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-07 20:32:55 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <372ac17f-7d04-4835-b582-4cfcbc5c82c2@n58g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3027

On Apr 6, 12:52 pm, danfoxartNOS...@yahoo.com) (Dan, W2IQD) wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Apr 5, 6:34 pm, Phil Kane <Phil.K...@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote
:
> > > It would be the ultimate joke on us if someone
> > > really was going to publish the "collected works".
> > > --
> > Well, they're all on the website! Not limited to members-only, either.
>
> > The article to read, though, is the one about the QS-59 receiver. Many
> > of the features described are common in today's rigs.
>
> God, I remember reading that one and almost being taken in (I was about 13

> at the time). Years later I went on to write some April spoofs for other
> mags, but Larson E. was always my hero. I think Byron Goodman, W1DX, was
> the author?

Ya know...

It's not just the ARRL that has fun with this kind of thing. CQ
Magazine has a few articles in it this month that are very much in the
4/1 spirit. A Cray based CW contest simulator which will run all the
CW contests off the air by 2011? I have to admit that it sounded good
until you started thinking though the details and reading the supposed
names of those involved. It would *almost* work?

There was another article that was a bit more overt, I just don't
remember exactly what it was about.

I have to admit though, the ARRL's "finding of the bad coax jumper and
that's why propagation is so bad" thing was a funny one. They had me
reading along wondering what all the homeland security stuff was going
to be and before I really got the joke I'd read almost half. Classic
way to write these things. You simply start to run off the rails of
reality a little at a time, throwing in enough truth to distract the
reader until as close to the end as possible. Truly good ones leave
just about everybody wondering if it's true or not.

-= bob =-

357. Re: The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 13 (Friday, April 4, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-10 21:16:59 UTC
From: David Lesher <wb8foz@panix.com>
Message-ID: <ftli6naqe1@reader2.panix.com>
Source record: 3028

KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com> writes:

>> God, I remember reading that one and almost being taken in (I was
>> about 13 at the time). Years later I went on to write some April
>> spoofs for other mags, but Larson E. was always my hero. I think Byron
>> Goodman, W1DX, was the author?

>Ya know...

>It's not just the ARRL that has fun with this kind of thing. CQ
>Magazine has a few articles in it this month that are very much in the
>4/1 spirit. A Cray based CW contest simulator which will run all the
>CW contests off the air by 2011? I have to admit that it sounded good
>until you started thinking though the details and reading the supposed
>names of those involved. It would *almost* work?

I remember The Invisible Antenna article by the Oberlin College
Prof. [QST] and 73's "How to turn your [WW2] Command Set into a 5 Band
250 Watt SSB Tranceiver" article. The instructions were easy to follow:

a) First, remove all components except for the fuseholder in the
upper right hand corner.

cont. on page 98

Of course, the magazine had 96 pages total...

--
A host is a host from coast to coast.................wb8foz@nrk.com
& no one will talk to a host that's close........[v].(301) 56-LINUX
Unless the host (that isn't close).........................pob 1433
is busy, hung or dead....................................20915-1433

358. Delay in Release of ARNewsline Report 1600

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-11 09:03:15 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080411015937.041e9a00@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 3029
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Do to breaking news the release of Newsline Report 1600 will be delayed
until about 3:00 PM (15:00) Eastern Time.

Thank you,

Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF
Producer

359. BREAKING NEWS: Hamvention=AE Names 2008 Award Winners

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-11 22:00:09 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080411145719.021c63f0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 3030
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

(Note: This release arrived to late for inclusion in newscast #1600.)

Hamventionï¿½ 2008
PO Box 964, Dayton Ohio 45401-0964
On-Line: <http://www.hamvention.org/>http://www.hamvention.org

News Release

April 11,
2008 Contact:
Henry Ruminski, Media Chair
For Immediate
Release
<mailto:media@hamvention.com>media@hamvention.com

Hamventionï¿½ Names 2008 Award Winners

DAYTON, OH -- Three amateur radio (ham) operators who have made significant contributions to the Amateur Radio Service, will be honored guests when Hamventionï¿½ 2008 opens in Hara Arena on May 16. Recipients of this year's Hamventionï¿½ awards are Ward Silver, N0AX, whose books and teaching materials have helped many become hams; Tom McDermott, N5EG, whose technical contributions helped digital ham radio expand; and Emery McClendon, KB9IBW, who started Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day (ARMAD) in 2003 as a way for Amateur Radio to express support and appreciation for our service men and women.
Frank Beafore, WS8B, Hamventionï¿½ Awards Chairman said selecting the winners from the number of worthy nominees presented a tough task for the committee. "We believe the winners all have made significant contributions to the ham radio community. We were impressed with the quality of the nominations."
Hamventionï¿½ Chairman Carl Rose, K8CPR, praised the winners, saying: On behalf of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) and Hamventionï¿½ 2008 it is my pleasure to congratulate this years Award Winners. I ask all hams to join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions and the many years of service the winners have given to the amateur radio service."
Ward Silver, was named Amateur of the Year for his many contributions including Ham Radio for Dummies, his first effort to show that becoming a ham does not have to be a difficult challenge. His additional books, magazine articles and his Hands On column in QST have all helped many hams develop their knowledge and skills. Though he has been honored for his efforts, including receiving the Bill Orr Technical Writing Award from the ARRL, he said, "The best reward, though, is hearing from readers that have found my writing helpful in understanding some aspect of

electronics or radio."
He was first licensed at age 17 in 1972 as WNï¿½GQP, and
upgraded to Extra and Nï¿½AX in 1975. A contester and DXer he appears in
the
DXCC Honor Roll, lots of contest Top Ten boxes, and on a few record lists.
While living on Vashon Island, near Seattle WA, he worked
closely with community leaders and the Vashon-Maury Island Radio Club
(W7VMI) to provide effective emergency communications. Working together,
the fire district, CERT, and radio club members have created one of the
best local communications systems in the state of Washington.
He continues to pursue a variety of writing and editing
projects with the ARRL, such as the training manuals for all three license
classes and the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet biweekly newsletter read by
nearly 17,000 subscribers. He said, "Ham radio continues to open doors for
me and I am honored to enjoy the friendship of my many ham radio friends in
every corner of the globe."
Emery McClendon, KBPIBW, received the Hamvention award for
Special Achievement for his efforts starting ARMAD or Amateur Radio
Military Appreciation Day in 2003. He said he started ARMAD "as a way to
have Amateur Radio serve as a tool for the people of our communities to be
able to express 'live' support and appreciation for our Troops, Veterans,
Military Retired; and First Responders." The event has become popular and
spread to other communities. Several Military Support Groups have developed
an interest in having Amateur Radio as a part of their activities. This
resulted in Amateur Radio being introduced to thousands of people worldwide
that otherwise would have never known about our public service.
McClendon, a native of Fort Wayne, Indiana, who became an
Amateur Radio Operator 16 years ago. His interest in organizing Military
Special Events came from his four years of service in the U.S. Air Force,
and two years in the Indiana Air National Guard. In 2001 he was asked to
make Amateur Radio a part of The Vietnam Wall Experience for the City Of
Fort Wayne, and in 2003 was asked to organize Amateur Radio into the Fort
Wayne Glen Beck Rally For America. The events went so well that he was
asked to organize Amateur Radio for the National Rally For America held in
Huntington, West Virginia.
He is active with two local Amateur Radio Clubs, and with
giving presentations about Amateur Radio to community groups. His
activities, including ARMAD, have resulted in many TV, Radio, and media
stories over the past five years giving Amateur Radio community exposure.
The Hamvention Technical Achievement Award goes to Thomas C.
McDermott, N5EG, for his more than 20 years of involvement in projects
which further the development of amateur radio. He co-developed the TexNet
packet switching network in 1986, based on datagram routing. In the 1990s
it covered much of the south central United States. He was the founder of
the Texas Packet Radio Society. In 1994 he developed the TAPR-AMSAT windows
software development system for the DSP-93 modem, including software-based
instruments (oscilloscope, spectrum analyzer, signal generator). In 1996 he
wrote a textbook on Wireless Digital Communications for TAPR, and developed
the TAPR VNA in 2004. These projects provide an on-going revenue stream
for TAPR to help fund other activities and development projects. Tom

received the ARRL technical excellence award in 2005, and is a life member of the ARRL.
He enjoys operating RTTY and an occasional contest. He is married and lives in Medford, Oregon. Hamvention, the worlds largest amateur radio gathering, brings more than 20,000 people to the greater Dayton area each year. The three-day event includes exhibits, a flea market, forums and education sessions.
For more information about Dayton Hamvention 2008 (scheduled for May 16-18), visit the website at <http://www.hamvention.org/>www.hamvention.org or e-mail <http://www.daytoncvb.com/newsletters/mailtmedia@hamvention.org>media@hamvention.org.

360. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 14 (Friday, April 11, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-11 23:39:02 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080411183254.1F92430A90@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 3031
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 14
April 11, 2008
****

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Ohio ARES Teams Lend Support to Hepatitis Vaccination Clinic
* + ARRL EXPO at Dayton Hamvention -- the Countdown Is On!
* + Kansas Becomes 26th State to Have PRB-1 Law
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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> OHIO ARES TEAMS LEND SUPPORT TO HEPATITIS VACCINATION CLINIC

When news of a hepatitis A outbreak alarmed residents of West Chester, Ohio last month, local officials sprang into action to inoculate more than 1200 people who had eaten at a local fast food restaurant; an employee with a confirmed case of the virus worked at the restaurant in March may have contaminated ice and other food items, health officials said. Inundated with more people than expected, Butler County Health Department and Emergency Management officials were overwhelmed with traffic, communication problems and general logistics of the event. When a second hepatitis A vaccination clinic was scheduled for April 5,

officials called on local Amateur Radio operators to assist with communications, as well as traffic and crowd control.

"After the first vaccination clinic was swamped with people coming to get their shots, both the Board of Health and the Emergency Management Agency in Butler County realized they needed assistance," said ARRL Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Frank Piper, KI8GW. "They had the super idea of bringing in the local ARES group and called on District Emergency Coordinator Robert Spratt, N8TVU, to organize some hams to come help out."

According to Spratt, officials at the first clinic could not communicate on their cell phones due to lack of coverage in the area. "Officials had only planned for about 800 people to show up to get inoculated. When they had more than 1200 people show up, they tried using their cell phones to call and get more vaccine, but they just wouldn't work." Calls made to 911 for police back-up to deal with unruly persons also had trouble getting through, Piper said.

Ohio has a statewide, secure, reliable public service wireless communication for public safety and first responders in place -- MARCS -- used by Emergency Management officials in times when traditional communications systems fail. "When Butler County officials tried to use it at the first clinic, the system displayed 'OUT OF RANGE' or 'NO SIGNAL' messages on every channel," Piper said.

At the second clinic, eight hams from both Butler County and Hamilton County were on site and ready to assist. The clinic, located at a church, was scheduled to run from 10 AM-4 PM. The hams were ready for early crowds; at the first clinic, people were standing in line more than two hours before the doors opened.

"When the ARES team arrived, they established the parking lot area, the traffic flow patterns into and out of the church area and set up the required communications," Spratt said. "ARES members canvassing the complex discovered several other events were ongoing at the facility, including a funeral, fingerprinting for youth sports, a planning meeting for a summer carnival and a planning meeting for the upcoming soccer season. Soccer practice also added to the traffic and pedestrian congestion."

More than 225 people received hepatitis A vaccinations at the second clinic and ARES members directed more than 1200 cars to their correct destinations on the property. The Butler County Health Department officials, clinic staff, the Butler County Emergency Management Agency, the West Chester Police Department and church officials thanked the ARES team for a job well done, all without any reported incidents. Spratt said that the Ohio District 4 ARES teams in Warren, Clermont, Hamilton and Butler counties have had prior Volunteer Reception Center and vaccination clinic operation training that "helped greatly in understanding and knowing what would be needed in the way of communications at the clinic, as well as security, traffic control and

crowd control."

Spratt said that people coming to get inoculations "asked about who we were and who we were working for. We made some new friends in the community and recruited three or four people for the upcoming Technician classes. They thought what we were doing as volunteers was great and they want to become part of the team."

Piper concurred with Spratt. "In the Ohio Section, we have the Ohio Section Emergency Response Plan (OSERP) <http://www.trac-online.org/Docs/oserp.pdf>. This is a small document compared to some ERPs I have seen. This document outlines how ARES is activated in the Section, who reports to whom and how communication flows. DEC Spratt and his team followed the OSERP pretty much to the letter, and it worked well. Many ARES districts have participated with their Regional Medical Response Systems in their assigned districts on tabletop exercises, as well as actual call-up drills. In February, District 3, under the command of ADEC Fred Stone, W8LLY, conducted a Pandemic Flu activation that extended over several days in February, including a real-time snow storm which affected the drill. This vaccination clinic this past weekend proves to all of us that ARES is vital to the emergency medical community."

According to the Centers for Disease Control, hepatitis A is a viral infection that attacks the liver and is spread primarily by close person-to-person contact or by consuming contaminated food.

==> ARRL EXPO AT DAYTON HAMVENTION -- THE COUNTDOWN IS ON!

With just over a month to go, the final details for the ARRL EXPO at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention <http://www.hamvention.org/> are wrapping up and the secrets are being let out! This year's EXPO is meant to not only share in, but to embrace the Dayton Amateur Radio Association's (DARA) -- host of Hamvention -- theme of "Amateur Radio + People = Fellowship" <http://www.w8bi.org/>. With more open-air areas and interactive booths within the ARRL EXPO, we hope to not only convey this message but provide easier opportunities for fellowship within the EXPO, offering more opportunities for interaction with the ARRL family. The Dayton Hamvention will be held May 16-18 at Hara Arena.

ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, is overseeing the ARRL EXPO at Hamvention. "A new area within the EXPO this year is the ARRL Movie Room," she said. "We decided to try something a little different this year and create a cozy area to sit back and relax and watch a movie on the 10-foot screen. We are very pleased that Bob Allphin, K4UEE, Peter I participant and producer of the DXpedition video, will be a featured guest on Saturday in the movie room. This will be a unique opportunity to come and meet Bob, listen to additional commentary on the many DXpeditions he has been on and have some personal time to ask your questions about going on a DXpedition." Allphin has visited 93 DXCC entities, operated from 50 and been on 33 DXpeditions, of which 6 set world records. He took 5th place at the 1996 WRTC with teammate James

Pratt, N6IG.

Breen said that the Youth Lounge, organized by 2007 Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship recipient Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, will be up and running again this year. "With a bevy of activity for our young hams, the youth lounge is a full scale version of what every club and group can do to entice young hams to their events. This is a perfect opportunity to visit Andrea and the other volunteers in the areas and bring back ideas to your home clubs."

The 2008 Youth Dinner will also be on Saturday night, but with one change: Instead of being at a local restaurant, it will take place at the DARA clubhouse. Breen said, "We're very excited by the generosity the DARA Board of Directors has shown to us. They let me know that the restaurant we've used the past couple of years for the youth dinner had gone out of business. So while I was searching for a new location, the DARA Board was meeting and decided to offer their clubhouse to the kids." Hartlage said she was thrilled with this option this year. "Not only can we enjoy a great pizza party at the clubhouse, but we can even have time to get on the air together! I'm so thankful to DARA for stepping up and helping us out in such a generous way."

Breen followed up, saying, "DARA's theme of fellowship extends into the EXPO area with their partnership with us, including a new area within EXPO that will be dedicated to the newer operators and future hams."

==> KANSAS BECOMES 26TH STATE TO HAVE PRB-1 LAW

After an unsuccessful attempt eight years ago to get a PRB-1 <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/local/prb-1.html> type bill signed in Kansas, radio amateurs in that state have succeeded in becoming the 26th state with a PRB-1 law on the books. Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed HB 2805 <http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2008/2805.pdf> into law on April 9. The bill, written by Rep Arlen Siegfreid (R-15), passed unanimously in both the Kansas House of Representatives and Senate. It takes effect July 1, 2008.

Known as the "Kansas Emergency Communications Preservation Act," the new law concerns federally licensed Amateur Radio Service communications. According to the governor's office, the law "prohibit[s] a city or county governing body from taking any action that precludes federally licensed amateur radio service communications, or that does not conform to federal regulations related to amateur radio antenna facilities."

The new law states that if a municipality takes any action that regulates the placement, screening, number or height of a station antenna structure, the action must "Reasonably accommodate federally licensed amateur radio service communications; and constitute the minimum regulation practicable to carry out the legitimate purpose of the governing body." Antenna support structures constructed prior to the bill's effective date "are exempted from subsequent changes in zoning

regulations...and may be repaired as required."

JD Spradling, KC0NYS, of Olathe, Kansas, is chairman of the committee <http://www.hamsforkansas.org/> that led the charge to get a PRB-1 law on the books in that state. He commented: "Many local zoning boards don't give FCC regulations adequate consideration when making zoning decisions and across the country amateurs have found that state laws are a more effective tool for influencing local zoning regulations. So beginning in the 1990s, amateurs began lobbying for legislation that would place PRB-1-type language into their state laws."

Upon hearing the news that Governor Sebelius signed the bill into law, Spradling said, "This venture has been successful because we have had a great team effort all the way through the process, from all who stepped up -- from our state and local representatives, to our subject matter experts and the PRB-1 Committee members from Miami County, Kansas, as well as everyone else who had been proactive in the 2008 Kansas Legislative process for your fellow hams."

==> SPECIAL EVENTS TO COMMEMORATE 96TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITANIC TRAGEDY

Several Amateur Radio special event operations are scheduled to mark the 96th anniversary of the sinking of the RMS Titanic. The "unsinkable" White Star Line passenger vessel was on its maiden voyage from Liverpool, England, to New York City when it struck an iceberg and sank early on April 15, 1912. More than 1500 people perished, while some 700 passengers in 19 lifeboats were rescued by the RMS Carpathia, whose radio operator copied the frantic distress call (the still common "CQD" signal, possibly coupled with the then-new "SOS") transmitted by MGY radio operator Jack Phillips as the Titanic foundered.

Special event W0S <http://www.wzeros.com/W0S_Special_Event.html>, which stands for "White Star Line," will be on the air from the Titanic Museum in Branson, Missouri <http://www.titanicbranson.com/>. The W0S operation will commence at 1300 UTC on Saturday, April 12, and conclude at 2400 UTC on Sunday, April 13. Members of the Nixa Amateur Radio Club and the Southwest Missouri Amateur Radio Club (SMARC) will be among those at the helm of W0S. Icom, Vibroplex, MicroLog, Rayfield Communications and MFJ are corporate sponsors for the event.

Look for W0S on or around these frequencies: SSB, 3.850, 7.250, 14.250 and 21.350 MHz; CW, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050 and 21.050 MHz; PSK, 80 and 40 meters only. Operators will be listening 3 kHz up for calls. There will also be activity on D-STAR, EchoLink and IRLP; please check the event's Web page for information concerning these frequencies. Visitors are welcome. E-mail the Nixa club for more information <titanichams@wzeros.com>.

Special event station W1MGY will be on the air from the Titanic Historical Society Museum in Indian Orchard, Massachusetts. Operation will concentrate on 20 and 40 meters April 11-12 from 1400 UTC until 2030 UTC each day, although W1MGY may be on the air at other times,

bands and modes throughout the 96th anniversary weekend.

Look for W1MGY on or around: CW, 3.533, 7.033, 14.033, 18.099, 21.033 and 28.033 MHz; SSB, 3.860, 7.260, 14.260, 18.160, 21.360 and 28.336 MHz, conditions permitting.

To schedule a contact with W1MGY, contact Dave Isham, KB1MU <kb1mu@charter.net>, indicating a preferred date, time and frequency. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with QSL requests to Titanic Historical Society, W1MGY, PO Box 51053, Indian Orchard, MA 01151-0053.

==> 2008 ARRL/TAPR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE: CALL FOR PAPERS

Technical papers are solicited for presentation at the 27th annual ARRL/TAPR <http://www.tapr.org/> Digital Communications Conference (DCC), Friday-Sunday, September 26-28, in Chicago, Illinois <http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>. Papers will also be published in the Conference Proceedings. Authors do not need to attend the conference to have their papers included in the Proceedings. The submission deadline is July 31.

The ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference is an international forum for technically minded radio amateurs to meet and present new ideas and techniques. Paper/presentation topic areas include -- but are not limited to -- software defined radio (SDR), digital voice, digital satellite communication, digital signal processing (DSP), HF digital modes, adapting IEEE 802.11 systems for Amateur Radio, Global Positioning System (GPS), Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS), Linux in Amateur Radio, AX.25 updates and Internet operability with Amateur Radio networks.

Submit papers to Maty Weinberg, KB1EIB, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 or via e-mail <maty@arrl.org>. Papers will be published exactly as submitted, and authors will retain all rights. ARRL will provide additional information on the 2008 DCC as it becomes available.

==> FCC ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth sent a Warning Notice to Edward R. Drone, W0NYF, of Sycamore Hills, Missouri alerting him that "the trustee of the St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club repeaters K0STL (146.940 MHz), N0TYZ (146.910 MHz), W0FF (146.970 MHz) and W0SRC (146.850 MHz) has requested in writing that you refrain from use of the repeaters." These requests, the Commission, noted, were due to Drone's "failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee/control operators of the repeaters for their users." Hollingsworth reminded Drone about a past conversation they had in which Drone "acknowledged that [he] had been directed to stay off of the repeaters and stated that [he] would comply," but, according to the Warning Notice, Drone "utilized the K0STL repeater on March 31, 2008 and stated that [he] would not refrain from using it." Drone was told he was expected "to abide by the request to stay off of the above-listed repeaters and any other such request by a repeater

licensee, control operator or trustee." Drone was warned that the FCC would initiate enforcement action against his license -- which could include revocation, monetary forfeiture or a "modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies on which [he] may operate W0NYF." Fines normally range from $7500-$10,000.

Hollingsworth also sent a Warning Notice to David R. Henry, W2DRH, of Cuddebackville, New York alerting him that "the K3TSA repeater system operating on 145.350 MHz has requested in writing that you refrain from use of the repeater." These requests, the Commission, noted, were due to Henry's "failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee/control operators of the repeater and FCC rules." Hollingsworth reminded Henry that the trustees had "previously requested verbally [to Henry that he] refrain from using the system, but [Henry has] apparently ignored both verbal and written requests." Hollingsworth also noted that Henry "complained that on February 13, 2008, the control operator of the K3TSA repeater shut down the repeater while [he was] engaged in emergency communications. [Henry] had previously been warned not to use the repeater and, moreover, three of the five control operators of the K3TSA repeater witnessed the communications and reported that there was no emergency situation." Henry was warned that the FCC would initiate enforcement action against his license -- which could include revocation, monetary forfeiture or a "modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies on which [he] may operate W2DRH." Fines normally range from $7500-$10,000. Hollingsworth also pointed out that Henry's Amateur Radio license was set to expire on April 21, 2009. "Please be advised," Hollingsworth said, "that your license will not be routinely renewed unless this matter is resolved."

Hollingsworth sent a Warning Notice to non-licensee residential owners concerning interference from a flat screen television unit to a licensed amateur in Edgewater, Florida.

Direct all questions concerning the Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions Web postings via e-mail only to Riley Hollingsworth <fccham@fcc.gov> in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Unless to see my shadow in the Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: As of Thursday, April 10, there have been no sunspots for seven days. We may see sunspots return around April 21-28. This is based on recent activity rotating out of view around the Sun and (we hope) reappearing later this month. The predicted solar flux remains at 70 until April 20 when it reaches 75, then 80 on April 21. The predicted higher solar flux should correlate with the return of sunspots. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions April 11, quiet April 12-13, quiet to unsettled April 14, unsettled April 15, quiet to unsettled April 16 and back to quiet on April 17. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's

Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend is the YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest (SSB) on April 11-13. The EU Spring Sprint (CW) is April 12. The JIDX CW Contest, Radio Maritime Day and the Georgia QSO Party are April 12-13. Be sure to check out the SKCC Weekend Sprintathon and the UBA Spring Contest (SSB) on April 13. The RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (SSB) is scheduled for April 16. The CQ WW WPX Contest (SSB) is March 29-30. Next weekend, look for the Holyland DX Contest, the TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest, the ES Open HF Championship, the Feld Hell Sprint and the EU Spring Sprint (SSB) on April 19. The Michigan QSO Party, the EA-QRP CW Contest, the Ontario QSO Party and the YU DX Contest are April 19-20. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is April 21. The SKCC Sprint is April 23 and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (Data) is April 24. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, April 20, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, May 2, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001); Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006); Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009); Analog Electronics (EC-012), and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* National Hurricane Center Director: Hams Give "Valuable" Reports: Director of the National Hurricane Center (NHC) Bill Read, KB5FYA, praised Amateur Radio at the National Hurricane Conference in Orlando earlier this month <http://www.voipwx.net/local/Bill_Read_on_Ham_Radio_Hurricane_Conference 2008.wmv>. "Ham radio has always played a critical role in emergencies,"

Read said. "What goes out when you have a high wind event or major flooding is the communications system, so you lose even cell phones, landline phones, commercial radio and TV. In those cases, ham radio operators that can put up emergency transmitters and antennas in the wake of a storm can give us reports that are valuable. They also help in the search and rescue efforts in the aftermath." The NHC has a dedicated amateur station on-site -- WX4NHC -- and has worked closely with hams for decades. -- Thanks to Dan Musten, KD4RAA, and John Van Pelt, K4JVP, for the information

* Zapping Cancer Cells at 13.56 MHz on "60 Minutes" This Weekend: John Kanzius, K3TUP, of Erie Pennsylvania, has been working on an RF-based treatment for cancer that is currently undergoing testing. According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Kanzius is scheduled to be on the CBS news show "60 Minutes" on Sunday, April 13 (keep in mind that the line-up could change). "While there never is a way to predict what shows and what ends up on the cutting room floor, John gave as many plugs to his ham radio background as he could in being the foundations of hands-on learning that led to his research and invention," Pitts said. Kanzius, a very active Amateur Radio operator, aided in the creation of the upcoming ARRL Technology and Amateur Radio public relations campaign. Read more about Kanzius and his ground-breaking idea to kill cancer cells with radio waves in the February 2008 issue of QST.

* ARRL VE Manual Now Available: The ARRL VEC leads the way when it comes to licensing amateurs, thanks to the excellent work of thousands of volunteer examiners who give so generously of their time, energy and skill. Whether you have ever thought about becoming a Volunteer Examiner or you are a seasoned VE, the "ARRL VEC Volunteer Examiner Manual" <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1328> is the complete guide to the ARRL Volunteer Examiner program. Packed with everything new and experienced ARRL VEs need to know, this book is loaded with information, including chapters on becoming a Volunteer Examiner, the Volunteer Examiner Team, preparing for the test session, Form 605; conducting the test session, session report and returning documents, FCC Part 97 Rules and more. To learn more about becoming an ARRL Volunteer Examiner, please see the ARRL VEC Web Page <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/become-a-ve.html>. Order your copy of the "ARRL VEC Volunteer Examiner Manual" today.

* Ham to Hike Pacific Crest Trail: Bruce Prior, N7RR, a contributor to QST, has announced plans to hike the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) later this month. The PCT is 2650 miles long, ranging from the California-Mexico border all the way to the Canadian border and reaching an altitude of 13,153 feet. On April 19, Prior will begin the journey near Campo, California with hopes of reaching Manning Park, British Columbia in late September or early October. Prior will bring along his Elecraft KX1 with the 30 meter/80 meter module, as well as resonant half-wavelength dipole antennas for the 80, 40, 30 and 20 meter bands. While not planning to do any pedestrian-mobile contacts, Prior said he

will wait until he has set up camp for the evening before getting on the air: "Occasionally I may decide to operate in the daytime, such as from the summit of Mount Baden-Powell (9399 feet) or at the California-Oregon border on the PCT." For more information on frequencies, times and nets that Prior will be on, please visit his blog <http://www.n7rr.com/>. According to the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), approximately 300 people attempt to hike the entire trail from end-to-end each year. The trip usually takes between four and six months. Around 180 complete the hike each year. The route is mostly through National Forest and, where possible, protected wilderness areas. The trail avoids civilization in favor of scenic and pristine mountainous terrain with few roads, passing through the Laguna, San Jacinto, San Bernardino, San Gabriel, Liebre, Tehachapi and Sierra Nevada ranges in California, and the Cascade Range in California, Oregon and Washington.

* William F. Buckley Meets Amateur Radio: In a personal essay published in the April 7, 2008 issue of "The National Review," the late William F. Buckley Jr described a fascinating story involving himself, Senator Barry Goldwater, K7UGA (SK), and of course ham radio. It seems that Mr Buckley was part of a 12 man trip to Russia's Vostok station, a very remote outpost at the magnetic South Pole. In addition to his brother, Senator James Buckley, their old pal Barry Goldwater and his son Barry Jr were also members of this expedition. Buckley described being in a crowded Soviet igloo, entertained with "trays of caviar and tumblers of vodka." After toasting his Russian host, he was suddenly taken aside by Barry Jr. "Dad wants to see you" he said, pointing to the door. Buckley was taken to another igloo, apparently the radio shack. "Thought you might like to talk to your wife," the senior Goldwater said. Buckley describes the prideful look on Goldwater's face, having maneuvered the Soviet radio to contact his wife back home in Arizona! Although he was a man famous for his complete control of the English language, Bill Buckley said he was "speechless" as he heard the telephone ringing and his wife answering the telephone! He said, "It's me darling" and his wife responded, "It's three o'clock in the morning!" Buckley exclaimed, "I'm calling from the South Pole!" This story reminded me of the many nights back in the late 1970s when I gladly helped with phone patches from the US Navy base at McMurdo, Antarctica. Just as Senator Goldwater did, I awakened many people in the wee hours of the morning with a phone call from their loved ones on the bottom of the world! -- Bruce Jackson, KA5ELC, Cordova, Tennessee

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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"Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify
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your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all
automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You
must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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361. Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1600 - April 11, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-11 23:40:47 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080411130801.0416feb8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 3032
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1600 - April 11, 2008

(Note: This weeks newcast has several audio intensive stories which cannoy properly be displayed as text. We suggest that you go to our website at www.arnewsline.org and download and play the mp3 audio version of this weeks newscast. -- ARNewsline ")

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1600 with a release date of Friday, April 11tht, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The Morse code comes to the Internet, a middle-East
broadcaster highlights ham radio, and Newsline celebrates newscast number 1600 with a look back. Please join us for this trip through time on Amateur Radio Newsline" report number 1600 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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HAM RADIO ON THE NET: IRC MORSE COMES TO THE WWW

It was bound to happen and now it has, Morse code over Internet Relay Chat or IRC.

According to its host website, CWirc is a plug-in for the X-Chat IRC client. It is designed to transmit raw Morse code over the internet using I-R-C servers as reflectors. The transmitted Morse code can be received in near real-time by other X-Chat clients who are equipped with the CWirc plug-in.

CWirc tries to emulate a standard amateur radio rig. It has the ability to send and receive Morse over virtual channels, and it can listen to multiple senders transmitting on the same channel. Morse code is keyed locally using a straight or iambic key connected to a computers serial port, or using the mouse buttons, Sound is played through the soundcard or through an external sounder.

Note that CWirc doesn't do any Morse decoding. It simply transmits and receives C-W timing events. The program and your computer does the rest to give you a Morse code experience without the radio, the antenna or any T-V-I.

More about CWirc is on-line at users.skynet.be/ppc/cwirc/ The website also has historic information on the Morse code and the telegraph. (Southgate)

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RADIO LAW: KANSAS PROTECTS HAM RADIO TOWERS AND ANTENNAS

Kansas Becomes 26th State to have a law assuring to rights of hams to have antennas. Known as the Kansas Emergency Communications Preservation Act the new measure is fashioned after federal statute PRB-1.

The wording of HB 2805 is simple an unambiguous. It states that if a municipality takes any action that regulates the placement, screening, number or height of a ham radio station antenna structure, that this action must reasonably accommodate federally licensed amateur radio service communications. Also that the action must constitute the minimum regulation practicable to carry out the legitimate purpose of the governing body.

As to existing towers and antennas: These are grandfathered under a stipulation that says antenna support structures constructed prior to the bill's effective date are exempted from subsequent changes in zoning regulations. Also that they may be repaired as needed.

According to Tom Laux, N0AG, the Salvation Army was very supportive of the measure. Representatives of the Salvation Army twice testified in support of it at hearings held in Topeka. Laux says that they were fantastic.

The bill, written was by Rep Arlen Siegfreid. It unanimously passed in both the houses of the Kansas legislature. Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius signed HB 2805 into law on April 9. It takes effect July 1, 2008.

In the newsroom, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF. Jim. (QRZ, eHam, N0AG, others)

**

WORLDBEAT - LEBANON: AL JAZEERA TELEVISION COVERS HAM RADIO

Amateur Radio was highlighted on Quatar's international television service Al Jazeera. This in a documentary news show on Sunday April 6th. Amateur Radio Newsline's Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, is here with the details:

--

The Al Jazeera program, Hadeeth Al Sabah featured Radio Amateurs of Lebanon President, Hani Raad, OD5TE. Raad talked about Amateur Radio principles and his personal experience in ham radio emergency service communications over the past 28 years.

By way of background, Hani Raad, OD5TE, is a graduate of George Washington University with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He also holds the United States call sign AA3EI and was very active in both ARES and RACES when he lived in the Washington D.C area. As such he holds expertise on the methods used in the area of ham radio

Emergency Communications in both the United States and Lebanon.

The show, which was repeated on Monday the April 7th, was described as a look at both worlds of ham radio and the way in which hams respond in time of crisis in both.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, saying a happy 1600 to all.

--

In an e-mail to Newsline, OD5TE said that the program was extremely successful and all the feedback he has received form hams around the world has been very positive. (OD5TE, others)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY AND THE WARD AWARD

World Amateur Radio Day 2008 will take place on April 18th and this year you can win an award just for taking part in this years celebration. That's because the Polish Radio Amateur's Journal, with the support of the Polish Amateur Radio Union will be sponsoring this years WARD or World Amateur Radio Day award. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the details:

--

By way of background, each year on the anniversary of its founding, the International Amateur Radio Union marks its inaugural meeting in Paris. A meeting that took place on April 18th some 83 years ago.

In honor of this historic event the IARU dedicates World Amateur Radio Day to the future of the world-wide service. And in continuing this theme the World Amateur Radio Day award will be granted by the Polish Radio Amateur's Journal to those who make either 10 QSOs on the High Frequency bands, or 10 QSOs on the VHF bands. All contacts must be made between 0000 and 2400 U-T-C on April 18th.

The full colored award is also available to SWL's for the same numbers of reports. To claim it you will need to send a completed application form along with a log extract that includes your list of QSO's and 5 International Reply Coupons to the The Polish Radio Amateur's Journal. Its address is MK QTC, Suchacz-Zamek - Wielmozy 5b, 82-340 Tolkmicko, Poland. Miore information is on-line at www.ward.pzk.pl

Saying a happy 1600 to all, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Oh yes. The deadline to file for this years World Amateur Radio Day award is midnight UTC on May 31st. (Southgate)

**

RESCUE RADIO: CANADIAN EARTH HOUR EXERCISE A SUCCESS

An emergency communications radio system was tested in Southern Ontario Canada during the March 29th Earth Hour. That's when the Toronto FM Communications Society in association with the Canadian Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Emergency Management Ontario conducted a trial of the ability of the amateur radio repeater system in the Southern Ontario to respond to crisis situations.

During the Earth Hour, the Toronto FM Communications Society net control station operated from an Emergency Management Ontario mobile command center. He logged in excess of 60 stations. All were operating on emergency back-up power sources with some operators in Hamilton to Oshawa and north to Barrie responding. The exercise proved the importance of amateur radio operators and repeater organizations in the event of a widespread disaster.

Toronto FM Communications Society operates repeaters on the CN Tower in Toronto, Ontario as well as at the highest elevation in Southern Ontario atop the Skyloft Ski Resort in Uxbridge, Ontario. More about the group is on line at www.tfmcs.com (eHam, PRWeb)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W5DSC repeater serving the ham radio community in and near Victoria, Texas.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RAFIO: EMCOMMWEST IN RENO NEVADA MAY 2 - 4

If you are into emergency communications and public service, then Reno, Nevada, is the spot to be the weekend of May 2nd to the 4th. Amateur Radio Newslie's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, is in Reno with the details:

--

EMCOMMWEST 2008 is returning to "The Biggest Little City in the World", Reno, Nevada, It will be held at the Circus Circus Hotel in downtown Reno, May 2-4.

This year's keynote speaker will be Dennis Dura, K2DCD Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager from the ARRL headquarters in Newington, CN. Dennis will bring some great information about how we can be better emergency communicators, and use the latest technology and resources available in doing so.

Emcommwest will also feature a special video presentation from Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH special council of the FCC's enforcement Bureau, who has agreed to do the video which will be shown at EMCOMMWEST.

Also, Emcommwest will welcome Gordon West, WB6NOA from southern California, who was with us a few years back will return as the Saturday night banquet speaker and also host a forum during the event as an introduction to Emergency Communications, and he will have a display booth set up in the vendor hall. Gordon is also bringing his mobile communications unit for us to see. Banquet seating is limited, so make reservations early!

Forums covering leadership, handling PIO duties during callouts, working with different served agencies, MARS, the latest technology, and many new presentations will highlight this year's event. Emcommwest will also have it's own SPECIAL EVENT STATION, operating on HF, UHF and VHF! Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG will host an ARRL forum on Sunday May 4 with many SM's and other officials taking part.

There will be raffle prizes, including radios, power supply, and many other items along with an all new, larger vendor room and an all day amateur licensing class along with VE testing, so non-ham attendees can become licensed while they are there. Advance conference and banquet registration is now available online via the website, at www.emcommwest.org. Special room rates are available from Circus Circus, via a link on the website. For information, email your requests to: <mailto:info%40emcommwest.org>info@emcommwest.org We are looking forward to a great
EMCOMMWEST this year!

From the site of Emcommwest in Reno, Nevada, this is Don Carlson, KQ6FM for Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Again the dates are May 2nd to the 4th at the Circus Circus Hotel and Casino in Reno, Nevada for Emcommwest 2008 -- the premiere ham radio emergency communications show west of the Continental Divide. More information is on the web at www.emcommwest.org (KQ6FM, Emcommwest)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC TELLS TWO HAMS TO STAY OFF LOCAL REPEATERS

Two hams in different parts of the country have received warning letters from the FCC. Letters that tell them to stay off of certain repeaters in their respective geographic areas.

In New York, the trustees of the K3TSA 2 meter repeater system had requested in writing that David R. Henry, W2DRH, refrain from use of that repeater. The request was issued as a result of Henry's alleged failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee and or the control operators of the repeater and of the FCC rules. The FCC says that Henry had previously been requested to refrain from using the system, but had apparently ignored both verbal and written requests.

The FCC not only warned Henry that any further unauthorized use of him by the repeater will bring enforcement action against his license. It also noted that his license expires on April 21, 2009. It says that his license will not be routinely renewed unless this matter is resolved.

A warning letter has also been sent to Edward R. Drone, W0NYF. In this instance the trustee of the St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club repeaters K0STL, N0TYZ, W0FF and W0SRC had requested in writing that Drone refrain from use of the repeaters. The request was issued as a result of his alleged failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee and control operators of the repeaters for their users.

In a conversation with the FCC in February 2008 Drone reportedly acknowledged that he had been directed to stay off of the repeaters and stated that he would comply. However, the FCC says that on March 31st he was heard utilizing the K0STL repeater and reportedly stated that he would not refrain from using it.

Now, in its April 2nd letter to Drone the FCC warns him that it expects him to abide by the request to stay off of the repeaters and any other such request by a repeater licensee, control operator or trustee. It warns W-Zero-N-Y-F that failure to do so will lead to enforcement action that could include revocation of his license , or a modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies on which he may operate.

Drone was also asked to contact FCC rules enforcer Riley Hollingsworth and issues with him. (FCC)

**

RADIO LAW: NEW CALIFORNIA HANDS-FREE MOBILE PHONE LAW MAY IMPACT TWO-WAY RADIO AFTER ALL

California's soon to be in force hands free mobile phone law could impact on two way radio users after all. While a recently released pamphlet released by the states Department of Motor Vehicles states that the use of dedicated two-way radios such as walkie-talkies or Citizen Band radios is not affected by the new hands-free law, there are some who tend to disagree. And because of this two camps of thinking have developed.

Those fearful of the consequences of the new law are of the opinion is that judges will ignore the language in the Department of Motor Vehicles pamphlet. Instead, this group believes that those adjudicating such a case will refer to the actual law which does not generally exempt two-way radio operations from the hands-free provision.

However, a contrary opinion is that the law clearly refers to and is written around wireless telephone handsets and their use. These people note that most two-way radios are not wireless telephones. Also, that even the California Highway Patrol seems to acknowledge that the new law is about Wireless Telephones only.

The bottom line. Its likely that one of these days someone will get ticketed for using a business band radio, a C-B set or even a mobile ham radio station. That will be the test case and we are all going to have to wait and see if it actually happens and what the final outcome will be. More is on-line:
<http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/dl208_03cell_phone.pdf>http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/dl208_03cell_phone.pdf
and
<http://www.chp.ca.gov/pdf/media/cell_phone_faq.pdf>http://www.chp.ca.gov/pdf/media/cell_phone_faq.pdf)
(CGC, others)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: ARRL'S HARRISON APPOINTED TO AK SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY

A word of congratulations to ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, who has been appointed to a four year term on the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Science & Technology Authority by Governor Mike Beebe.

The Arkansas Science & Technology Authority was created by statute in 1983 with the mission to bring the benefits of science and advanced technology to the people and state of Arkansas. Harrison's appointment has already been approved by the Arkansas State Senate. (ARRL)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: K6JGN NAMED NEWPORT BEACH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

And congratulations also to Ed Karagozian, K6JGN. On March 20th, Karagozian was named as the 2007 Volunteer of the Year for his eighteen-plus years of service with Newport Beach California RACES. The honor was bestowed by the Newport Beach Chamber of Commerce held its 37th Annual Police Appreciation Awards Breakfast (Via e-mail)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: N2NT NAMED NEW CQ WW 160M CONTEST DIRECTOR

Veteran contester Andy Blank, N2NT, of Dayton, New Jersey, has been named the new Director of the CQ World Wide 160-Meter Contest. Blank succeeds Dave Thompson, K4JRB, who has decided to retire after 16 years at the helm of the event. (CQ)

**

YHOTY: 2008 NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

And a reminder that the nominating period for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year is now open. Any licensed radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in the United States or Canada is eligible for the award. Full details and both downloadable and on-line nominating forms are in cyberspace at www dot YHOTY dot org.

(ARNewsline")

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: HEIL SOUND HOSTING 2008 NAB HAM RADIO RECEPTION

If you are planning to attend the National Association of Broadcasters Convention, Bob Heil, K9EID, advises that the annual Ham Radio Reception hosted by Heil Sound will be held on Wednesday night, April 16th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. local Las Vegas time.

As usual, the venue in Ballroom B of the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel. The hotel adjoins the Las Vegas Convention Center which is the home of the National Association of Broadcasters gathering. Bob says that there will be lots and lots of prizes and that you never know who might show up. (Heil Sound, K9EID)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: REPEATERS FOR HAMS ATTENDING THE NAB CONVENTION IN LAS VEGAS

And the Las Vegas Radio Amateur Club invites you to enjoy the use of our repeaters while you are in town. The club says it will have its UHF and VHF systems linked together most of the time. According to Bill Croghan, WBï¿½KSW, the 2-meter repeater is on 146.94 MHz with a minus 600 kHz offset, and requiring a 100 Hz sub-audible access tone. The 70 cm system operates on 448.500 MHz with its input MHz lower. It too requires a 100 Hz tone. (CGC, WBï¿½KSW)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: THE ARRL AT NAB 2008

Also, last but by no means least, the ARRL will have its usual presence at NAB 2008. Look for them in Booth L One off to the left of the main exhibit hall entrance. This years National Association of Broadcasters Convention runs from April 11th to the 17th, at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. (CGC, WBï¿½KSW)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: SHELBY HAMFEST LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME

The famed Shelby Hamfest is not cancelled. But it is looking for a new home.

Word of the supposed demise of Shelby began spreading across ham radio cyberspace last week. This as bloggers interpreted a newspaper story regarding the inability of the Shelby Amateur Radio Club and the operators of the Cleveland County Fairgrounds to reach agreement on a contract for the 2008 show.

But Susan Melvin, K4ZXN, who is a member of the Shelby Amateur Radio club has posted to QRZ dot com that the blogs are not correct. She

says that the Shelby Hamfest has not been cancelled. Rather, the planners are actively seeking a new site for the show.

Melvin adds that as soon as the official word comes, it will be posted on the club's website. Its URL is www.shelbyhamfeast.org. (QRZ.com)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: AZDEN'S LEW REINBERG, W2BIE - S.K.

Once again the changing of three guard in ham radio continues. This with word that Lew Reinberg, W2BIE, formerly with the Amateur Radio Products division of Azden Communications, has passed away.

Reinberg came to Azden after a long career in the photographic and electronics industries. This, as a final job prior to his full retirement several years ago. He left when Azden announced that the company had decided to exit the ham radio marketplace.

First licensed back in 1954, Reinberg was active on all bands from HF through UHF. He was an avid DX'er and well known in both the New York City and Baltimore, Maryland ham radio communities. He was a fixture with the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club almost since the groups inception and its said that there was a room in Lew's house that wasn't within ear shot of a ham radio or scanner.

Lew Reinberg, W2BIE, is survived by his wife Elaine, W2ECR, and son Steven, N2HOK. Services for W2BIE were held on Monday, March 17th at the Young Israel of West Hempstead Temple on New York City's Long Island. (K2EPM)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: COMMERATING THE TITANIC

At least two ham radio groups say that they will mark the 96th anniversary of the sinking of the RMS Titanic special event operations. First up is W- Zero-S, which stands for "White Star Line." It will be on the air from the Titanic Museum in Branson, Missouri. 1300 UTC on Saturday, April 12, and conclude at 2400 UTC on Sunday, April 13.

Members of the Nixa Amateur Radio Club and the Southwest Missouri Amateur Radio Club will bring W0S to life along with corporate

underwriters Icom, MFJ, MicroLog, Rayfield Communications and Vibroplex. Listen out for this one on SSB, CW, PSK plus some activity on D-Star, EchoLink and IRLP. More information including a full list of frequencies and the QSL route is on-line at www dot wzeros dot com

Alson on tape is special event station W1MGY. It will operate from the Titanic Historical Society Museum in Indian Orchard, Massachusetts. Operation will concentrate on 20 and 40 meters. Listen out for it on April 11-12 from 1400 UTC until 2030 UTC both days QSL' for this one go to the Titanic Historical Society, W1MGY, PO Box 51053, Indian Orchard, MA 01151. (Press releases)

**

WORLDBEAT - ENGLAND: RSGB STAFF MEMBER RUNNING LONDON MARATHON ON STILTS

Meantime. on Sunday April 13th, a Radio Society of Great Britain staff member hopes to set a new world record. That's when Michelle Frost, of the RSGB Commercial department, will be running the London Marathon on four foot high stilts!

Michelle has been stilt-walking for close to ten years but only graduated to the four foot high ones about three years ago. This time around she is taking to her lofty perch to raise money for REACH. This is a U K based charity dedicated to helping children with upper limb deficiencies.

To date, no-one has ever competed in a marathon on stilts and the Guinness Book of Records is reportedly starting a new record category to celebrate. To find out more about Michelle and her charity walk on stilts, go to www.justgiving.com/rainbowdave on the World-Wide-Web. (RSGB)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: CELEBRATING 1600 WEEKS OF THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE

And finally this week & Hmmm... How many times have you heard those words on these newscasts? The words "&and finally this week."

Well, if you have been with us since the beginning in 1977, this week marks the 1600th time one of our news anchors has introduced the last story of the week with those words going right back to the days we were the Westlink Radio Network.

It Jim Hendershot, WA6VQP, who originally conceived, produced and voiced the Westlink newscasts. Actually, Westlink was originally intended for one newscast to talk about the pros and cons of the hottest topic of the day. That topic was repeater deregulation:

--

Audio only: Please download and play the mp3 version of the newscast available at www.arnewsline.org

--

That's how it started. And after 70 some off newscasts, Jim Hendershot moved away from Los Angeles, turning the reins of Westlink Radio over to Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF. He in turn solicited the assistance of two friends from NBC News. Broadcast Engineer Bill Orenstein, KH6QX, and the late Alan Kaul, W6RCL:

--

Audio only: Please download and play the mp3 version of the newscast available at www.arnewsline.org

--

Over the years there were many highlights of the world of Amateur Radio that Westlink and then Newsline covered live on tape. Among them the grand opening of the ham radio station on board the Queen Mary Ocean Liner and the first QSO's from its refurbished radio room. That happened back on April 4th of 1979, when the late D-X'er Don Wallace, W6AM, made that opening night contact.

--

Audio only: Please download and play the mp3 version of the newscast available at www.arnewsline.org

--

Then there was the first contact made from the space shuttle Columbia by astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL, and Lance Collister, WA1JXN, in Ferenchtown, Montana. That QSO took place on November 28th 1983 and we were the first to bring not only the story, but the sound of the actual contact as well:

--

Audio only: Please download and play the mp3 version of the newscast available at www.arnewsline.org

--

But not all of the stories we covered were happy times. One of the saddest days in ham radio history took place on May 23, 1980. At three minutes into the launch of Amsat's Phase 3 A satellite something went wrong with the French-built launch rocket and the ham radio payload went into the sea:

--

Audio only: Please download and play the mp3 version of the newscast available at www.arnewsline.org

--

Undaunted, within a few weeks Amsat began work on Phase 3B. It would go to space on June 16, 1983 and became the highly successful

AMSAT-OSCAR 10. A year later, A Oh 10 was used for the first ever HT to HT repeater to repeater contact and we brought the sound of that historic moment to your repeater and even to your HT:

--

Audio only: Please download and play the mp3 version of the newscast available at www.arnewsline.org

--

Admittedly by today's standards with the Internet, IRLP and Echolink that 1984 repeater interlink using a ham radio satellite sounds kind of crude. But it did open the eyes of many hams who had been conditioned to think of a repeater as a purely local device. Suddenly repeaters had matured to where a 2 watt H-T could be heard nationwide. Eventually the technology of the 1990's and this first part of the 21st century would give a tiny hand held a voice heard around the world.

And so here we are in April of 2008, some 30 years and 8 months after the very first Westlink radio bulletin aired in Los Angeles. Back then, none of us had any idea that it would be here this long and that some of us who were there back then would still be doing it now. But we are and we will continue for as long as you want us. In our book, you are the most important reason that we work to bring you a timely news bulletin every week. And as we say at the end of each newscast, and as we say again today, we thank you for listening.

Im' Jim Davis W2JKD.

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362. "Steampunk" Revisited

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-14 12:28:19 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <4670da84-97ec-4cf2-85b6-2ba7a149f0ff@u69g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3033

In a recent thread, the question of style in our hamshacks and equipment was discussed.

Here's one amateur's interpretation (click on the "Retro" links:

http://g4oep.atspace.com/

Interesting mix of old, new, and styles

73 de Jim, N2EY

363. Re: "Steampunk" Revisited

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-14 18:02:31 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fu05ae$1en4$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3034

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> In a recent thread, the question of style in our hamshacks and
> equipment was discussed.
>
> Here's one amateur's interpretation (click on the "Retro" links:
>
> http://g4oep.atspace.com/
>
> Interesting mix of old, new, and styles

Rather nice radio he's made. The technology is exposed, and visible, and it's aesthetics are there for everyone to see. Love them tubes. Nice warm tones against a black surface. I'll give it an A. I'm curious though. One of those tubes had a different glow to it. Would that be a tuning eye tube?

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

364. Dayton this year?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-14 18:03:02 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fu0639$13na$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3035

Anyone going to Dayton this year?

I've been going for the past several years, but figuring on around:

175 dollars for gas
325 for room (Wed through Saturday at a good rate)
125 dollars for food (maybe if I do a lot of Micky D's)

I'm looking at 600 plus dollars before I even buy anything. Think I may have to take a pass...

As those fuel costs skyrocket, it might be pretty hard on Dayton in the future.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

365. Re: Dayton this year?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-14 21:48:28 UTC
From: an old freind <konstans@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <70484294-0f10-46e5-9479-4ef98f793773@m71g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3036

On Apr 14, 2:03 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
> Anyone going to Dayton this year?
><sinpping stuff that says basicaly going is expensive>
>
> As those fuel costs skyrocket, it might be pretty hard on Dayton in the
> future.
>
> - 73 de Mike N3LI -

Not me but then Dayton comes at a realy bad time for me since the snow
here is still not melted enough to to do those spring tasks but those
sorts of number Enay doo seem to be awfully hard on all hamfests
Dayton or otherwise

366. Re: "Steampunk" Revisited

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-15 00:47:18 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <af96bbea-af89-4c33-8d8b-3d62330e6d0c@u69g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3037

Michael Coslo wrote:

> Rather nice radio he's made. The technology is exposed, and visible, and
> it's aesthetics are there for everyone to see. Love them tubes. Nice
> warm tones against a black surface. I'll give it an A. I'm curious
> though. One of those tubes had a different glow to it. Would that be a
> tuning eye tube?

Sort of; it's a tuning indicator. Same technology, but not round, so
it's not an "eye".

That rx isn't just good to look at, it's got some serious performance
too. Note the number of poles in the ladder filter, the balanced beam-
deflection mixer, etc. Yet it's simple.

Another poster asked about other homebrew sites. Here's what one ham
uses:

http://hometown.aol.com/n2ey/myhomepage/

and a receiver he built ~35 years ago:

Southgate Type 4

http://www.qsl.net/k5bcq/Jim/jiminfo.doc
http://www.qsl.net/k5bcq/Jim/SilverRX1.jpg
http://www.qsl.net/k5bcq/Jim/SilverRX2.jpg
http://www.qsl.net/k5bcq/Jim/SilverRX3.jpg
http://www.qsl.net/k5bcq/Jim/SilverRX4.jpg
http://www.qsl.net/k5bcq/Jim/SilverRX5.jpg
http://www.qsl.net/k5bcq/Jim/SilverRX6.jpg

Can you identify the dial drum?

Lots more homebrew stuff on the HBR website.

73 de Jim, N2EY

367. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-15 06:00:07 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1208239201@panix.com>
Source record: 3038
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.4 2008/03/13 04:38:09
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
```

promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. Crossposts of regular discussion articles between rec.radio.amateur.moderated and other discussion newsgroups are not permitted.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/ announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers, and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header, containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the moderators if one is not already provided.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

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2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns, are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true."

"That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html |

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

368. Re: Dayton this year?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-15 18:22:20 UTC
From: John <jlwsecure-usenet6@yahoo.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9A8191E13C38jlwsecure@207.115.17.102>
Source record: 3039

Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in news:fu0639$13na$1
@f04n12.cac.psu.edu:

> Anyone going to Dayton this year?
>
>
> I've been going for the past several years, but figuring on around:
>
>
> 175 dollars for gas
> 325 for room (Wed through Saturday at a good rate)
> 125 dollars for food (maybe if I do a lot of Micky D's)
>

I'm going.

I live in Columbus, so I can do a day with no effort.

369. Re: Dayton this year?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-15 23:42:50 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <6IOdnaZw08P2oJjVnZ2dnUVZ_hadnZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 3040

Don't know yet. We often make up our minds at the last minute.

Dee, N8UZE

"Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
news:fu0639$13na$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu...
> Anyone going to Dayton this year?
>
>
> I've been going for the past several years, but figuring on around:
>
>
> 175 dollars for gas
> 325 for room (Wed through Saturday at a good rate)
> 125 dollars for food (maybe if I do a lot of Micky D's)
>
> I'm looking at 600 plus dollars before I even buy anything. Think I may
> have to take a pass...
>
>
> As those fuel costs skyrocket, it might be pretty hard on Dayton in the
> future.
>
>
> - 73 de Mike N3LI -
>

370. Re: Dayton this year?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-15 23:55:54 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <6dcb74e1-0568-4b5e-9928-fda9472e4b6d@24g2000hsh.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3041

On Apr 14, 2:03 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
> Anyone going to Dayton this year?

Not me.

> I've been going for the past several years, but figuring on around:

> 175 dollars for gas

This seemed high to me, so I checked out the distance. For a vehicle
that gets ~20 mpg and $3.25 gas it's pretty close.

> 325 for room (Wed through Saturday at a good rate)
> 125 dollars for food (maybe if I do a lot of Micky D's)

The only way I can see to cut that down is to go with a buddy and pack
a lunch.....

> I'm looking at 600 plus dollars before I even buy anything. Think I may
> have to take a pass...

> As those fuel costs skyrocket, it might be pretty hard on Dayton in the
> future.

Maybe. But note that even if the price of gas was cut in half
tomorrow, the trip would still cost over $500. IMHO the amazing thing
is that so many hams from outside the day-trip area go to Dayton.

Actually, gasoline prices aren't really skyrocketing. What's happening
is that we've had years and years of gasoline prices not keeping up
with inflation, and now they are making up for lost time (and then
some).

Here's one interesting analysis:

http://www.energy.ca.gov/gasoline/statistics/gasoline_cpi_adjusted.html

73 de Jim, N2EY

(still miss my old VW Rabbit Diesel - 50+ mpg highway, no ignition
noise)

371. Re: Dayton this year?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-16 01:07:40 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <66ka6iF2l1gjcU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 3042

In news:Xns9A8191E13C38jlwsecure@207.115.17.102,
John <jlwsecure-usenet6@yahoo.com> typed, for some strange, unexplained
reason:
: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in news:fu0639$13na$1
: @f04n12.cac.psu.edu:
:
: > Anyone going to Dayton this year?
: >
: > I've been going for the past several years, but figuring on around:
: >
: > 175 dollars for gas
: > 325 for room (Wed through Saturday at a good rate)
: > 125 dollars for food (maybe if I do a lot of Micky D's)
: >
:
: I'm going.
:
: I live in Columbus, so I can do a day with no effort.

<envy>

Ok for some, I live in the UK so it'd be a major trip..! I do know people
who've done it though, so maybe one day I'll make it :-)

</envy>

73 Ivor G6URP

372. Re: Dayton this year?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-16 04:07:34 UTC
From: David Lesher <wb8foz@panix.com>
Message-ID: <fu3s5peju1@reader2.panix.com>
Source record: 3043

Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> writes:

>Anyone going to Dayton this year?

Yep.
Rain or snow, hot or cold, overcast or sunburn;
every year since 1970.

--
A host is a host from coast to coast.................wb8foz@nrk.com
& no one will talk to a host that's close........[v].(301) 56-LINUX
Unless the host (that isn't close).........................pob 1433
is busy, hung or dead....................................20915-1433

373. Re: Dayton this year?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-16 16:11:48 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fu55sf$1a52$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3044

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Apr 14, 2:03 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>> Anyone going to Dayton this year?
>
> Not me.
>
>> I've been going for the past several years, but figuring on around:
>
>> 175 dollars for gas
>
> This seemed high to me, so I checked out the distance. For a vehicle
> that gets ~20 mpg and $3.25 gas it's pretty close.

I factored in 3.40 for gas, and some riding around during the week. The Vitara gets around 28 mpg highway. I won't be surprised if it costs more than that by mid-May.

>> 325 for room (Wed through Saturday at a good rate)
>> 125 dollars for food (maybe if I do a lot of Micky D's)
>
> The only way I can see to cut that down is to go with a buddy and pack
> a lunch.....
>
>> I'm looking at 600 plus dollars before I even buy anything. Think I may
>> have to take a pass...
>
>> As those fuel costs skyrocket, it might be pretty hard on Dayton in the
>> future.
>
> Maybe. But note that even if the price of gas was cut in half
> tomorrow, the trip would still cost over $500. IMHO the amazing thing
> is that so many hams from outside the day-trip area go to Dayton.

Very true. What happens though is that it hits a trigger point, and a person who might have figured on going someplace might just reconsider it's worth. sometimes it can even jog a person to look at what they are spending. I can get a lot of equipment for that (that total amount of) money, and after 2 years, I can afford that IC-7000 I drool over.

The trade off is that I really do enjoy the interaction with other Hams, the seminars, flea market and ability to talk to the vendors.

> Actually, gasoline prices aren't really skyrocketing. What's happening
> is that we've had years and years of gasoline prices not keeping up
> with inflation, and now they are making up for lost time (and then
> some).

What that doesn't show is the impact of changing driving styles. When I first started driving in the early 70's, most people didn't put anywhere as many miles on their cars as they do now. I used to put less than 10K per year on a vehicle, now it is closer to 30K per annum. Lots of reasons for this, some good, some bad, but when my XYL was driving a Grand Cherokee and I was driving a Windstar, our gasoline bill hit around 600 dollars one month. That was while gas was still in the 2 something dollar range.

So in anticipation of future gas prices and economic conditions, I bought a Vitara, and she bought an Aerio. (we had to buy new cars anyway, so the payment cost is not so relevant.

So while inflation adjusted prices tell one story, total dollars put in the gas tank tell another.

And in all, we're just adjusting ourselves to the new reality, making ends meet. All over the country folks are adjusting.

> (still miss my old VW Rabbit Diesel - 50+ mpg highway, no ignition
> noise)

Sweet.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

374. Re: Dayton this year?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-16 18:59:11 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <66kuchF2k33rnU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 3045

In news:6dcb74e1-0568-4b5e-9928-fda9472e4b6d@24g2000hsh.googlegroups.com,
N2EY@aol.com <N2EY@aol.com> typed, for some strange, unexplained reason:

[snip]

: Actually, gasoline prices aren't really skyrocketing. What's happening
: is that we've had years and years of gasoline prices not keeping up
: with inflation, and now they are making up for lost time (and then
: some).

Hmm. Try paying UK prices and you'll change your mind..! Not certain of
the exact conversion rates as our prices are in litres and I'm not sure of
the size of the US gallon, I believe it's slightly smaller than the UK
one, but average prices here are around ï¿½1.07 per *litre* at the moment,
which at current pound/dollar rates makes it around $9 per imperial
gallon.

I wish we had your prices..!!

73 Ivor G6URP (sorry, getting rather offtopic now..!)

375. Re: Dayton this year?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-16 22:46:12 UTC
From: "David G. Nagel" <nagel.david@sbcglobal.net>
Message-ID: <T1vNj.9578$2g1.4607@nlpi068.nbdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 3046

Ivor Jones wrote:
> In news:6dcb74e1-0568-4b5e-9928-fda9472e4b6d@24g2000hsh.googlegroups.com,
> N2EY@aol.com <N2EY@aol.com> typed, for some strange, unexplained reason:
>
> [snip]
>
> : Actually, gasoline prices aren't really skyrocketing. What's happening
> : is that we've had years and years of gasoline prices not keeping up
> : with inflation, and now they are making up for lost time (and then
> : some).
>
> Hmm. Try paying UK prices and you'll change your mind..! Not certain of
> the exact conversion rates as our prices are in litres and I'm not sure of
> the size of the US gallon, I believe it's slightly smaller than the UK
> one, but average prices here are around ï¿½1.07 per *litre* at the moment,
> which at current pound/dollar rates makes it around $9 per imperial
> gallon.
>
> I wish we had your prices..!!
>
>
> 73 Ivor G6URP (sorry, getting rather offtopic now..!)
>
>
Ivor;

The major difference in price is in the taxes charged by the various
taxing districts.
Remove the taxes and the cost of the petro is about the same world over.

Dave WD9bdZ

Our regular unleaded is currently $3.39 per USG.

376. Re: Dayton this year?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-17 03:22:58 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <fc732be6-05de-49f6-b2b4-936e654be4b0@24g2000hsh.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3047
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On Apr 16, 2:59 pm, "Ivor Jones" wrote:

> Innews:6dcb74e1-0568-4b5e-9928-fda9472e4b6d@24g2000hsh.googlegroups.com,
> N...@aol.com typed:

> : Actually, gasoline prices aren't really skyrocketing.
> : What's happening
> : is that we've had years and years of gasoline prices
> : not keeping up
> : with inflation, and now they are making up for lost time (and then
> : some).
>
> Hmm. Try paying UK prices and you'll change your mind..!

Sorry if I wasn't clear.

What I should have written is that *US* gasoline prices aren't really
skyrocketing.

> Not certain of
> the exact conversion rates as our prices are in litres and I'm not
> sure of
> the size of the US gallon, I believe it's slightly smaller than the UK
> one, but average prices here are around 1.07 per *litre* at the
> moment,
> which at current pound/dollar rates makes it around $9 per
> imperial gallon.

The following were found at various sites (thanks Google):

One US gallon is 3.79 litres. So 1 gallon of gasoline at the price you
quote would cost 4.055 pounds.

Today, April 16, 1 pound exchanges to 1.9756 dollars, so 4.055 pounds
equals $8.01 for a US gallon of gasoline.

> I wish we had your prices..!!

Thanks for proving my point!

The amateur radio connection in all of this is that inflation hits
different things in very different ways, which of course has its
effects on us hams. For example, here in the USA, even with the weak
dollar, amateur radio transceivers are a better deal than when I
became a ham 40 years ago, and probably any time since. Back then the
biggest bargain in new ham gear was the $250 Heath HW-101 kit. $250

then equals $1500 now, and for $1500 you can get a lot more rig! (the westegg inflation calculator says a dollar in 1967 bought what about $6 buys today, on average).

If you really want to get sticker shock, check out what the PCs of 10-20 years ago cost, then add in the inflation.

OTOH the cost of a house in many parts of the USA to put the ham rig in has gone up a lot more than a factor of 6, even allowing for the current soft RE market. (A lot of us who aren't retired have to go where the jobs are.)

The result is that we have a lot of US hams today who have great rigs but not houses where they can gave good antennas.

73 de Jim, N2EY

377. Re: Dayton this year?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-17 10:12:21 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <28596399-a96d-4356-a171-30888e4c3851@e67g2000hsa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 3048

On Apr 16, 12:11pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Apr 14, 2:03 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:

> >> 175 dollars for gas

> I factored in 3.40 for gas, and some riding
> around during the week. The Vitara gets around 28 mpg
> highway. I won't be surprised if it costs more
> than that by mid-May.

I expect $4/US gallon this summer. $5 wouldn't shock me.

> > note that even if the price of gas was cut in half
> > tomorrow, the trip would still cost over $500.
> > IMHO the amazing thing
> > is that so many hams from outside the day-trip
> > area go to Dayton.

> Very true. What happens though is that it hits a
> trigger point, and a person who might have figured on
> going someplace might just reconsider
> it's worth.

> I can get a lot of equipment for that (that total amount of)
> money, and after 2 years, I can afford that IC-7000 I drool over.

Or an Elecraft K3....

It's part of human spending behavior that some
expenditures are viewed so differently than others.
A few dollars here and there adds up but
doesn't seem the same.

> The trade off is that I really do enjoy the interaction with other
> Hams, the seminars, flea market and ability to talk to the vendors.

I've never been to Dayton. TImonium is the big one around here. But
it's a haul!

> > Actually,

US

> > gasoline prices aren't really skyrocketing.

> What that doesn't show is the impact of changing driving styles.

> I used to put less than 10K per year on a vehicle,
> now it is closer to 30K per annum.

Why so many miles/year on your vehicles?

> So in anticipation of future gas prices and economic conditions, I
> bought a Vitara, and she bought an Aerio. (we had to buy new
> cars anyway, so the payment cost is not so relevant.

Indeed.

> So while inflation adjusted prices tell one story, total dollars put in
> the gas tank tell another.

Total inflation-adjusted dollars for transport is the ultimate
factor.

> > (still miss my old VW Rabbit Diesel - 50+ mpg highway,
> > no ignition noise)
>
> Sweet.
>
Even my Prius doesn't get that kind of mileage. And the Diesel was
much simpler. Perhaps the compromise is to do Dayton every other year,
or every third year.

73 de Jim, N2EY

378. Re: Dayton this year?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-17 17:53:24 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fu7qb5$101i$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 3049

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Apr 16, 12:11pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>> N...@aol.com wrote:
>>> On Apr 14, 2:03 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>>>> 175 dollars for gas
>
>> I factored in 3.40 for gas, and some riding
>> around during the week. The Vitara gets around 28 mpg
>> highway. I won't be surprised if it costs more
>> than that by mid-May.
>
> I expect $4/US gallon this summer. $5 wouldn't shock me.
>
>>> note that even if the price of gas was cut in half
>>> tomorrow, the trip would still cost over $500.
>>> IMHO the amazing thing
>>> is that so many hams from outside the day-trip
>>> area go to Dayton.
>
>> Very true. What happens though is that it hits a
>> trigger point, and a person who might have figured on
>> going someplace might just reconsider
>> it's worth.
>
>> I can get a lot of equipment for that (that total amount of)
>> money, and after 2 years, I can afford that IC-7000 I drool over.
>
> Or an Elecraft K3....
>
> It's part of human spending behavior that some
> expenditures are viewed so differently than others.
> A few dollars here and there adds up but
> doesn't seem the same.
>
>> The trade off is that I really do enjoy the interaction with other
>> Hams, the seminars, flea market and ability to talk to the vendors.
>
> I've never been to Dayton. TImonium is the big one around here. But
> it's a haul!
>
>>> Actually,
>
> *US*

>
>>> gasoline prices aren't really skyrocketing.
>
>> What that doesn't show is the impact of changing driving styles.
>
>> I used to put less than 10K per year on a vehicle,
>> now it is closer to 30K per annum.
>
> Why so many miles/year on your vehicles?

My wife does a lot of local travel for her job. Visiting job sites,
doing inspections. Or at least she did. The housing market dried up
around here and she's working one day a week now, so that has decreased.

for myself, I do a bit of travel for work also. It's all on my dime.

>> So in anticipation of future gas prices and economic conditions, I
>> bought a Vitara, and she bought an Aerio. (we had to buy new
>> cars anyway, so the payment cost is not so relevant.
>
> Indeed.
>
>> So while inflation adjusted prices tell one story, total dollars put in
>> the gas tank tell another.
>
> Total inflation-adjusted dollars for transport is the ultimate
> factor.

Well, yes and no. The total cost of living has increased significantly.
I'm not talking about the official inflation figures, they aren't
reliable any more. This is just the amount of dollar outlay per month.
Health insurance doubling in a years time, Gas doubling over a few years
time, House escrow account increases of 100 dollars per month.

So while the statistics say we're getting a bargain, ground truth tells
me that I have to reel in costs somewhere. Bargain or not, one has
significantly less money these days after the bills are paid. And
gasoline is one area that I can at least start to control.

>>> (still miss my old VW Rabbit Diesel - 50+ mpg highway,
>>> no ignition noise)
>> Sweet.
>>
> Even my Prius doesn't get that kind of mileage. And the Diesel was
> much simpler. Perhaps the compromise is to do Dayton every other year,
> or every third year.

Ahh, the Priuii are very cool vehicles. I shoulda known you'd be an
owner of one. On a Ham related topic, have you noticed much electrical
noise from it? I've heard some scuttle that they make some RFI. Don't
know what that is in comparison to a regular gas vehicle, as they can be
noisy also.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

379. Re: Dayton this year?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-17 17:54:03 UTC
From: iwouldntknow <iwouldntknow@iwouldntknow.nospam.no>
Message-ID: <nrse04t0h30nasmkgguqb91r7cmm22jcp7@4ax.com>
Source record: 3050

On Thu, 17 Apr 2008 06:12:21 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>
>> > (still miss my old VW Rabbit Diesel - 50+ mpg highway,
>> > no ignition noise)
>>
>> Sweet.
>>
>Even my Prius doesn't get that kind of mileage. And the Diesel was
>much simpler. Perhaps the compromise is to do Dayton every other year,
>or every third year.
>
>73 de Jim, N2EY

Luckily diesels are starting to come back to the USA I believe. I (not in the US) have a VW 1.9 diesel engine using abt 4.5liters/100km average per tank (local roads, traffic jams, 60miles one way to work every day). That is 52 miles to the gallon. My car is a bit bigger than the old Rabbit and has over 200.000 miles on it and is over 9 years old.

380. RFI mitigation tips for mobile Ops

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-17 17:56:06 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fu7sbl$11ki$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2951

Hey all,

I installed a Bugcatcher in my vehicle last year, and thought I might share some tips from my experience.

1. Power supply.

Run separate wires for power. Don't try to run an HF rig off a cigar lighter outlet. I don't care if is an FT-817.....

2. Ground, ground, ground

Getting the "other half" of the antenna to work well is probably the most important thing you can do. As well as providing the "ground", it eliminates a lot of little antennas that can give you RFI headaches.

I used coax shield with lugs soldered onto the ends to bond everything. Keep them as short as practical. Mine were around 4 inches, the longest around 6 inches. In most cases, the bond can be made by using bolts that are already on the vehicle. In a few cases I had to drill and bolt. Be careful of where vehicle wires are already running.

Bond the hood on both sides, all the doors, the hatch if there is one. Don't forget to bond the exhaust pipe in at least 2 places. The exhaust even looks a little like an antenna.

Bond the radiator, especially if it is one of the newer ones that have plastic ends. There is usually some place on the metal part that has a bolt you can attach to.

Bonding the engine is mandatory. If your vehicle has a frame, like mine does, bond the frame to the body at several locations.

I probably ended up with 30 different places when I bonded.

3. Ferrites are your friends

I used clip on ferrites. These worked well, and were something around a dollar a piece.

Clip them on:

Alternator wires, battery wires, radiator fan wires, gas pump power wires, radio speaker wires, ignition coil wires (some engines now have a separate coil for each cylinder. If you can reach your wiper motor and washer pump motor clip one on there also.

If you can get a ferrite on the dreaded main computer module it would be a big help also. I just happened to have a big clip on from an old IBM

computer that fit around the cable of my computer unit.

4. Look for other sources.

After all the corrections I made, I suddenly found S9 level noise on HF. I looked to see if ferrites had fallen off, or a bond failed. I bought a cheap transistor radio to sniff out the problem.

Turns out that my inverter for my laptop is really noisy. I unplugged it, and the problem went away.

In the end, my mobile HF system is less than S2 (that was as low as I could test it, seemed to be just around ambient. The only noise source that I haven't beat yet is the cruise control, and I can just avoid using that. Finally, I have to remember to keep the car stereo turned off while transmitting, otherwise I get some strange stuff coming out of the back speakers.

Oh, and by the way, the antenna appears to work "very well", at least I've gotten good signal reports on 40 and 20, and reasonably good ones on 75 meters also. It seems to make use of the limited efficiencies we see with short HF aerials.

Don't know if anyone else has anything to add, but I thought I'd share this.

-73 de Mike N3LI -

381. Re: Dayton this year?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-17 18:47:37 UTC
From: Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com>
Message-ID: <rWMNj.2728$%V7.1109@newssvr14.news.prodigy.net>
Source record: 2952

iwouldntknow wrote:
> Luckily diesels are starting to come back to the USA I believe.

Unfortunately, diesel fuel is no longer cheap
compared to gasoline. I saw diesel fuel for $4.20
a gallon today, almost a dollar more than gasoline.
--
73, Cecil http://www.w5dxp.com

382. Re: RFI mitigation tips for mobile Ops

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-17 18:48:38 UTC
From: Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com>
Message-ID: <KXMNj.2729$%V7.381@newssvr14.news.prodigy.net>
Source record: 2953

Michael Coslo wrote:
> Turns out that my inverter for my laptop is really noisy. I unplugged
> it, and the problem went away.

I had the same problem with my cellphone charger.
--
73, Cecil http://www.w5dxp.com

383. Re: RFI mitigation tips for mobile Ops

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-18 04:20:42 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net>
Message-ID: <Xns9A83E17107E7Bmcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136>
Source record: 2954

Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com> wrote in news:KXMNj.2729$%V7.381
@newssvr14.news.prodigy.net:

> Michael Coslo wrote:
>> Turns out that my inverter for my laptop is really noisy. I unplugged
>> it, and the problem went away.
>
> I had the same problem with my cellphone charger.

If it is the car charger, are there zeners in it?

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

384. Re: RFI mitigation tips for mobile Ops

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-18 13:43:00 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.04.18.06.48.07.672666@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2955

Strangely enough, I took absolutely NONE of these precautions - and my mobile is working nicely. (that doesn't mean I recommend ignoring Mike's points!)

I'm even running it from the lighter outlet. Figured it would be OK for the ride home from Milwaukee running 20 watts or so. Kept creeping up the power, I'm now at 80 watts (all bands) & not a hint of trouble.

Again, I don't recommend it though!

The biggest source of QRN are leaky powerline insulators. Next biggest source are passing semis. (last time I was HF mobile, semis were quiet. Obviously something has changed in the typical truck engine?)

On Thu, 17 Apr 2008 13:56:06 -0400, Michael Coslo wrote:
> Oh, and by the way, the antenna appears to work "very well", at least
> I've gotten good signal reports on 40 and 20, and reasonably good ones
> on 75 meters also. It seems to make use of the limited efficiencies we
> see with short HF aerials.

My Hamsticks are quite effective on 40 - can work pretty much anyone I can hear if there isn't a pileup, and sometimes even when there is. Managed to work a VK6 on 40 at sunset on my way into town a few months back - that's darned near the antipodes from here. Managed to work VP6DX on 80 from the car! Strangely 20 doesn't work quite so well, though I still work plenty of DX.

385. Re: Dayton this year?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-18 13:44:07 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <6abe0411-cc5f-4856-93dc-465f501135b7@f63g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2956

On Apr 17, 1:53 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Apr 16, 12:11pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
> >> N...@aol.com wrote:
> >>> On Apr 14, 2:03 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:

> > I've never been to Dayton. TImonium is the big one around
> > here. But
> > it's a haul!

Biggest hamfest I evewr encountered was in Rochester NY - 1978.

> > Why so many miles/year on your vehicles?

> > Total inflation-adjusted dollars for transport is the ultimate
> > factor.

> Well, yes and no. The total cost of living has increased
> significantly.
> I'm not talking about the official inflation figures, they aren't
> reliable any more. This is just the amount of dollar outlay per
> month.

Remember the 1970s?

> Health insurance doubling in a years time, Gas doubling over
> a few years
> time, House escrow account increases of 100 dollars per month.
>
> So while the statistics say we're getting a bargain, ground truth
> tells
> me that I have to reel in costs somewhere. Bargain or not, one has
> significantly less money these days after the bills are paid. And
> gasoline is one area that I can at least start to control.

I would say that what's happening is this: The necessities (house, medical, transport) are getting more expensive while the luxuries (computing power, flat-screen TV, plane tickets where you have a lot of leeway as to destination and time) are getting cheaper. Put them all together and inflation *seems to be* low. But the mix is different than it was years ago.

On top of that is the fact that the number of "necessities" keeps rising. To give an Amateur Radio example, there was a time when putting up a moderate-sized tower in most areas did not require a variance or a building permit. A ham-homeowner simply put it up, or at most went down to the township building, filled out a form and paid a

small fee.

Nowadays in many areas there are much more stringent engineering and insurance requirements for an Amateur Radio tower. The local ordinances often consider it a "structure" and the process is much more complex and costly. So while the price of the tower itself isn't much more than it used to be, adjusted for inflation, the total price of owning an *installed* tower has greatly increased.

One more issue: LIfespan of certain items, such as ham rigs. Compared to most electronic items, it seems to me that ham rigs have a very long useful lifespan compared to other electronics. Decades rather than years. Just look at the stuff for sale at Dayton or elsewhere. What do others think?

> Ahh, the Priuii are very cool vehicles. I shoulda known
> you'd be an owner of one.

TNX. It's a different sort of vehicle! They are common around here; summer 2006 there was a long wait for one. Like many cars, a lot depends on what kind of driving you do and how you drive.

> On a Ham related topic, have you noticed much electrical
> noise from it? I've heard some scuttle that they make some RFI.
> Don't
> know what that is in comparison to a regular gas vehicle, as they > can be noisy also.

Can't say; never been mobile on the ham bands in it! But I suspect that the inverters would make a least some noise.

Still miss the diesel, though. 17 years with the same car; only owner from showroom to crusher.

73 de Jim, N2EY

386. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1601 - April 18, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-18 13:46:30 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080418021208.02232ec0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2957
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1601 - April 18, 2008

CLOSED CIRCUIT FINANCIAL REPORT

The following is a closed circuit announcement. Ladies and gentlemen, a few words from the Amateur Radio Newsline support fund administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

--

Yep, its me. A.J. And if I'm here you likely suspect that once again the Amateur Radio Newsline is in desperate need of your financial support. And you would be right.

If you look back, you will notice that the last time you heard me soliciting donations was way back in 2007. Thanks to your generosity last year the need for me to make these announcements was minimal.

We know you prefer to hear the news rather than having to listen to these announcements and we agree. But over the past few months almost all donations have ceased so here we our with our annual spring pitch.

As we have said so many times before, it takes money to gather the news. It takes money to assemble a newscast and it takes money to bring it to you. And as the price of goods and services continue to increase so do our operating costs. The cost of telephone service. The cost of web access. The costs related to hosting our website and providing you with download F-T-P of the newscast. The coat of equipment repair and upgrade. In essence, all of the costs involved in bringing you 52 newscasts a year as we have done for almost 31 years.

We do our very best to keep operating expenses to a minimum. Everyone involved in the Amateur Radio Newsline is a volunteer. There is no paid staff.

More important, all of the monies you donate go only toward operating expenses and in supporting the Young Ham of the Year Award. And for you, your donation is tax deductible.

We even make it very easy to donate. If you have web access all you need to do is take your web browser to www.arnewsline.org. Then click on the words "Make A donation" and use your Pay-Pal account or credit card to transfer into ours.

Or you can use the good old method of writing a check and sending it to Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937, Arcadia California, 91066.

Either way, we thank you for your kindness. For your support and for your trust.

OK. Time for me to get back to my desk and back to balancing the books. For the support fund, I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

--

Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1601 with a release date of Friday, April 18tht, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. Dayton honors three hams for their outstanding contributions to Amateur Radio. We have their reaction. Also, repeater coordinators will meet the public at Hamvention 2008 and a ham who devised a possible cancer cure is featured on the CBS news program 60 Minutes. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1601 coming your way
right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM HONORS: DARA ANNOUNCES 2008 AWARD WINNERS

The Dayton Hamvention has announced the names of the recipients of this years Technical Achievement, Special Achievement and Radio Amateur of the Year Award awards. Awards that some call the Tony, the Emmy and the Oscar of ham radio. Amateur Radio Newsline's David Black, KB4KCH, spoke to this years recipients, all of whom are thrilled to have been chosen.

--

The Hamvention's top honor--Amateur of the Year--goes to H. Ward Silver, N0AX, of Bellevue, Washington:

--

NA0X: "I'm still kinda buzzin' from gettin' the call."

--

Silver's name is synonymous with helping many people get into ham radio. He's the author of books including Ham Radio For Dummies, along with magazine articles and manuals for the A-double-R-L. Readers of QST magazine recognize his name as author of the Hands On column. Ward says his writing is intended to show that becoming a radio amateur is not hard and carries lots of rewards.

--

N0AX: "I guess when I was a kid in the basement I never really thought I was ever going to be Dayton Ham of the Year material but its great to be noticed"

--

Silver admits ... he didn't see the Hamvention award coming:

--

N0AX: "It was a big surprise and I was really flabbergasted to get the call. Its not something you expect and I was very gratified and thankful to the committee and however I got nominated is terrific."

--

Terrific is what the Hamvention thinks of the idea Emery W. McClendon, Sr., KB9IBW, had back in 2003. That's when the Vietnam Wall exhibit made a stop in Fort Wayne, Indiana. McClendon and fellow hams set up an operating station at the exhibit, as part of what McClendon called ARMAD, Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day. The hams invited military veterans to participate--and McClendon says participate, they did.

--

KB9IBW: "We contacted a lot of stations worldwide and around the country and it actually brought tears to a lot of peoples eyes. It was very emotional as they were able to hear other veterans.

"Some were active duty in the military and a lot of Vietnam veterans were on the air that day and it brought a lot of tears and a lot of memories back to a lot of people."

--

ARMAD's popularity has grown every year, drawing recognition by Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, as well as Congressmen, Senators and even the Indianapolis Colts. McClendon's work has led to the Hamvention naming him as winner of this year's Special Achievement Award. He says the Hamvention's recognition gives him a special feeling of accomplishment:

--

KB9IBW: "I was really happy about it because it was a surprise. That's not what I am doing all this for. I'm doing it trying to promote Amateur Radio, but it is an honor."

--

McClendon says ARMAD is helping ham radio grow:

--

KB9IBW: "We've gained several new members to our clubs here and people inquiring as to how to become Amateur operators and who have tested and become operators because of what we have done here with ARMAD."

--

Another ham being honored is Thomas C. McDermott, N5EG, of Medford, Oregon. He's winner of the Hamvention Technical Achievement Award.

--

N5EG: "It was really not expected."

--

McDermott has spent more than 20 years helping promote various amateur radio technical projects including wireless digital communications.

In 1986, McDermott co-developed the TexNet packet switching network which covered 3,000 miles at 9600 baud on UHF and connected to nearly fifty links on 2 meters. He's a founder of the Texas Packet Radio Society and headed up a 900 MHz spread spectrum project and developed the TAPR-AMSAT Windows software development system.

--

N5EG: "Hams have been innovators (for) over a hundred years and the one thing that hams are good at is kind of thinking outside of the box in terms of coming up with new solution and new technologies.

"A number of the previous award winners have been recognized for doming up with outside the box solutions, and so I think that kind of the creative aspect of hams is well matched. And so a lot of hams are interested in technology and interested in novel solutions."

--

Ward Silver...Emery McClendon...and Thomas McDermott...three amateurs getting special recognition for their contributions to ham radio. They'll be recognized when hams worldwide gather for the ultimate ham radio convention, Hamvention 2008, May 16th, 17th and 18th.

From the Southeast Bureau in Birmingham, Alabama, I'm David Black, KB4KCH, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

If you're interested in knowing more about ARMAD, the project Emery McClendon started, you can check out the project's website at www dot armad-dot-net.

You can hear more with this years Hamvention award winners on the Rain Report. Its on-line at www.therainreport.com. (KB4KCH, ARNewsline(tm))

**

REPEATER COORDINATION: NFCC TO MEET IN DAYTON

Still with Hamvention news, word that the National Frequency Coordinators' Council will be holding an open meeting at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention. Moderated by NFCC President Jay Maynard, K5ZC, the gathering takes place on Friday, May 16, from 9:15 to 1015 a.m. in Forum Room 5 of the Hara Arena.

For those not aware, the National Frequency Coordinators' Council has as its members the majority of frequency coordination bodies in the United States. This forum will update NFCC members and those interested in

frequency coordination on the current status of the organization and spectrum management.

Again that's Friday, May 16, from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. in Forum Room 5 of the
Hara Arena for the NFCC at Hamvention 2008. (Via e-mail)

**

REGULATORY ISSUES: I MISS THE FCC

"I Miss The FCC" is an in-depth look at the current state of the Federal Communications Commission in the April issue of C-Q Magazine that's certain
to raise some eyebrows in the nation capital as well within the ham radio community. Penned by Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, who is also a contributor to Newsline, the article traces the agency from its days as the enforcer of technical standards to the FCC of today which seems to be bending over backward to the whim and will of those it is supposed to regulate.

One of the cases cited by Reinhardt was the Telecommunications Act if 1996 which revamped the original 1934 legislation. Reinhardt notes that much of it was written by industry lobbyists which resulted in the nations airwaves being delivered to commercial interests.

The bottom line: Jeff Reinhardt's "I Miss The FCC" is a must read for hams, G-M-R-S, CB'ers and any small entity that uses radio spectrum. It sheds a whole new light on what is really happening in the halls and offices of the FCC. It begins on page 66 of the April issue of CQ Magazine. (CQ, ARNewsline(tm))

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the VA2OZ repeater serving Montreal, Canada.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: CONGRESS ASKS WHY NOBODY BID ON NEW EMCOMM SERVICE

A congressional panel wants to know why a plan aimed at using public airwaves and private money to create a nationwide emergency communications network failed to attract any interest in a recent spectrum auction.

The FCC had approved construction of the emergency communications plan last summer. Under the scheme, the regulatory agency set aside about one sixth of the recently auctioned airwaves for such an interoperable system to be built. Called the D block, it would have been combined with a roughly equal portion of spectrum controlled by the public safety trust to create a shared network. The winning bidder for the D block would be required to

build and maintain the network in the public interest. It would eventually make a profit by selling any excess broadband access to wireless service providers.

When the auction had been completed all but Block D had been sold. Now, the House Energy and Commerce telecommunications and the Internet subcommittee is to hear testimony from all five members of the Federal Communications Commission on the issue. It also plans to summon key figures in the behind-the-scenes negotiations that failed to lead to an agreement to construct the wireless broadband network.

The government says that construction of such a network is essential to avoid the emergency communications gaps that occurred with Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The FCC had placed a $1.33 billion minimum bid to win this public safety frequency block. That, combined with the untold billions of dollars needed to build and maintain it with may have scared off potential investors in this time of economic downturn. Especially with no immediate way to see a return on the investment.

It also means that for the foreseeable future, Amateur Radio remains the only non centralized fully interoperable emergency communications system in the United States. Hams say that they are more than ready to meet the challenge. (ARNewsline(tm) from published reports)

**

HAM HISTORY: INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY - APRIL 26

An important radio celebration is coming up. Jim Davis, W2JKD, has the details:

--

The 21st International Marconi Day event takes place on Saturday, April 26th. This is a 24 hour operating event held annually to celebrate the birth of Guglielmo Marconi which took place on the 25th April 1874.

International Marconi Day is not a contest. Rather, it is an opportunity for radio amateurs around the world to make point-to-point contact with historic Marconi sites using High Frequency communications techniques similar to those used by Marconi. Its also a chance to qualify for an attractive citation for achieving the requisite number of Marconi Award stations worked.

International Marconi Day is usually held on the Saturday closest to Marconi's birthday. Award Stations and rules for International Marconi Day are on line at www.gb4imd.org.uk.

--

Again Marconi Day this year is on Saturday, April 26th and runs for 24 hours. Many commemorative stations around the world will be on to take

part in the celebration. (Southgate)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FLORIDA UNLICENSED BROADCASTER FINED $1500

An unlicensed broadcaster in Florida has been fined $1500. Roubens Maignan of Port Saint Lucie was ordered to pay the forfeiture after the FCC traced a signal on 106.1 MHz to his home.

Maignan was initially hit with a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of ten thousand dollars.. Maignan submitted a response to the N-A-L requesting a reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture. . While de did not dispute the violation but did claim that he did not know that his actions violated the rules or the Communications Act. Maignan also stated that payment of the forfeiture would pose an undue financial hardship to his family.

The FCC says that after examining the financial documentation submitted with the response that a reduction in the amount of the fine to $1500 was appropriate in this case and affirmed that amount. Maignan was given the customary 30 days to pay or to file an appeal. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: MICHIGAN CB'ER ADMITS USING LINEAR

An unnamed Michigan C-B operator who admitted he was using an illegal amplifier has been warned by the FCC to stop using it and to stop causing interference to his neighbors.

Back on March 26th agents from the Detroit office attempted to inspect the suspected CB station but its owner was not available. In a subsequent March 28th telephone call with an FCC agent, the operator reportedly admitted using a 350 watt CB linear amplifier.

Now, in its April 2nd follow-up letter the FCC has warned the CB'er that operation of the linear constitutes the use of radio transmitting equipment without a valid radio station authorization and that this is a violation of the Federal law. He was told that this could lead to punitive action in the form of monetary fines, seizure of his equipment, and criminal sanctions including imprisonment. The CB operator was ordered to respond back to the FCC and address all of the allegations against him within ten days. (FCC)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: SHELBY HAMFEST FOLLOW-UP

A follow-up to last weeks story on the possible closing of the Shelby Hamfest. Despite recent contract disagreements between the Shelby Amateur Radio Club and the Cleveland County Fair Association, plans are continuing to hold the 50 year county tradition that draws electronics aficionados from across the country.

According to a report in the Shelby Star newspaper, Hamfest Chairman Robby Hamrick, WA4RH, is quoted as saying that as far as the Hamfest going on, right now, we're still in the process of planning.

Hamrick told the Star that the Shelby Hamfest has not been cancelled but at the moment the club is unsure as to where it is going to hold it. Hamrick said that the group is looking at all its options.

As previously reported, the Shelby Hamfest will not take place at its usual location because of disagreements with this year's contract conditions set by the fairgrounds association. Decisions on what steps will be taken will be posted to the hamfest website www.shelbyhamfest.com/ as soon as they are available. (Shelby Star, others)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: BOXBORO WANTS YOU

While this event is still several months away the planners of the combined Boxboro Hamfest ARRL New England Division Convention are looking for speakers and other participants to fill out the convention program. The event takes place August 22, 23 and 24th at the Holiday Inn Boxboro Woods in Boxborough, Massachusetts.

According to web postings by the planning people, they have some 50 hours of programming to fill. They are looking for programs and presenters with material that will both captivate and entertain an audience to fill these slots.

Also if you are a representative of a club or organization in need of a place to gather, the folks at Boxboro say that they can help facilitate an open or closed meetings by providing a meeting room for Sunday. If you are interested in taking them up on their offer or if you want to present a forum, please contact Boxboro Program Chairman Ken Caruso, WO1N, by e-mail to WO1N at arrl dot net. More convention information is on-line at www.boxboro.org. (Boxboro Hamfest)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: MAJOR UK HAMFEAST CANCELLED
Meantime, from across the Atlantic comes word that rising costs and a decline in attendance have lead to the cancellation of the United Kingdom's
Elvaston Castle ham radio rally. At one time the Elvaston Castle rally was the 2nd biggest hamfest in the East Midlands area of the U-K.. (G0EJQ)
**
NAMES IN THE NEWS: ZS1YT INAUGERATED AS NEW SARL PRESIDENT
Some names in the news. First up is Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT, who has been inaugurated as the new president of the South Africa Radio League. In his inaugural address Erasmus said that Amateur Radio is a foundation for technical knowledge and that it is no secret that many professionals in the field of radio, TV, communications and electronics have started their technical education as young radio amateurs. He said that it should still be used as a unique attraction for future young radio amateurs.

For his Presidential year he has chosen three themes that flow from the organizations slogan of "Amateur Radio Communication Technology in Action." These are growth in the application of new technologies, growth of the radio amateur community in South Africa and growth of the South Africa Radio League membership to the point where we can say we truly represent the Radio Amateurs of South Africa.

Erasmus also paid tribute to the outgoing President Graham Hartlett, ZS6GJH, for his leadership over the past several years. He presented Hartlett with an honorary life membership of the SARL. (SARL)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: CELEBRATING WITH A NEW BOOK UNDER THE ICE

Back in the U-S-A, author Don Keith, N4KC, is celebrating the publication of his latest book and the event it details with an on the air operation. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the story on the book and what's to follow:

--

Don Keith's "The Ice Diaries" tells the story of USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear vessel, and its historic trip to the North Pole in August 1958.
Keith co-wrote it with the late Captain William R. Anderson who was the submarine's skipper for that history-changing mission. It will be released in July 2008 by Thomas Nelson.

And to celebrate its publication, and the 50th anniversary of the Nautilus reaching the North Pole, N4KC will take to the ham radio airways the weekend of August 2 and 3rd. In a cooperative venture with the Southern New England Region of the Navy and Marine Corps Military Affiliate Radio System and the Submarine Base Amateur Radio Club stations, Don will be operating from the grounds of Historic Ship Nautilus and the Submarine Force Museum and Library in Groton, Connecticut.

The on-air operation will use special events call sign N9N. This stands for "Nautilus 90 North," and recalling the historic radio message sent to
President Eisenhower when the ship emerged from beneath the ice pack to announce the mission's success. The North Pole is at 90 degrees north latitude.

Tentative operating frequencies will be 7.279 MHz on 40 meters and 14.243 and 14.343 MHz on 20 meters, depending on prior use and QRM, using SSB. Other bands, modes, and frequencies may also be activated depending on response and demand. Don hopes to work as many of you as he possibly can.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

A Special commemorative QSLs will be sent to those who confirm contact and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Further information is on-line at www,n4kc.com. (N4KC)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: NRSC ANNOUNCES UPDATED IBOC STANDARD

The National Radio Systems Committee has adopted an updated version of its in-band/on-channel or IBOC digital radio broadcasting standard. According to an announcement made at the National Association of Broadcasters convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, the new NRSC-5-B standard includes some editorial updates, as well as a revised FM IBOC RF mask submitted to the NRSC by iBiquity Digital.

iBiquity Digital developed the original HD Radio IBOC technology. The updated standard will be available to the public at the National Radio Systems Committee website in about four weeks. This, following a final procedural review.

For those not aware, the National Radio Systems Committee is a standards-setting body co-sponsored by the National Association of Broadcasters and the Consumer Electronics Association. (NAB-NRSC)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: THE ARRL AND TAPR DCC WANTS PAPERS

Technical papers are solicited for presentation at the 27th Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference to be held in Chicago from September 26th to the 28t. These papers will also be published in the Conference Proceedings.

Authors do not need to attend the conference to have their paper included in the Proceedings. The submission deadline is July 31, 2008. Papers will be published exactly as submitted and authors will retain all rights.

Please send papers to Maty Weinberg at the ARRL, 225 Main St Newington, CT 0611. Or you can make your submission via e-mail to maty@arrl.org (WB8IMY)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CALL FOR CUBESAT PROPOSALS

The European Space Agency Education Office has received good response to its call for CubeSat proposals issued last month to universities in ESA

member nations and other cooperating states. This to participate in the development of an educational payload for the maiden flight of the new Vega launch rocket currently scheduled for December.

The launch opportunity on the Vega maiden flight is being offered free of charge for up to 6 CubeSats, with an additional 2 backup CubeSats on back up standby. The ESA Education Office says that it recognizes the growing importance of CubeSat projects as a key tool in providing university students with a valuable hands-on practical education across all space engineering disciplines from end-to-end through the complete space project lifecycle. (ESA)

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WORLDBEAT INDIA: THE NIAR SLVER JUBILEE
India's National Institute of Amateur Radio will be celebrating its 'Silver Jubilee' in the city of Hyderabad between October 18th to the 20th. To commemorate the event, look for some special activities to take place between October 24th and November 3rd from many locations across India including operations from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as well as the Lakshadweep Islands.
The National Institute says that it will be assisting foreign amateurs in obtaining reciprocal licenses or operation permits for the VU4 and VU7 activation's. More information is available at www.niar.org. The National Institute of Amateur Radio is India's national Amateur Radio society. (Southgate)
**

WORLDBEAT - IRELAND: ATV REPEATER BACK ON THE AIR

Ireland's EI2WTR fast scan amateur television repeater is back on air from Helvick Head. This after the system was re-housed in separate RF-tight boxes over the winter. The repeater unit consists of a G1MFG Transmitter on 1249 MHz with about 10 watts through to a horizontally polarized slot antenna. It uses a G1MFG Receiver on 1290 MHz from the same antenna through the duplexer. Helvick Head overlooks Dungarvan County in Waterford and is the same site as the 2 metre East Cork voice repeater. (IATV)

**

WORLDBEAT - SCOTLAND: UK FIRST 3 CM FM REPEATER

The first ever 10GHz FM voice repeater in the United Kingdom came on the air on the 14th March. GB3TC, co-sited with GB3CS in Lanarkshire operates on a channel pair of 10.371.1MHz in and 10.471.1MHz out and requires either 103.5Hz sub audible tone or 1750Hz tone burst for access. It also transmits an FM beacon giving its call and locator every 60 seconds when not repeating. More information from www.csfmg.com. (GB2RS)

**

WORLDBEAT - UK: UK REPEATER ON CURFEW TO FIGHT USER ABUSE

A United Kingdom repeater has place a curfew on its operation. This, to combat abuse of the system by some of its users.

According to the GB2RS News Service, the Bristol Channel Repeater, GB3BC, is now being switched off every night from 23.45. The system remains off until 7.00 a.m.. Its administrators say that this operational format will until further notice due to unacceptable levels of night-time repeater abuse.

Unlike in the United States where another repeater might pop on the channel when another goes away, that's not likely to happen in the U-K. This is because repeaters there are individually licensed and the national society rather than members of the ham radio public hold these licenses. A person or group sponsoring a repeater is called a repeater keeper. He, she or they are not licensees.

Also, telecommunications regulator Ofcom is notoriously quick to react against any unlicensed operations within its jurisdiction. (GB2RS)

**

DX

In DX, word from ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, that the 2007 G4GIR slash KH9 DXpedition to Wake Island has been approved for DXCC credit. Moore says that if you had cards rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk to have your DXCC record updated.

Moore and the ARRL have announced several more operations that have been approved for DXCC credit. These include the : the 2007 5X1NH operation to Uganda,; the 2007 S05A operation to Western Sahara; the 2008 operation to Burundi, as 9UXEV; the 2008 YK9G operation to Syria and the current HZ1PS operation in Saudi Arabia.

In general D-X news, word that seven operators are planning to be active as 4U1VIC from United Nations station in Vienna, Austria during the CQ World Wide CW Contest on May 24th and 25th as a Multi-2 entry. QSL info will be announced at a later date.

Z33F and Z31MM will be active at the 3V8SS Tunisian Scout Club Station between from May 15th to the 26th. Listen out for them on all bands including 30, 17 and 12 meters using CW, SSB, P-S-K and even Slow Scan T-V. QSL 3V8SS via IZ8FWN.

Lastly, word that K9GY, will be back at the YN2N station near Granada between November 22nd and December 1st. He plans to be active during the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest on November 29th and 30t) as a Single-Operator, All-Band, Low-Power entry. Please QSL electronically using the ARRL's Logbook to the World but he will accept and respond to printed QSL's as well.

(Above from various DX News Spources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: HAM WORKING ON CANCER CURE FEATURED ON 60 MINUTES

And finally this week, a ham who has deeply involved himself in finding a cure for cancer was featured on the Sunday, April 13th edition of the CBS news program 60 Minutes. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, watched the segment and has more:

--

John Kanzius, K3TUP, of Erie Pennsylvania, has been working on an RF-based treatment for cancer that is currently undergoing testing. Kansius says he was motivated to find a cancer cure after witnessing the pained expressions of children suffering from the disease and undergoing chemotherapy. This at a time when he to was undergoing the same treatment for Leukemia.

Determined that there had to be a better alternative he believed that radio held the key.

Knowing that R-F can heat metal, K3TUP reasoned that a tumor injected with something metallic could be destroyed without harm to the rest of a patients body. The answer to the need for an injectible metal came in the form of recently developed carbon and gold nano-particles that can be introduce directly into a tumor and then radiated with a machine that K3TUP designed and built. Initial experiments on lab animals have proved promise in the system but many more trials are needed before the treatment can be tried on humans.

Cancer researchers interviewed on the program said that they are very excited about John Kanzius discoveries. No research dollars are now flowing into a pair of studies on animals. This, in the hope of refining the system to where it can not just also destroy localized tumor but also to keep the cancer cells from spreading to other parts of the body. Much of the 60 minutes report was dedicated to this ongoing work.

John Kanzius, K3TUP, says he hopes it happens in his lifetime.

At the studio in Los Angeles, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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You can see the segment of 60 minutes in its entirety at http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/04/10/60minutes/main4006951.shtml?source=RSSattr=HOME_4006951

You can read more about John Kanzius, K3TUP, and his ground-breaking idea to kill cancer cells with radio in the February 2008 issue of QST Magazine. (ARNewsline(tm) from various sources)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go we want to remind you that the nominating period for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year is now open. Any licensed radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in the United States or Canada is eligible for the award. Full details and both downloadable and on-line nominating forms are in cyberspace at www.YHOTY.org.

Also, a reminder of our on-line website poll. This month we are asking how high the price of a gallon of gas has to go before it keeps you from hopping into your car for a ride over to a hamfest. To vote, simply take your web browser to www.arnewsline.org, scroll down until you see the poll area on the left side of the screen and cast your ballot. The real time results that includes your vote will be instantly displayed.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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387. QMB Off Air Frequency Standard

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-18 13:49:22 UTC
From: Brian Reay <see@website.invalid>
Message-ID: <2BZNj.68846$jH5.117@newsfe3-win.ntli.net>
Source record: 2958

I've one of these sitting on the work bench which doesn't want to "lock".

I've no details beyond the Model (615) and make (QMB Electronics).

I'm not sure if it is modern enough to be designed for 198kHz (rather than the older 200kHz) R4 signal or if it is a 60kHz beast.

The innards don't look overly complex but some other details would save me some time.

Anyone got any details, please?

--
73
Brian, G8OSN
www.g8osn.org.uk

Check out: http://www.durhamconcerto.com/
Great music to celebrate a great University and City

Now your amateur licence is free, why not send at least £15 per year to
support the
Radio Communications Foundation or STELAR?

388. Re: RFI mitigation tips for mobile Ops

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-18 16:01:21 UTC
From: Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com>
Message-ID: <VA3Oj.7126$GE1.4186@nlpi061.nbdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2959

Mike Coslo wrote:
> Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com> wrote:
>> Michael Coslo wrote:
>>> Turns out that my inverter for my laptop is really noisy. I unplugged
>>> it, and the problem went away.
>> I had the same problem with my cellphone charger.
>
> If it is the car charger, are there zeners in it?

Sorry, I don't know. It must be a switching
supply instead of just a heat-generating
series regulator.
--
73, Cecil http://www.w5dxp.com

389. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 15 (Friday, April 19, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-19 00:31:15 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080418194226.2B62430EA0@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2960
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 15
April 18, 2008
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* + ARRL Diamond Terrace Grows
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+ New Apparel Items Now Available from ARRL
+ JARL Operating Award Checking Available at Hamvention
Mexico Group On the Air for World Amateur Radio Day
Notes from the DXCC Desk
ARRL Discontinuing Web Classified Ads

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========================================================

==> QST CONTRIBUTING EDITOR H. WARD SILVER, N0AX, NAMED HAMVENTION
"AMATEUR OF THE YEAR"

The 2008 Dayton Hamvention Awards Committee has named QST Contributing
Editor and author H. Ward Silver, N0AX, as its 2008 Amateur of the Year.
The committee said Silver's "books and teaching materials have helped
many become hams." Tom McDermott, N5EG, will receive Hamvention's
Technical Achievement Award to recognize his technical contributions
that helped digital ham radio expand. Emery McClendon, KB9IBW, was named
the recipient of the Special Achievement Award for starting Amateur
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Radio Military Appreciation Day (ARMAD) in 2003 as a way for Amateur Radio to express support and appreciation for our service men and women. The winners will be feted at a dinner held May 17 at the Marriott Hotel in Dayton.

Silver, an ARRL Life Member, was first licensed at age 17 in 1972 as WN0GQP and upgraded to Amateur Extra and changed his call sign to N0AX in 1976. A contester and DXer, he is on the DXCC Honor Roll.

Silver's award nomination cited his "many contributions, including 'Ham Radio for Dummies,' his first effort to show that becoming a ham does not have to be a difficult challenge. His additional books, magazine articles and his 'Hands On Radio' column in QST have all helped many hams develop their knowledge and skills." Silver was awarded the ARRL's Bill Orr, W6SAI, Technical Writing Award in 2003. He is also the editor of the ARRL's Contester's Rate Sheet and the ARRL Antenna Design Course. Silver has also written feature articles and product reviews for QST and compiles QST's "Contest Corral" column.

Silver, who lives on Vashon Island near Seattle, Washington, worked closely with community leaders and the Vashon-Maury Island Radio Club (W7VMI) to provide effective emergency communications. According to the awards committee, radio club members, along with the fire district and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), have created one of the "best local communications systems in the state of Washington."

Calling it "really, really nice and a complete honor" to be named Amateur of the Year, Silver told the ARRL that "It's a humbling experience to even be nominated, much less be chosen. To whomever is responsible for the nomination and to the Hamvention Committee, thank you. Receiving the award would be impossible without readers, colleagues, mentors and friends -- so it's just as much for them as it is for me. Being recognized will keep my fires lit to go on producing, strive for better accuracy and clarity and figure out how to make it all be fun, too. I'll just try to act like I deserve it -- most of the time."

The Hamvention Technical Achievement Award goes to Thomas C. McDermott, N5EG, for his "more than 20 years of involvement in projects which further the development of Amateur Radio." According to the awards committee, McDermott co-developed the TexNet packet switching network in 1986; based on datagram routing, it covered much of the South Central United States in the 1990s.

McDermott, an ARRL Life Member, received ARRL's Doug DeMaw, W1FB, Technical Excellence Award in 2004. Licensed for almost 40 years, McDermott is a member of the IEEE and holds a bachelor's in electrical engineering. His Amateur Radio interests lie in HF digital communications, hardware and software design, and an occasional HF contest.

McDermott was the founder of the Texas Packet Radio Society. As part of that group, he designed the hardware and some of the protocols for the TexNet packet switching network; he has been involved in numerous Tucson Area Packet Radio (TAPR) projects and has written a textbook on wireless communications. McDermott holds eight patents.

Emery McClendon, KB9IBW, is to receive the Hamvention award for Special Achievement for his efforts in starting Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day (ARMAD) in 2003. He said he started ARMAD "as a way to have Amateur Radio serve as a tool for the people of our communities to be able to express 'live' support and appreciation for our troops, veterans, retired military and first responders." McClendon, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, became an Amateur Radio operator 16 years ago. His interest in organizing Military Special Events derives from his four years of service in the US Air Force and two years in the Indiana Air National Guard.

Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day has become a popular event, spreading to other communities. Several military support groups have developed an interest in having Amateur Radio as a part of their activities. According to McClendon's award nomination, this has resulted in introducing Amateur Radio "to thousands of people worldwide who otherwise would have never known about our public service."

McClendon is active with two local Amateur Radio clubs; he also gives presentations about Amateur Radio to community groups. His activities, including ARMAD, have resulted in many TV, radio and media stories during the past five years, giving exposure to the Amateur Radio community.

Hamvention Chairman Carl Rose, K8CPR, praised the winners, saying: "On behalf of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association and Hamvention 2008, it is my pleasure to congratulate this year's award winners. I ask all hams to join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions and the many years of service the winners have given to the Amateur Radio Service." The world's largest Amateur Radio gathering, Hamvention attracts more than 20,000 people to the greater Dayton area each spring. Dayton Hamvention is May 16-18 at Hara Arena near Dayton, Ohio.

==> ARRL TEACHERS INSTITUTE OFF TO A GREAT START

The first of six Teachers Institutes in 2008 -- hosted by the Museum of Science & Technology in Tampa, Florida -- wrapped up April 10. The 11 participating teachers came away from the experience with a multitude of ideas to improve their classroom instruction. According to Mark Spencer, WA8SME, Director of the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, the four-day institute "focuses on the science of radio, bringing space technology into the classroom, microcontroller basics and basic robotics with emphasis not only on the basic concepts, but also teaching strategies to bring those concepts into the classroom."

Spencer said the Teachers Institute curriculum is an ever-evolving process; this year, a radio telescope project was added that can be used

to demonstrate the fundamentals of radio astronomy. The "Soldering 101" unit was enhanced with the addition of a 24-hour clock kit that the teachers construct and learn how to solder in the process. Finally, a BOT Instructor's Board was added to enhance the teacher's ability to instruct basic robotics. Spencer said he designed and developed the BOT board to "tie all the different pillars of the Teachers Institute into one umbrella activity that teachers can use to pull the school year together. The board also can be used to instruct the individual components of robotics, as well as instruct TV remote technology." Spencer said he added an ATV component with the board: "There is a lot of stuff going on with this particular resource."

The Teachers Institute isn't all inside classroom work. The teachers participate in a fox-hunt activity, take part in ham satellite QSOs and observe the collection of satellite imagery transmitted by NOAA satellites -- just as they can do in their classrooms.

Here are a few of the comments from the first 2008 Teachers Institute participants that summarize their experience:

"One of the other teachers in our Academy of Engineering and Design Technology class has applied to attend the Teachers Institute in Dayton this summer. She is excited about the class after hearing of it and seeing my show-and-tell session."

"We are working on robots now in my class and will be well entrenched by the end of this school year. Next year promises to be fun and exciting for the students. The Teachers Institute was a great experience, and the personal tutelage was responsible for making it so."

"Wonderful doesn't begin to describe it. I knew the basics of radio communications and transmission through electromagnetic waves, but I now understand it better than I ever have. The robot was very cool -- it reinvigorated my love of programming. It only took me four attempts to run the maze perfectly! I also made many contacts that I will use to help throughout my teaching career!"

"The instructor is great, absolutely great -- proof that if you do what you love, you'll love what you do!"

"Thanks again for the wonderful experience. I am looking forward to implementing what I learned in the classroom. Please let me know if you will be offering any follow up institutes."

The remaining Institutes for 2008 are just about filled to capacity, Spencer said. "Though the application deadline is May 15, the available seats filled up fast. If you are a teacher, or know of a teacher who could benefit from the experience, don't wait to submit an application for the few remaining seats. If you can't make it this year, perhaps next year. We are adding two additional instructors in anticipation of expanding the program in the future."

Five more Teachers Institutes are scheduled for 2008: June 16-19 in Rocklin, California at the Parallax Facility; June 25-28 in Tucson, Arizona at Pueblo Magnet High School; July 14-17 in Dayton, Ohio at P&R Communications, and July 28-31 and August 4-7 in Newington, Connecticut at ARRL Headquarters. Enrollment in these four-day expenses paid sessions is limited to 12 participants each. Application deadline is May 15, 2008. Applicants must be an active teacher at elementary, middle or high school level, or hold a leadership position in an enrichment or after-school program; an Amateur Radio license is not required. For more information, please visit the Teachers Institute Web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html>.

==> ARRL DIAMOND TERRACE GROWS

Spring is finally here and it's that time -- time to expand the Diamond Terrace at ARRL. "We've been waiting all winter for the opportunity to add new inscribed bricks and today's the day," said ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. "Since the last installation in the fall of 2007, we've been accumulating bricks from Diamond Club donors who have donated generously to honor their own call sign or that of an Elmer, friend or family member." The 150 bricks were moved Thursday, April 17 to the Terrace area in preparation for the masons to arrive early Friday morning to begin work.

Hobart said this installation is not the end of the project: "The Diamond Terrace project continues as long as members want to place bricks -- or we run out of space! We continue to receive requests from individuals as well as clubs to place bricks in the Terrace, so the project is still growing. Now is the perfect time to renew or join the Diamond Club -- or upgrade -- at the Brass Level so that we can install bricks over the next six months or so."

The terrace ultimately will consist of 5000 bricks. "We hope it will be a catalyst for growth, and that many members will support this effort," she said.

For a minimum donation of $250 to the ARRL Diamond Club, donors will receive one personalized brick to be placed in the Diamond Terrace. Donors may request up to three lines of 16 characters (spaces and punctuation included) per line on each brick, although the more lines, the smaller the characters. Legends may consist of a call sign or a name -- or both -- or a club name and call sign and even a year. Diamond Club members contributing $250 or more each year may add a new brick, or bricks, to the terrace.

There is no limit to the number of bricks a Diamond Club member may place on the Terrace. Brick requests will be accumulated throughout the year and placed in the Diamond Terrace starting in late spring of each year. Bricks will be set in sand and are treated to withstand a harsh New England winter.

The Diamond Terrace recognizes donors wishing to venerate their own call signs or to honor or memorialize the call sign of a family member, club

or "Elmer" (mentor) bricks. "I have heard wonderful stories from donors who are honoring their Elmer or a family member, and clubs who are honoring a founder or influential leader. There is no limit to the reasons why bricks are placed to honor a call sign," Hobart said.

Especially generous donors may wish to donate a garden bench to The Diamond Terrace at ARRL for an initial donation of $10,000. "Six garden benches of Vermont granite, the capstone of the Terrace, have been placed, thanks to the contributions of six incredibly generous hams," Hobart said. Bench donors include Frank Butler, W4RH; Larry Price, W4RA; Dick Isely, W9GIG; Paul Rinaldo, W4RI; Mike Zak, W1MU, and the Hollywood Hills QRP Contest Club.

"We had plans to refurbish the Headquarters entrance area, so this was an ideal opportunity to invite our members to participate in the project and supporting League programs at the same time," said Hobart. "We want to grow the Diamond Club, which enables the ARRL to continue programs that require revenue above and beyond what annual dues provide, ensuring their long-term health and enabling the League to do more on behalf of Amateur Radio."

When the ARRL Diamond Terrace was officially opened in July 2007, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said, "All of us who work here in Newington get to enjoy the Diamond Terrace every day when we come to work. We get to walk through a greatly enhanced entrance that sends the right message to staff and to our members, as well as visitors, about the character and tradition of our organization."

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, concurred: "When you talk to the average ham out on the street, and you ask him what's important to him in Amateur Radio, he will tell you, 'I want to go into my shack, I want to turn on my radio and I want to get on the air. I want to enjoy Amateur Radio. You take care of that for me. You are my organization, the ARRL; you handle that for me.'"

Harrison continued that in order for that to happen, a lot of work takes place behind the scenes. "With all that we have going on in Washington, nationally, with all the attacks on Amateur Radio's resources, it takes people like you in Newington, it takes people like we have on the Board of Directors and most importantly, it takes people who donate to our development program to make that all happen. The Diamond Terrace is just one part of that, and it's a successful part. It adds a lot of meaning to Amateur Radio and to the ARRL. From the bottom of my heart, I want to say 'thank you' to every one of our donors."

Diamond Club enrollment ($75-$249 per year for regular members; $50 annually for Life Members) includes ARRL full-member benefits, including QST. The Diamond Club now has more than 2000 members, and the unrestricted funds it takes in support such ARRL activities as spectrum defense, educational initiatives, field services, DXCC, publications, contesting and the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator among others, Hobart points out. "You pick an area that's near and dear to your heart,

and Diamond Club revenue is very likely supporting it."

The ARRL Diamond Terrace, built by Robert Antonello and Son, under the watchful eye of ARRL Building Manager, Greg Kwasowski, W1GJK, and Hobart, is a lasting tribute to Amateur Radio and the ARRL. "I hope that those who are fortunate to visit ARRL Headquarters will enjoy the new look of their Amateur Radio home. It has been a pleasure to work with each Diamond Club donor to craft the engraving for their brick, and I hope many can come and see the terrace personally," Hobart said.

Contact Hobart by telephone (860-594-0397) or e-mail <k1mmh@arrl.org> or visit the ARRL Web site <https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/diamondclub/diamond.html> to learn more or to sign up for your Diamond Club membership and Diamond Terrace brick.

==> AMATEUR RADIO "WELL REPRESENTED" AT NATIONAL HURRICANE CONFERENCE

More than 2000 people attended the 30th Annual National Hurricane Conference in Orlando, Florida March 31-April 4. Conference Chairman Max Mayfield stated in his opening remarks that he was pleased to see such a turnout, despite the fact that the 2007 hurricane season didn't impact the United States as in past years. ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, attended on behalf of the League.

According to Dura, Amateur Radio was well represented in the pre-Conference training with a variety of presentations. The National Hurricane Center (NHC) maintains a fully equipped and functional Amateur Radio station at its headquarters, WX4NHC. Station coordinators John McHugh, K4AG, and Julio Ripoll, WD4R, provided a comprehensive overview of the activities of the NHC, emphasizing the interaction and importance of Amateur Radio in the forecasting of tropical events. McHugh further detailed the Caribbean Amateur Radio Meteorological Emergency Network (CARMEN) program, discussing how the program in its current stage can use revitalization and rebuilding to provide improved information to the NHC.

Director of Operations for the VoIP Hurricane Net Rob Macedo, KD1CY, presented a detailed overview of the system that integrates EchoLink and the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP). "For the past few years," Dura said, "this operation has been building to become another reliable source of information for the National Hurricane Center."

Dura and Macedo offered the final Amateur Radio presentation of the Conference, "Disaster Intelligence and Situational Awareness Utilizing Amateur Radio." This discussion went beyond the traditional uses of Amateur Radio into the areas of damage assessment, infrastructure monitoring, communications systems replacement and rapid situational analyses, Dura said.

According to Dura, NHC Director Bill Read, KB5FYA, has had an active past using Amateur Radio at NWS facilities. "He personally utilized ham radio during SKYWARN activations dealing with severe weather. He

completely understands and acknowledges the vital role we play in providing the National Hurricane Center through WX4NHC. He hopes to have some time in his new role to actually get on the air with the hams of WX4NHC and once again use our tremendous resource of information gathering," Dura said.

During the Conference, Read praised Amateur Radio, saying, "Ham radio has always played a critical role in emergencies. What goes out when you have a high wind event or major flooding is the communications system, so you lose even cell phones, landline phones, commercial radio and TV. In those cases, ham radio operators that can put up emergency transmitters and antennas in the wake of a storm can give us reports that are valuable. They also help in the search and rescue efforts in the aftermath."

==> FORUM SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FOR DAYTON HAMVENTION

One of the many highlights at Dayton Hamvention is the myriad of educational and fun forums that take place the entire weekend at Hara Arena. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association has coordinated 46 unique programs that encompass nearly 80 hours of programs and activities for the thousands of people expected to attend these programs. Hamvention, the largest event of its kind, will be May 16-18 at Hara Arena in Dayton Ohio. Please keep in mind that the schedule may change before Hamvention.

Friday, May 16
9:15-10:45 AM - TAPR Digital Forum (Room 1)
9:15-10:15 AM - ARRL Public Relations -- Making It Work for You Locally (Room 2)
9:15-10:15 AM - Lightning Protection for the Shack (Room 3)
9:15-10:15 AM - National Frequency Coordinators Council (Room 5)
10:30-11:30 AM - ARRL Member Forum (Room 2)
10:30-11:30 AM - Teachers Workshop (Room 3)
10:30-11:30 AM - SATERN -- Salvation Army Team Emergency Network (Room 5)
11 AM-1 PM - D-STAR Forum (Room 1)
11:45 AM-1 PM - Kit Building (Room 2)
11:45 AM-12:45 PM - The Evolution of the National Traffic System (Room 3)
11:45 AM-12:45 PM - SHARES Forum (Room 5)
1:15-2:15 PM - Balloon Forum (Room 1)
1:15-2:15 PM - APRS - Automatic Position Reporting System (Room 2)
1-2:30 PM - Ham Radio and the Law (Room 3)
1-2 PM - QRP Forum (Room 5)
2:15-3:15 - Young Ladies Radio League (Room 5)
2:30-3:45 PM - Drake Forum (Room 2)
2:45-3:45 - Gordon West -- Digital Signal Processing Speakers (Room 3)
3:30-5 PM - Test Equipment for Hams (Room 5)
4-5 PM - Amplitude Modulation Forum (Room 2)
4-5 PM - 10-10 International Forum (Room 3)

Saturday, May 17
9-10 AM - How Ham Radio Meets Boy Scouts, or Adventures with Elmer Baden-Powell (Room 2)
9-10 AM - MARS Tri-Service Forum (Room 3)
9-11:30 AM - Software Defined Radio Forum (Room 1)
9-11:30 AM - AMSAT Forum (Room 5)
10:15-11:15 - Don't Tell Me It Can't Be Done! (Room 2)
10:15-11:15 AM - ARES Forum (Room 3)
11:30 AM-12:15 PM - ARRL Radiosport Forum (Room 2)
11:30 AM-1:45 PM - 2008 Ham Radio Town Meeting (Room 3)
11:45 AM-1:45 PM - ATV (Fast Scan Amateur Television) Forum (Room 5)
11:45 AM-2:15 PM - Contesting Forum (Room 1)
12:30-1:30 PM - RTTY Forum (Room 2)
1:45-2:45 PM - MIDCARS (Room 2)
2-3 PM - ARRL Technology Task Force (Room 5)
2-3:15 - FCC Forum with Riley Hollingsworth (Room 3)
2:30-5 PM - DX Forum (Room 1)
3-5 PM - UHF/VHF/Microwave Forum (Room 2)
3:15-5 PM - Youth in Amateur Radio Forum (Room 5)
3:30-5 PM - SSTV Forum (Room 3)

Sunday, May 18
9:15-10:15 AM - ARRL and the Mars Desert Research Station (Room 1)
9:15-10:15 AM - Collins Radio Forum (Room 2)
9:15-10:15 - The Role of Ham Radio in Red Cross Chapter Communications (Room 3)
9:30-11:15 AM - Bicycle Mobile Forum (Room 5)
10:30-11:30 - ARRL Digital Forum (Room 1)
10:30-11:30 AM - Techniques of the Best Operators (Room 2)
10:30-11:30 AM - Ohio MARS Forum (Room 3)

For more information on forums at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention, please visit the Dayton Hamvention Web site <http://www.hamvention.org/hv2008/forums/index.html>.

==> INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY EVENT IS APRIL 26

Special event stations will be on the air Saturday, April 26 (UTC), to mark International Marconi Day (IMD), a 24-hour Amateur Radio event commemorating the birth of wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi on April 25, 1874.

Participants can qualify for awards by making contacts on 160 through 10 meters (CW, SSB and digital) with designated IMD stations operating on or near a site where Marconi carried out experiments or where Marconi equipment was used prior to his death in 1937. The sponsoring Cornish Radio Amateur Club (CRAC) will operate GB4IMD from Pendennis Castle, Falmouth, Cornwall, overlooking Falmouth Harbour where Marconi spent some 10 days aboard his yacht in April 1923.

Additional IMD stations will be on the air from the UK, the US, Canada, South America, Australia and Europe. The IMD Web site has a list of IMD 2008 award stations <http://www.gb4imd.org.uk/awardstns.htm>.

On the US side, the Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club, KM1CC, will participate at the Coast Guard Station on Coast Guard Beach in Eastham, Massachusetts, just south of Marconi's original 1903 station on Cape Cod.

If you would like to operate an IMD 2008 award station, register your station prior to the event, providing full details <webmaster@gb4imd.org.uk>. More information on International Marconi Day can be found on the IMD Web site <http://www.gb4imd.org.uk/>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Wild men who caught and sang the Sun in flight" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: We saw a string of zero-sunspot days over the past couple of weeks, but this week saw a brief but significant sunspot that lasted only a couple of days. Sunspot 990 emerged as a tiny speck over April 14-15, but it was definitely a Solar Cycle 24 spot. Not only was the polarity of this region correct for the new Cycle, but it was far north above the Sun's equator, which is what we expect for a sunspot from an emerging solar cycle. The only previous Cycle 24 activity was close to the solar equator. Sunspot numbers for April 10-16 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 11, 12 and 0 with a mean of 3.3. The 10.7 cm flux was 67.9, 67.1, 68.2, 69.3, 68.5, 69.2 and 69.5 with a mean of 68.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 8, 4, 11, 7, 2, 5 and 15 with a mean of 7.4. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 6, 3, 8, 6, 2, 3 and 9, with a mean of 5.3. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions April 18, quiet to unsettled April 19, quiet April 20, quiet to unsettled April 21, active April 22-23 and unsettled to active April 24. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, look for the Holyland DX Contest, the TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest, the ES Open HF Championship, the Feld Hell Sprint and the EU Spring Sprint (SSB) on April 19. The Michigan QSO Party, the EA-QRP CW Contest, the Ontario QSO Party and the YU DX Contest are April 19-20. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is April 21. The SKCC Sprint is April 23 and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (Data) is April 24. Next weekend, the SP DX RTTY Contest, the Helvetia Contest, the QRP to the Field contest and the Florida QSO Party are all scheduled for April 26-27. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, May 4, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, May 16, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002), Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2), Antenna Modeling (EC-004), HF Digital Communications (EC-005), VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* New Apparel Items Now Available from ARRL: Show off your ham radio pride with ARRL's new line of HAM apparel. The new shirt, sweatshirt and ball cap feature the very popular oval Euro design with "HAM" emblazoned in the center and the ARRL Web site address centered underneath it. The T shirt is a pre-shrunk black Hanes beefy-T with white contrast stitching. The HAM oval is screenprinted on the left chest. This trendy T shirt comes in unisex sizes from small to 3X for only $12.95 each. The heavyweight black sweatshirt features a quarter-zip neckline with a brass metal zipper and leather pull. The HAM oval is embroidered on the left chest. This sweatshirt is perfect for the still chilly nights of spring and comes in unisex sizes from small to 3X for only $34.95 each. The black ballcap features the HAM oval embroidered in the center of the cap. With an adjustable Velcro tab closure, this cap is sure to fit just about anyone. Get yours for only $12.95. Receive a free HAM Euro sticker (a $2 value) <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9595> when you order one of these three HAM items before May 31, 2008. Order your HAM items today <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=NO-HAM#top>.

* JARL Operating Award Checking Available at Hamvention: A representative of the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) will be available at Dayton Hamvention May 16-18 to check applications for JARL awards and to issue certificates for certain awards (AJD, WAJA, JCC, JCG, ADXA and ADXA-Half). Those with 10 JA QSL cards each of the 10 JA districts can apply for the All Japan District Award (AJD) at Hamvention. Former JARL executive director and renowned DXer Masa Ebisawa, JA1DM, will be at Booth 484 in the Ballarena of Hara Arena, near ARRL EXPO 2008. Applications for other JARL awards can be checked at the JARL booth, and awards will be mailed from JARL headquarters. Masa also will be ready to answer questions on JARL activities as well as reciprocal licensing in Japan. Applicants do not need to present QSL

cards when applying for awards, but they must submit a QSL card list, sign a declaration that they possess all necessary QSL cards and be able to present any card at JARL's request. The QSL card list should include: call sign, date, band, mode and entity (or other data required by each award). Applicants may use a DXCC Record Sheet for their QSL card list. The fee for each award is $14.

* Mexico Group On the Air for World Amateur Radio Day: Amateurs all over the world are getting into the spirit of the 83rd World Amateur Radio Day on April 18. Grupo DXXE <http://www.dxxe.org> of Mexico will be on the air with a special call sign, XE83IARU, that day in honor of the IARU and World Amateur Radio Day. For those pursuing the DXXE award, organizers state this is a valid station for that award. Information on the DXXE Award (in both Spanish and English) is available on the DXEE Web site <http://www.dxxe.org/index6.html>. QSL via Richard Moen, N7RO, 2935 Plymouth Dr, Bellingham, WA 98225.

* Notes from the DXCC Desk: ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, has announced that the following operations have been approved for DXCC credit: the 2007 operation to Uganda, 5X1NH; the 2007 operation to Western Sahara, S05A; the 2008 operation to Burundi, 9UXEV; the 2008 operation to Syria, YK9G, and the ongoing operation of HZ1PS in Saudi Arabia. If you have cards rejected or have any questions concerning these operations, please e-mail the DXCC Desk <dxcc@arrl.org>.

* ARRL Discontinuing Web Classified Ads: As of April 30, 2008, the ARRL will discontinue the "Radios On-Line" section of the ARRL Web site.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
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Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
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The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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390. Re: RFI mitigation tips for mobile Ops

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-21 02:53:55 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net>
Message-ID: <Xns9A86E877B9B29mcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136>
Source record: 2961

Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam> wrote in
news:pan.2008.04.18.06.48.07.672666@invalid.nospam:

> Strangely enough, I took absolutely NONE of these precautions - and my
> mobile is working nicely. (that doesn't mean I recommend ignoring
> Mike's points!)
>
> I'm even running it from the lighter outlet. Figured it would be OK
> for the ride home from Milwaukee running 20 watts or so. Kept
> creeping up the power, I'm now at 80 watts (all bands) & not a hint of
> trouble.
>
> Again, I don't recommend it though!
>
> The biggest source of QRN are leaky powerline insulators. Next
> biggest source are passing semis. (last time I was HF mobile, semis
> were quiet. Obviously something has changed in the typical truck
> engine?)
>
> On Thu, 17 Apr 2008 13:56:06 -0400, Michael Coslo wrote:
>> Oh, and by the way, the antenna appears to work "very well", at least
>> I've gotten good signal reports on 40 and 20, and reasonably good
>> ones on 75 meters also. It seems to make use of the limited
>> efficiencies we see with short HF aerials.
>
> My Hamsticks are quite effective on 40 - can work pretty much anyone I
> can hear if there isn't a pileup, and sometimes even when there is.
> Managed to work a VK6 on 40 at sunset on my way into town a few months
> back - that's darned near the antipodes from here. Managed to work
> VP6DX on 80 from the car! Strangely 20 doesn't work quite so well,
> though I still work plenty of DX.

Interesting! Your car being much more quiet might be the result of a
couple things. It is quite possible that you done good in the purchase.
Another possibility is that the bugcatchers are kind of a tour de force
in mobile antennas, and are designed to push every parameter in order to
maximaze efficiency as much as possible in the HF-unfriendly dimensions
available. High-Q coils (which even screwdrivers lack) and the necessary
short lengths of the entire antenna make all mobile HF setups pretty
marginal.I'm one inch short of the maximum height allowed for a vehicle
on US roads. The penalty for this is that the bugcatcher tunes extremely
sharply. I have 2 taps on the coil for 75 meters, and I'd probably need
several more to extend to 80 meters. On 40 and up, one tap per band is
usually sufficient.

http://www.w5dxp.com/shootout.htm

Has some results of a shootout of various mobile antennas.

Now all that being said, there is a lot of work in putting my HF mobile setup together. I wanted/needed to tweak out every bit of performance available for mobile contesting, and was willing to put the time into it, which ended up being quite a lot of time. I did get to try it out in the CAQSO party, and it worked okay on 20 meters, PA to CA. I got good signal reports up and down the east coast on 40. On 80, well, they didn't ever ask me to repeat myself. But anything below 40 meters is dicey in operating mobile. I didn't get to use it in the PAQSO which was my main reason for putting it together, due to a death in the family. Later this year, I'll do a more scientific test, as much as one can be done with antennas by someone without access to an antenna range....

And oh yeah - the bugcatcher is quite a sight, especially on a little Suziki Vitara, even more so, with a 20 inch capacity hat on it. Not everyone wants to look like that.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

391. Re: RFI mitigation tips for mobile Ops

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-21 09:13:05 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.04.21.05.13.25.743885@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2962

On Sun, 20 Apr 2008 22:53:55 -0400, Mike Coslo wrote:
> Interesting! Your car being much more quiet might be the result of a
> couple things. It is quite possible that you done good in the purchase.

2002 Ford Focus ZX3. Not selected for RF quietness. (when I bought it I had no plans to operate mobile below 144MHz) Obviously it *is* reasonably quiet in terms of radiated RF, though conducted RF into the AM BCB radio is pretty bad! (often the IC-706, with a 40m Hamstick, receives AM BCB stations better than the car's own radio.....)

Unfortunately it's got 150,000 miles now & I'm starting to think about the next vehicle. Guess I should take along the TH-F6 and a dozen feet of wire or something.

> Another possibility is that the bugcatchers are kind of a tour de force
> in mobile antennas, and are designed to push every parameter in order to
> maximaze efficiency as much as possible in the HF-unfriendly dimensions
> available. High-Q coils (which even screwdrivers lack) and the necessary
> short lengths of the entire antenna make all mobile HF setups pretty
> marginal.I'm one inch short of the maximum height allowed for a vehicle
> on US roads. The penalty for this is that the bugcatcher tunes extremely
> sharply. I have 2 taps on the coil for 75 meters, and I'd probably need
> several more to extend to 80 meters. On 40 and up, one tap per band is
> usually sufficient.

At least on 40 that's wider than my Hamstick. Two settings are necessary for useful operation across the band (one for CW and one for phone) and even that's marginal. Never tried 80 without the tuner. 20/15/10 are indeed useful without retuning.

My solution was to buy a LDG AT-7000 autotuner. I didn't expect much. (just to be able to get full power from 7000 to 7050 without stopping to retune) I have been VERY happily surprised. Not only does the tuner promptly present a decent match to the radio across the entire 40m band without adjusting the antenna, but efficiency is quite reasonable. No problems in working DX from 7000 to 7300. With the 20m Hamstick in place the autotuner also allows work on 30 and 17m - not very well, but it *is* possible to make QSOs.

The efficiency may not be the best. But it does work, and pretty well.

> Now all that being said, there is a lot of work in putting my HF mobile
> setup together. I wanted/needed to tweak out every bit of performance
> available for mobile contesting, and was willing to put the time into
> it, which ended up being quite a lot of time. I did get to try it out
> in the CAQSO party, and it worked okay on 20 meters, PA to CA. I got
> good signal reports up and down the east coast on 40. On 80, well, they
> didn't ever ask me to repeat myself. But anything below 40 meters is
> dicey in operating mobile. I didn't get to use it in the PAQSO which wa
s
> my main reason for putting it together, due to a death in the family.
> Later this year, I'll do a more scientific test, as much as one can be
> done with antennas by someone without access to an antenna range....

Mine kinda grew out of a FT-8900R installation. Was enjoying the heck ou
t
of 10m FM (and 6) but they weren't open enough. So I bought the 706 &
started gradually adding bands.

It probably would have made more sense to buy a Bugcatcher. (probably
cheaper than five Hamsticks and an autotuner)

Have used it in the TN QSO Party to the tune of 300-something QSOs. Also
the KY contest two years ago.

> And oh yeah - the bugcatcher is quite a sight, especially on a little
> Suziki Vitara, even more so, with a 20 inch capacity hat on it. Not
> everyone wants to look like that.

One day with a previous mobile, I was listening to 27.185 for some reason
& heard a couple of truckers commenting about the "weird porcupine car"
with all the antennas. This thing probably triggers similar comments.
BCB rubber duckie, VHF/UHF tribander (antenna handles 222 but the radio
doesn't...), HF antenna, and then a second 2m antenna for occasional APRS
.
Then if the bike rack is on the car.....

392. Re: "Steampunk" Revisited- another nice one

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-22 05:13:14 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <fujga0$14t2$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2963

http://www.sparkbench.com/homebrew/brass/brass.html

Now THAT's what I'm talking about.That two tuber is just gorgeous! Not only functions very well, according to the builder), but I'd put it in my living room as a piece of art.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

393. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-22 06:00:05 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1208844001@panix.com>
Source record: 2964
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.scanner,rec.radio.shortwave,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

394. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-22 06:05:02 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1208844301@panix.com>
Source record: 2965
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.scanner,rec.radio.shortwave,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

395. Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1602 - April 25, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-25 13:00:51 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080425024026.0223fb40@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2966
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1602 - April 25, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1602 with a release date of Friday, April 25tht, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The FCC will netcast its meeting to revise the Emergency Alert System, a not so funny intruder to 70 centimeters down-under, changes in the rules for Field Day 2008 and Newsline's e-mail is spoofed. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline" report number 1602 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: FCC TO WEBCAST EAS PLANNING SUMMIT MAY 19

The Federal Communications Commissions Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau will webcast a Summit on the nations Emergency Alert System on Monday, May 19th. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, reports:

--

In line with the Commissions July 2007 Second Report and Order on the Emergency Alert System, the Summit discussions will focus on the current state of the nations E-A-S and what is needed to transition it to a more robust, Next Generation alert and warning system. One that will help ensure that all citizens receive accurate and timely information during emergencies.

The Summit will be open to the public; admittance however will be limited to the seating available. The venue is Commission Meeting Room at the FCC's Washington D.C. headquarters building from 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Those individuals who are interested in attending may pre-register on-line at: http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/summits/eas . The deadline for pre-registration is Thursday, May 15, 2008.

As mentioned there will be streaming Audio and Video coverage of the meeting. It will be carried live with open captioning over the Internet from the FCC's web page at www.fcc.gov.realaudio Access to webcast is free to the public and does not require pre-registration.

Whether or not the ARRL, REACT or any personal radio emergency communications organization will be a part of this gathering? That not known at this point in time.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the studio in Los Angeles.

--

Again, that E-A-S planning meeting is Monday, May 19th. The Commission says that it will release additional information and an agenda in the near future. (FCC)

**

ALERT: NEWSLINE E-MAIL BEING SPOOFED

Amateur Radio Newsline's e-mail addrsss has been spoofed and yoy may have been the target.

If you received an unexpected e-mail with our return address of newsline@arnewsline.org with a message written in Cyrillic Rusiam and asking you to call a strange telephone number, delete that e-mail at once. Its not from us and there is every reason to believe that calling that phone number could be a hoax or scam.

Every once in a while spammers and Internet scammers randomly pick an e-mail address and use it to send outs thousands if not 10's of thousands or even millions of pieces of spam e-mail. This week it appears to be our turn.

We found out about it when several hundred bounced e-mail filled our incoming mailbox on Wednesday the 23rd. We notified our I-S-P but in reality all that can be done is to wait for the spoofing attack to pass.

Meantime, if you were one of those who received the Russian spam, just delete it because it was not from us. Also, remember this general Internet safety rule. Never, ever click on any link in any e-mail that you are not expecting, even if you know the person who sent it. There is no way to know if that e-mail is real or just another web spoof like the one our e-mail address was used for this past week.

Be wise. Do not click any link or call any phone numbers that came unsolicited. Make Internet safety your top priority and you will not only protect your computer but also your personal information as well. Information that the crooks on the Internet will stop at nothing to get. (ARNewsline")

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: GLORIOSO ISLAND OPERATION POSTPONED AGAIN

If you have been one of those patiently waiting for Glorioso Island to come on the air, you are going to have to wait a bit longer. This is because the DXpedition to Glorioso originally scheduled for May 6th to June 6th has been postponed once again.

The reason this time is construction. Starting in June a number of new tropical storms shelters will be built on Glorioso. The work will take at least two and a half months. Due to the large number of workers on the island during the construction the authorities decided to postpone the DXpedition until the work has been completed.

The exact dates for the Dxpedition to take place will be determined by the availability of transportation to and from Glorioso. The operators say that they hope to accomplish the operation by the end of September or the beginning of October at the latest. We will have more D-X related news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (DXNL)

**

ON THE AIR: RULES CHANGES FOR FIELD DAY 2008

Three major changes have been announced in the rules guiding this years ARRL Field Day.

First is that the Demonstration Mode bonuses have been replaced by an Educational Activities bonus.

Second, The Get On The Air or G-O-T-A station may now also operate on the VHF bands but only one band at a time.

Lastly, a newly licensed amateur who has received his or her ticket dince Field Day 2007 may operate the G-O-T-A station regardless of license class, but this does not apply to upgrades. The League says that an upgrade is not the same as a new license.

Field Day 2008 runs from 1800 U-T-C on June 28th to 2100 U-T-C on June 29th. The complete rules are on the ARRL's website at www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/fd.html. You can also find them starting on page 81 of the May issue of QST magazine. (ARRL)

**

RADIO ON THE WEB: ARRL TO DISCONTINUE RADIOS ON-LINE LISTINGS

Call this a case of a few spoiling it for the many. The few are those arrogant hams who have insisted that the ARRL rules regarding what is permissible to post on the ARRL's Radios On-Line web ads does not apply to them.

According to ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, the ARRL has experienced an increased number of complaints by members and users of the service. This, regarding postings and practices that do not conform to the Radios On-Line Web site's original intent.

According to Kramer, despite efforts to regularly monitor the site problems have continued. These include postings for guns and other personal ads. Kramer says that the ARRL staff that administers this service has deleted these items and notified the 'poster.' A day or two later they find the ads back on the site and placed in every category.

Kramer says that the ARRL is spending far to much time dealing with this matter and making it is no longer worth the cost of maintaining the service. So as of April 30th the ARRL says that it will discontinue listing classified ads in the Radios On-Line are of its website.

As we said, it only take a very few to spoil it for the many. (ARRL)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W6JW repeater serving Los Angeles and Santa Clarita, California.

(5 sec pause here)

**

ENFORCEMENT: A COMEDY INTRUDER DOWN-UNDER

It was no laughing matter when signals popped up on 70cm band during the recent Melbourne Comedy Festival down-under. But the Australian Commuications and Media Authority -- the ACMA -- wasted little time in dispoing of this one. Jim Linton, VK3PC, f the WIA News reports"

--

Staff of a security company were equipped with imported Chinese made hand-helds radios. They believed they were CB radios and okay to use for communications on the streets of Central Melbourne.

The ACMA acted quickly on reports of the intruders and was taking appropriate action to ensure compliance with the Radiocommunications Act.

The fear among the amateur radio community is that this incident could be just the start of many more commercial uses of similar radios.

That fear comes amid reports of another intrusion on the 70cm for valet parking at a major Melbourne entertainment complex.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton, VK3PC.

--

Whether you live in Australia, Europe, here in the U-S-A or anywhere else there is a good chance that attempting to engage pirate operations like this in on-air discussion may be a breach of our amateur license conditions. That means holding a QSOI with the intruder could get you into as much trouble as the unlicensed station with the cheapo H-T. (WIA News)

**

ENFORCEMENT: COMPASSIONATE FCC FINES UNLICENSED BROADCASTER ONLY $100

The FCC has shown a lot of compassion as it issued and affirmed a monetary forfeiture in the amount of only $100 to Dwayne Simon of California. This, for operating an unlicensed radio transmitter on 95.9 MHz in Lancaster area.

Simon had originally been issued a Notice to Apparent Liability in the amount of $10,000. This following a December 30, 2006 visit by FCC agents from the Enforcement Bureaus Los Angeles office. During their visit the agents interviewed Simon and inspected the station. During the questioning Simon acknowledged that he was aware of the Commissions requirement for a

license to broadcast. He also said that he was aware of the Commissions enforcement efforts against other pirate broadcasters in the Lancaster area.

Before leaving, the agents issued an on-scene Notice of Unlicensed Operation to Simon. At the end of the interview Simon told the agents that he would not operate the station again and indicated that he would pursue an Internet-based radio station as an alternative.

But Simon apparently did not keep that promise. On April 6, 2007, Los Angeles agents again visited Simon and inspected his station. Simon again acknowledged operating the unlicensed station on 95.9 MHz.

On June 18, 2007, the Los Angeles Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability in the amount of $10,000 to Simon. In his Response, Simon did not dispute the facts outlined in the proposed fine. Instead he apologized for his actions and stated that he had dismantled his transmitter. He also asserted an inability to pay the forfeiture and supplied personal financial information to support this claim.

The FCC says that in analyzing Simons financial hardship claim that it found it to be true and warranted a reduction in the amount of the fine. In this case to the amount of $100 which Simnon was given 30 days to pay or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: SHELBY HAMFEST ANNOUNCES ITS NEW VENUE

The Shelby Hamfest will be heading a few miles East to a new venue. This with word that the Shelby Amateur Radio Club will hold the 52nd Annual Shelby Hamfest at Biggerstaff Park also called Gaston County Park. in Dallas, North Carolina instead of the Cleveland County Fairgrounds closer to Shelby.

As previously reported, the separation stems from earlier contract disputes between the club and the Cleveland County Fair Association. New contract stipulations for the fairgrounds put Hamfest in jeopardy. The radio club thought the fair association's contract changes were unacceptable, leading to a stalemate. The club was beginning to wonder if they would be able to hold this years hamfest but it didn't take long for Gaston County to take interest. As a result the new home for the Shelby Hamfest will be Dallas Park.

The Shelby Hamfest is one of the oldest and largest in the United States. It was first held at Shelby City Park and began as a one-day event attended by less than 100 people. The Hamfest eventually outgrew the City Park and moved to Bracketts Cedar Park in Casar, North Carolina. By 1979, it had outgrown Bracketts and moved to the Fairgrounds. In that time the event has grown to where it attracts between 8000 to 12000 over the Labor Day weekend. According to amateur radio operators who have attended since its beginning, one of the major reasons for its growth and continued success has been the small town friendly feeling that visitors enjoy. (Cleveland County Star)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: AMSAT / TAPR BANQUET AT HAMVENTION 2008

The second annual AMSAT/TAPR Banquet will be held during Dayton Hamvention on Friday evening at the Kohler Presidental Banquet Center, Kettering, Ohio. The evening will begin with a cash bar at 6:30 PM. Dinner will be served at 7:15.. Please contact martha@amsat.org at the AMSAT office for information or call to make reservations. (ANS)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: SHES THE ONE WHO DID IT - ON STILTS

A staff member of the Radio Society of Great Britain staff set a new world record in the recent London Marathon. Not for the speed in which she ran it, Rather 21 year old Michelle Frost's name has gone down in the Guinness Book of Records as the first person ever to complete the 26 mile course while running on 4 foot high circus stilts.

Frost of Bristol, took part in the marathon to raise money for REACH. This is an organization which helps children with upper limb deficiencies.

Prior to the race beginning she told the BBC that it was a bit of a spur of the moment idea because she could already stilt walk, and I thought she would give it a try. To find out more, and to sponsor Michelle, go to www.justgiving.com/rainbowdave. (RSGB)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: W3HC RETIRES AS QSL MANAGER

Carl Mc Daniel, W3HC, is retiring as a QSL Manager and that the QSL Manager's Society is acquiring all of the logs and cards from him. All callsigns he was overseeing will be assigned to new managers however it will take some time to sort and make the changes.

Bob Schenck, N2OO, says that anyone who has already sent a QSL via W3HC does not need to re-send it. All mail already received by W3HC will also be passed along to whomever gets assigned as that calls manager. Thus far the currently active callsigns CO6AP, 7X5VRK, PY2KC, YL2EC, TU2XZ, PT5T, PS2T and ZY100S will be handled by Kim Larsen via N3SL. (OPDX)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: K1AKS RETURNS AS SM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Al Shuman, K1AKS, of New Boston, New Hampshire, has been appointed ARRL Section Manager of the New Hampshire Section, effective April 21. The League announced the appointment after Sterling Eanes, AK1K, decided to step down due to mounting work responsibilities and other commitments.

Shuman previously served as New Hampshire Section Manager for two previous terms. These were from December 1992 to June 1999 and October 2000 to June 2005. His latest term of office continues through June 30, 2009. (ARRL)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: CSVHFS IN KANSAS IN JULY

The Central States VHF Society is calling for the submission of papers and presentations for the upcoming 42nd Annual Central States VHF Society Conference to be held in Wichita, Kansas fro, July 24th to the 26th. Papers and presentations are solicited on both the technical and operational aspects of VHF, UHF and Microwave weak signal amateur radio. The deadline for the submission of papers and presentations is May 15th. More is on-line at
<http://www.csvhfs.org/conference/callforpapers.html>http://www.csvhfs.org/conference/callforpapers.html
(CSVHFS)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: NET COMMEMORATES TEXAS INDEPENDENCE

On Sunday April 20th, the Texas Heritage Net commemorated the final battle for Texas independence. The combat took place on April 21, 1836, at a place called San Jacinto. Thats where General Sam Houston and less than 900 men defeated Santa Anna's Army and won Texas independence.

Lamar Denby of Huntington, Texas, whose call sign is KD5HLB, served as net control station. Denby is the great-great grandson of Lt. Col. Moses F. Roberts, who fought in the battle of San Jacinto and later served in the Congress of the Republic of Texas. While in office Roberts worked with Sam Houston pushing for the annexation of Texas to the United States.

There were 22 participants for the net. Each will receive a commemorative QSL card. The Texas Heritage Net meets each Sunday evening at 8:00 PM CST on 7 point 227 MHz. (QRZ.com)

**

HAMVENTION 2008: W5KUB TO PROVIDE LIVE STREAMING VIDEO MAY 14 - 18

If you can't make it to this years Dayton Hamvention, Tom Medlin, W5KUB, has the next best thing. He will being many of this years Hamvention highlights right to your home computer screen via broadband video streaming.

According to Tom, the fun starts live on Wednesday May 14th at about 08:00 Central Daylight Time. Thats when he and his crew depart from Memphis, Tennessee for their 550 Mile drive to Dayton. Tom will be streaming the drive live so that those clicking to his website can have fun trying to guess where they are. And thanks to Tom's Helmet cam, you will also be able to or comment about what food they are seen eating.

Web transmissions from the Hamvention begin on Thursday May 15th as we see Tom and his crew set up at Fleamarket spaces 3350 and 3351. Once the show opens on Friday, Ton plans nonstop coverage until closing on Sunday afternoon. Then he invites you to vicariously drive back to Memphis with him as he passes through some of the prettiest countryside that this nation has to offer.

So if you can't be there in person, take your web browser to http://w5kub.com and let Tom Medlin bring the magic of Hamvention 2008 directly to your home computer screen Again, the U-R-L is http://W5KUB.com. There will also be a direct link to Toms streaming video site from the Dayton Hamvention website at www.hamvention.org. (W5KUB)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for todays radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: ANTENNA AUTHORITY L.B. CEBIK, W4RNL, - S.K.

Some sad news. Word that famed antenna authority L. B. Cebik, W4RNL, has passed away. Cebik lived in Knoxville, Tennessee and wrote more than a dozen books on antennas. Much of his work was also self published on his well known website at www.cebik.com

A teacher for more than 30 years, Cebik was retired, but served as Professor Emeritus at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He was also an ARRL Technical Adviser in the area of antenna design. L. B. Cebik, W4RNL was only 68 years of age. (QCWA)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: NEW VERSION OF FDMDV RELEASED

A new version of the Digital Voice software FDMDV is now available for download . FDMDV allows you to transmit and receive Digital Voice simply by hooking up your PC to a standard High Frequency S-S-B transceiver.

As reported in past newscasts, the key advantage of mode is that it's transmitted bandwidth is less than half that of S-S-B, just 1 point 1 kHz. The new version FDMDV 1 point 2 along with updated documentation can be downloaded from n1su.com/fdmdv. (Via e-mail)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT AUSTRALIA AND OZSATGROUP MERGE

Two ham radio in space names that are well known down-under have merged. AMSAT-Australia and the Ozsatgroup have combined into a new gorganization, but one that has retained the name AMSAT-Australia.

The two organizations have been working together for more than twenty-four months, and have been discussing such an amalgamation for some time. The decision to go ahead with the merger was made after Graham Ratcliff, VK5AGR formally tended his resignation as AMSAT-Australia National Coordinator and

as AMSAT Coordinator for the Wireless Institute of Australia at the WIA Federal Convention on Monday, April 7th.

The role of AMSAT-Australia National Coordinator for the new organization has been taken on by Paul Paradigm, VK2TXT. Paradigm was formally the Coordinator of the Ozsatgroup. He has been joined by Judy Williams, VK2TJU in the role of AMSAT-Australia Secretary. (WIA)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: RADIO BELOW MARS SURFACE

A radar device co-sponsored by NASA on the European Space Agency's Mars Express orbiter has looked beneath the surface of Mars.

The radar sounder on Mars Express is the Mars Advanced Radar for Subsurface and Ionospheric Imaging was built to map the distribution of liquid and frozen water in upper portions of the planet's crust. A complementary radar sounder, the Shallow Subsurface Radar on NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter uses a different frequency to see greater detail but to a lesser depth. The two signals are then radioed back to Earth for scientific analysis.

As these two instruments continue to provide data, the understanding that they provide about how planetary radar sounders work is prompting ideas for using the technology to explore beneath the surfaces of bodies. These include Jupiter's moon Europa, Saturn's moons Titan and Enceladus, as well as asteroids and comets. (NASA/Jet Propulsion Laboratory Release)

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WORLDBEAT - UK: RSGB MOVES TO NEW HOME IN BEDFORD

Turning to news from other parrts of the globe, we start with word that the Radio Society of Great Britain was completely closed from Friday April 18th to Friday April 25th. This was to permit the U-K national society to relocate from its old home at Potters Bar to s new location in the city of Bedford.

Normal operations should resume on Monday April 28th but they ask members to delay any non-urgent business until Wednesday the 30th Because of the move there were to be no updates to the RSGB web site from the 21st to the 25th of April. There was also noGB2RS bulletin on Sunday April 27th. (RSGB)

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WORLDBEAT - EAST TIMOR: BRINGING HAM RADIO TO THE NATION

Spain's national society, the Union de Radioaficionados Espanoles or U-R-E has announced a new educational project in East Timor to take place in June. The U-R-E's Radiosolidarity Department will organize a DXpedition combined with activities to promote Amateur Radio in East Timor. This will include the donation of a complete Amateur Radio station at the University of Dili. The Spanish national society hopes that operating alongside students and teachers of the Electrical Engineering and other departments

will help make amateur radio a permanent way of life in East Timor. More details and up-to-date information is now available at www.ure.es/hf/eadx/expediciones/4w2008/home.php?lang=en

(URE)

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WORLDBEAT - SINGAPORE: FUND FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS FOUNDED BY 9V1UV

Singapore amateur K.C. Selvadurai, 9V1UV, has donated $5000 to IARU Region 3. This, to establish a special fund that will enable the regions directors undertake tasks or projects that can better achieve its missions and goals. In making the donation Selva as he I better known expressed the hope that others may also contribute to the new fund. (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT - FINLAND EDXC TO MEET IN SEPTEMBER

The 2008 European DX Council or EDXC Conference will be held 5th to the 7th of September in Vaasa, Finland. Organized by the Finnish DX Association as the 50th Anniversary meeting of the club, the conference takes place at the Best Western Hotel Silveria with many activities already planned. More about the event is on line at www.netikka.net/edxc2008/ (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT - THE NETHERLANDS: DUTCH VERON ELECTS NEW LEADERS

From the Netherlands comes word that Remy Denker, PA3AGF, is the new president to the Dutch national Amateur Radio society the VERON. Denker replaces outgoing president Dick Harms, PA2DW, who did not seek reelection.

Elected to serve as 1st Vice President is Guido van den Berg, PA0GMM. Jan Janssen, PA0JMG, has taked the 2nd Vice Presidents slot with Peter de , PA3CWS, elected as the VERON's new Treasirer.

The elections took place at the society's Annual General Meeting on Saturday April 19th. More information is on line at www.veron.nl (Southgate)

**

DX

In DX word that N5FF should be in Damascus and should be active again as YK1BA until May 2nd. He will return home to Texas on May 3rd. As usual, the purpose of the trip is not a DXpedition, so his operating will be spotty. However he hopes to be able to operate at least 3-4 hours a day. QSL via N5FF.

A 6 meter DXpedition to Sable Island is scheduled to take place from June 25th through the 7th of July. VE3IKV, K5AND and W3CMP will be active there as CY0X using CW SSB. Operation will also occur on 20m and 40m, but at a lower priority than six. For more information go to www.cy0x.com.

Cards for the A52AM operation from Bhutan are not valid for DXCC. The

reason given is that because the license was revoked this is considered as an unauthorized operation. For more details, you can view the official paperwork from the Bhutan Department of Post and Telecommunications at www.darc.de/ausland/new/auslref_dokumente/bicma_a52am.pdf

As of April 22nd, N9QGU is on the air from St, Martin on 20, 15 and 10 meters SSB for about two weeks. He will have time to operate only during his early morning and late afternoon hours. QSL as directed on the air.

Lastly, members of the United Kingdom's Grantham Amateur Radio Club are going to Lunga Isle from the 12th to the 17th of June. No callsigns announced yet. More information is on the club website at www.garc.org.uk.

(From various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: LEARNING MORSE THROUGH SONG

And finally this week, a new song and video about rebuilding a ham radio contest station while at the same time teaches the viewer the Morse code will soon be here. Its from a musical group called the Ham Band. Lissa Ladefoged, of the Ham Band gives us a bit of background on what lead to the song being written and the video being produced:

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Lissa: "What happened was that we had a small fore in the shack. The fire was caused by an electrical short. So, we actually had to empty the shack. This gave us the opportunity to completely rebuild and we filmed the whole process from the burying of a huge copper grounding plate and the rewiring of all the filters and switches and the installation of rhe three HF stations. Finally the whole station was given a workout by our team in several contests."

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For those of you new to the the hobby, the Ham Band is a group of musicians based in Denmark who do music about ham radio. Andrew John Huddleston, OZ1XJ is the groups leader and his fife Lissa Ladefoged is they key soloist. They are the only group to ever release an C-D that consists only of songs about ham radio. Called Seek You -- it was introduced several years ago at the Dayton Hamvention and was a sell-out. Since then the groups on-line video single titled "Come And Join Us On The Airwaves" has been at the top of the YouTube charts with over 90,000 views so far. Lissa says the new song could set a record, but not in the way you might think:

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Lissa: "The song is in three styles. First we have the French musette. And then the Viennese waltz and we wind up with the German oom-pah. Each verse introduces letters and numbers in Morse code so that all numbers and letters are mentioned in the course of the 15 minute song. The song also changes key twenty-four times se we expect to get into the Guinnes Book of Records."

--

Andrew and Lisa say that they hope you will enjoy the new song's preview video. Its on-line at the YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9s49tnxT8F8 (ARNewsline")

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline". Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's" only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline", P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go we want to remind you that the nominating period for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year is now open. Any licensed radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in the United States or Canada is eligible for the award. Full details and both downloadable and on-line nominating forms are in cyberspace at www.YHOTY.org.

Also, a reminder of our on-line website poll. This month we are asking how high the price of a gallon of gas has to go before it keeps you from hopping into your car for a ride over to a hamfest. To vote, simply take your web browser to www.arnewsline.org, scroll down until you see the poll area on the left side of the screen and cast your ballot. The real time results that includes your vote will be instantly displayed.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, Im Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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396. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 16 (Friday, April 25, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-26 01:36:17 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080426013513.06A9F311EB@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2967
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 16
April 25, 2008
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

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* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ Hamvention Traffic Update
+ New Section Manager Appointed in New Hampshire
ARRL to Discontinue Web Classifieds

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> COURT FINDS FCC VIOLATED ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT IN BPL
DECISION

The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit today
released its decision
<http://pacer.cadc.uscourts.gov/common/opinions/200804/06-1343-1112979.p
df> on the ARRL's Petition for Review of the FCC's Orders adopting rules
governing broadband over power line (BPL) systems. The Court agreed with
the ARRL on two major points and remanded the rules to the Commission.
Writing for the three-judge panel of Circuit Judges Rogers, Tatel and
Kavanaugh, Judge Rogers summarized: "The Commission failed to satisfy
the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act
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('APA') by redacting studies on which it relied in promulgating the rule and failed to provide a reasoned explanation for its choice of the extrapolation factor for measuring Access BPL emissions."

The Court agreed with the ARRL that the FCC had failed to comply with the APA by not fully disclosing for public comment the staff studies on which it relied. The Court also agreed with the ARRL that the Commission erred in not providing a reasoned justification for its choice of an extrapolation factor of 40 dB per decade for Access BPL systems and in offering "no reasoned explanation for its dismissal of empirical data that was submitted at its invitation." The Court was not persuaded by the ARRL's arguments on two other points, on which it found that the Commission had acted within its discretion.

The conclusion that the FCC violated the APA hinges on case law. "It would appear to be a fairly obvious proposition that studies upon which an agency relies in promulgating a rule must be made available during the rulemaking in order to afford interested persons meaningful notice and an opportunity for comment," the Court said, adding that "there is no APA precedent allowing an agency to cherry-pick a study on which it has chosen to rely in part."

The Court continued, "The League has met its burden to demonstrate prejudice by showing that it 'ha[s] something useful to say' regarding the unredacted studies [citation omitted] that may allow it to 'mount a credible challenge' if given the opportunity to comment." Information withheld by the Commission included material under the headings "New Information Arguing for Caution on HF BPL" and "BPL Spectrum Tradeoffs." The Court concluded that "no precedent sanctions such a 'hide and seek' application of the APA's notice and comment requirements."

With regard to the extrapolation factor, the Court ordered: "On remand, the Commission shall either provide a reasoned justification for retaining an extrapolation factor of 40 dB per decade for Access BPL systems sufficient to indicate that it has grappled with the 2005 studies, or adopt another factor and provide a reasoned explanation for it." The studies in question were conducted by the Office of Communications, the FCC's counterpart in the United Kingdom, and were submitted by the ARRL, along with the League's own analysis showing that an extrapolation factor closer to 20 dB per decade was more appropriate, as part of the record in its petition for reconsideration of the FCC's BPL Order. The Court said that the FCC "summarily dismissed" this data in a manner that "cannot substitute for a reasoned explanation." The Court also noted that the record in the FCC proceeding included a study by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration that "itself casts doubt on the Commission's decision."

The briefs for the ARRL were prepared by a team of attorneys at WilmerHale, a firm with extensive appellate experience, with assistance from ARRL General Counsel Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD. Oral argument for the ARRL was conducted by Jonathan J. Frankel of WilmerHale. Oral argument was heard on October 23, 2007; the Court's decision was

released more than six months later.

After reading the decision, General Counsel Imlay observed, "The decision of the Court of Appeals, though long in coming, was well worth the wait. It is obvious that the FCC was overzealous in its advocacy of BPL, and that resulted in a rather blatant cover-up of the technical facts surrounding its interference potential. Both BPL and Amateur Radio would be better off had the FCC dealt with the interference potential in an honest and forthright manner at the outset. Now there is an opportunity to finally establish some rules that will allow BPL to proceed, if it can in configurations that don't expose licensed radio services to preclusive interference in the HF bands."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, added: "We are gratified that the Court decided to hold the FCC's feet to the fire on such a technical issue as the 40 dB per decade extrapolation factor. It is also gratifying to read the Court's strong support for the principles underlying the Administrative Procedure Act. Now that the Commission has been ordered to do what it should have done in the first place, we look forward to participating in the proceedings on remand, and to helping to craft rules that will provide licensed radio services with the interference protection they are entitled to under law."

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, concluded: "I am very pleased that the Court saw through the FCC's smoke screen and its withholding of valid engineering data that may contradict their position that the interference potential of BPL to Amateur Radio and public safety communications is minimal. The remand back to the FCC regarding their use of an inappropriate extrapolation factor validates the technical competence of Amateur Radio operators and especially of the ARRL Lab under the direction of Ed Hare, W1RFI. We are grateful for the work of our legal team and especially for the unflagging support of the ARRL membership as we fought the odds in pursuing this appeal."

==> COUNTING DOWN TO DAYTON HAMVENTION

With less than one month to go, everyone wants to know what's new in the ARRL EXPO <http://www.arrl.org/expo> at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention <http://www.hamvention.org>. Who's going to be there? What's happening and when? We here at HQ are gearing up for an exciting time in the ARRL EXPO in Ballarena Hall at Dayton's Hara Arena, and mixing up a bit of the old and the new.

ARRL Membership Manager and ARRL EXPO Coordinator Katie Breen, W1KRB, said, "We have many new publications and apparel items that we are proud to introduce. A highlight is always in the annual release of the '2008/2009 ARRL Repeater Directory' -- new to this year's edition are the handy indexing tabs on the cover so you can quickly find the listings you're looking for. The Directory has new easier-to-read listings because the pocket-sized book is one-half inch bigger."

If you are interested in learning about more tools with which to enjoy Amateur Radio, then the new "VHF Digital Handbook" or "HF Digital Handbook" by QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, should go home with you! If you'd like a terrific resource of materials spanning a variety of topics, then "Hands-On Radio Experiments" by H. Ward Silver, N0AX, is right up your alley. "We here at ARRL are very proud of Ward's selection as Hamvention's Amateur of the Year," Breen said. "Come meet him and have him autograph your new book."

Breen said that new ARRL mugs and clothing items will be introduced at Dayton this year: "Demonstrate your pride as a radio amateur in your office or your shack. While you're at it, show off being a ham in our new 'HAM' logoed apparel or 2008 Field Day apparel. And to top it all off, it will all go home with you in our new environmentally friendly, reusable bag." All those who purchase $10 or more in the ARRL EXPO will receive a complimentary reusable eco-friendly bag that you can take home and use when grocery shopping and more. All new and renewing ARRL members will also receive this new bag, Breen said.

A new area within the ARRL EXPO this year is the interactive "Doctor Is IN" booth. "You've read the column in QST for years and everyone always wants to know who is behind the costume. Here's your chance to stop by the booth, ask your question and have some one-on-one time with ARRL's Technical Experts. You might even be able to submit a stumper and get it published in QST," Breen added.

This year's Docs On Call will be QST Contributing Editor Ward Silver, N0AX; QEX Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B; ARRL Senior Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR; QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and ARRL RF Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG. On Saturday, automotive experts Mark Steffka, WW8MS, and Don Hibbard, W8DBH, will be on hand to answer your questions. They will be at the Doctor Booth, as well as providing an interactive session in the ARRL Movie Room about mobile Amateur Radio and ignition systems.

Breen said that the Movie Room, a new feature of this year's ARRL EXPO, will host a presentation on "40 Years of the Worked All Europe Contest" presented by Jorg Jahrig, DJ3HW, and Dennis M. Haertig, DL7RBI, of Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC), the German equivalent of ARRL. The movie room will also host a variety of DXpedition videos, Breen said. "The highlight of the video presentations will be with Bob Allphin, K4UEE. Bob will host an interactive session during the viewing of the video of the Peter I DXpedition to the Antarctic. Sit back, relax and enjoy in the new ARRL Movie Room."

The 2008 Dayton Hamvention is May 16, 17 and 18 at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. Find out about activities within and in conjunction with Hamvention at the Dayton Hamvention's Web site <http://www.hamvention.org>.

==> ARRL LAB TEST ENGINEER LEAVES HQ STAFF

After more than 17 years at ARRL, Laboratory Test Engineer Mike Tracy, KC1SX, is leaving the HQ Family and moving to New Jersey to take on a

position with Synergy Microwave <http://www.synergymwave.com/>, a company owned by Dr Ulrich Rohde, N1UL.

Tracy came to the League in 1991 as the night/weekend operator for W1AW. It wasn't long before the W1AW Chief Operator recognized his talent for more technical applications; when a position in the ARRL Lab opened up in 1993, he recommended that Tracy apply. "I did, and was quickly accepted as the new Technical Information Services Coordinator where I handled many of the technical questions of members and referred others to those more knowledgeable on particular subjects. I also developed some databases and other resources to help in the process of answering members' questions," Tracy said. In 1997 when the Lab Test Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG, stepped down, Tracy switched seats yet again, testing Product Review equipment.

ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, said, "When Mike came to the ARRL Lab, he was our Technical Information Coordinator where he helped maintain the TIS Web pages <http://www.arrl.org/tis/>, as well as helping to field technical questions for members. Over the years, Mike, as Lab Test Engineer, helped modernize the test process through new test equipment, new test software and new test methods. In between all that, he always found the time somehow to write articles, watch over the technical content of ARRL's advertising and help other staff more often than his job may have required.

"One of the most pleasant parts of any manager's job is to hear good things about his or her staff. When Mike was in the Lab, my job was pleasant, as staff often told me about how he had helped them above and beyond the call of duty," Hare said.

"Mike's shoes will be hard to fill," Hare said, "but we have hired Bob Allison, WB1GCM, to do just that." Allison, a ham for almost 35 years, most recently worked for a Hartford television station, WVIT, NBC 30, for the past 28 years. Over those years, he has done a lot of things at the station, from testing the television transmitter to day-to-day maintenance of the studio facilities; this, said Hare, "has prepared him to take over this important job in the Lab."

Allison, an ARRL member, has served as a volunteer tour guide at ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/08/07/2/>, offering members a friendly and informative tour of HQ that they will remember for a long time to come. "Although he is new at being an HQ employee, we all feel that he has been part of the family for a while," said Hare. Allison and his wife, Logbook of The World Specialist Kathy, KA1RWY, reside in Coventry, Connecticut. Allison also enjoys sailing and working on Model A Fords.

Allison said, "I have been active on the air since I was first licensed as WN1TDN in 1974, where I enjoy operating, experimenting and meeting people from around the world. I can't say what ham band I like best, except all of them. While I enjoy restoring old radios, I very much enjoy the new ones and digital modes such as PSK-31. I am honored and

humbled to be part of the ARRL Laboratory Staff and I'm looking forward to serving our members and testing some really cool, new radios!"

Tracy, whose last day at ARRL is today, said, "The various responsibilities I have held over 17 years at ARRL have taught me volumes about the League's membership, Amateur Radio in general and many, many different technical topics related to the Service. The support I received from other HQ staff was invaluable, and I will long remember my time here."

==> ANTENNA EXPERT L. B. CEBIK, W4RNL (SK)

L. B. Cebik, W4RNL, ARRL Technical Advisor and antenna authority, passed away last week of natural causes. He was 68. An ARRL Life Member, Cebik was known to many hams for the numerous articles he wrote on antennas and antenna modeling. He had articles published in most of the US ham journals, including QST, QEX, NCJ, CQ, Communications Quarterly, Ham Radio, 73, QRP Quarterly, Radio-Electronics and QRPp. Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, QEX Editor, called Cebik "probably the most widely published and often read author of Amateur Radio antenna articles ever to write on the subject."

Cebik lived in Knoxville, Tennessee and wrote more than a dozen books on antennas for both the beginner and the advanced student. Among his books are a basic tutorial in the use of NEC antenna modeling software and compilations of his many shorter pieces. A teacher for more than 30 years, Cebik was retired, but served as Professor Emeritus of philosophy at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Cebik served his country in the US Air Force from 1957-1961, specializing in air traffic control.

One of Cebik's last articles for QST, "A New Spin on the Big Wheel," appeared in the March 2008 issue. The article, co-written with Bob Cerreto, WA1FXT, looked at a three dipole array for 2 meters. This was a follow-up to their article in the January/February issue of QEX that featured omnidirectional horizontally polarized antennas. Cebik authored the "Antenna Options" column for QEX.

Former ARRL Senior Assistant Technical Editor Dean Straw, N6BV, and editor of "The ARRL Antenna Book," said: "LB will be greatly missed by the thousands of hams he's helped through his incredibly prolific -- and invariably proficient -- writing about antennas. LB helped me personally in numerous ways while I worked on antenna matters at the League, always communicating with a gentle, scholarly attitude and a real eye for detail. I'm in shock at the news of LB's passing. May his soul rest in peace."

Licensed since 1954, Cebik served as Technical Editor for "antenneX Magazine" <http://www.antennex.com>. According to Jack L. Stone, publisher of antenneX, he had not heard from Cebik for a few days and became worried: "I called the Sheriff in Knoxville to go check on him since I hadn't heard from him in over 5 days, either e-mail or phone, which is highly unusual. The Sheriff [went to Cebik's house to check on

him and] called back to tell me the sad, devastating news. As his publisher of books, monthly columns, feature articles and software/models for more than 10 years, we communicated almost daily during that span of time. Not hearing from him for that long was unusual, causing my concern. He was like family to me and was loved and respected by so many."

Cebik maintained a Web site <http://www.cebik.com>, a virtual treasure trove to anyone interested in antennas. Besides a few notes on the history of radio work and other bits that Cebik called "semi-technical oddities," the collection contains information of interest to radio amateurs and professionals interested in antennas, antenna modeling and related subjects, such as antenna tuners and impedance matching. Cebik said that his notes were "geared to helping other radio amateurs and antenna enthusiasts discover what I have managed to uncover over the years -- and then to go well beyond."

His Web site also contains information on antenna modeling. His book, "Basic Antenna Modeling: A Hands-On Tutorial" for Nittany-Scientific's NEC-Win Plus NEC-2 antenna modeling software, contains models in .NEC format for over 150 exercises. "Since the principles in the book apply to any modeling software," Cebik said, "I have also created the same exercise models in the EZNEC format. For more advanced modelers using either NEC-2 or NEC-4, I have prepared an additional volume, "Intermediate Antenna Modeling: A Hands-On Tutorial," based on Nittany-Scientific's NEC-Win Pro and GNEC. The volume includes hundreds of antenna models used in the text to demonstrate virtually the complete command set (along with similarities and differences) used by both cores."

ARRL Contributing Editor H. Ward Silver, N0AX, said, "LB typified generosity. He was always developing material that was published widely. Furthermore, the quality of the articles and concepts was always high, but the writing was such that an audience with a wide range of technical backgrounds could understand it. His Web site is a Solomon's Treasure of solid antenna information -- available to all."

Wolfgang remembered Cebik, saying, "L. B. was an ARRL Technical Advisor, with expertise in antenna modeling and design. I learned that I could count on L. B. to offer clear, concise comments on any submitted article dealing with antennas. He was always a friendly voice on the other end of my phone line when I needed to talk to an expert, and I came to expect a quick e-mailed response to any antenna questions that I sent him. L. B. was so much more than an antenna author, though. He was one of the first ARRL Educational Advisors I ever had the pleasure of working with when I became editor of the ARRL study materials. He played a key role in helping develop the concept of online courses when ARRL began to study the idea of the Continuing Education program <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html>; his Antenna Modeling course has been one of the most popular offerings in the program. L. B. leaves a legacy of friendly advice and Amateur Radio wisdom. I will miss him as a

friend and as an advisor."

Cebik's niece, Gina Robeson, also of Knoxville, told the ARRL that her uncle "was amazing to me in a different way than hams viewed him. But he was a legend to me and to the thousands of amateurs whose lives he touched with his work. To me he was my uncle, teacher, friend and confidant. He was a wonderful man, but his family did not really know about the ham side of him."

Robeson said her family spent each Christmas with Cebik and his wife Jean; Jean passed away in 2002 from cancer. "It was always the greatest fun with all the food and family getting together. It did not matter if we were getting together as a group or if it was just me and Uncle Roy, he always had the time to listen and offer advice. He will be sorely missed."

A memorial service for Cebik will be held Sunday, April 27 at 1 PM at Mynatt Funeral Home, 2829 Rennoc Road in Knoxville. Cebik will be cremated and his ashes scattered in his garden, the same place his wife's ashes were scattered. "They will once more be together," Robeson said.

==> WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE MAY/JUNE ISSUE OF QEX

The May/June issue of QEX is out, and it is full of theoretical and practical technical articles that you don't want to miss.

In this issue, James Ahlstrom, N2ADR, describes his software defined radio (SDR) transmitter in "An All-Digital SSB Exciter for HF." Juan Jose de Onate, M0MWA, and Xavier R. Junque de Fortuny present a useful accessory for software defined radios and analog receivers, with "A Software Controlled Radio Preselector." Cornell Drentea, KW7CD, concludes the series on his high performance "Star-10 Transceiver -- Part 3." After presenting schematic diagrams of the rest of the main sub-assemblies, KW7CD describes the outstanding test-lab performance of his radio.

James D. Hagerty, WA1FFL, updates his January 2002 QST project with "An Advanced Direct-Digital VFO." Contributing Editor L. B. Cebik, W4RNL (SK), looks at the physical operation of various antenna "reflectors" in "Antenna Options," and Contributing Editor Raymond Mack, W5IFS, tells about a new source for UHF and microwave semiconductors, unusual local sources for meter fuses and magnet wire, and describes some new Atmel microcontroller design tools in "Out of the Box."

Would you like to write for QEX? It pays $50 per printed page. Be sure to check out the Author's Guide <http://www.arrl.org/qex/#aguide> for more information. If you prefer postal mail, please send a business-size self-addressed, stamped envelope to QEX Author's Guide, c/o Maty Weinberg, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494.

QEX is edited by Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, and is published six times a year. The subscription rate for ARRL members in the US is $24. For First

Class US delivery, the rate is $37 for members, $49 for nonmembers. For international delivery via air mail, including Canada, the subscription rate is $31 for members, $43 for nonmembers. Subscribe to QEX today <http://www.arrl.org/qex>.

==> GET READY FOR THE 2008 HURRICANE SEASON

It's that time of year when preparation for the hurricane season ratchets up -- earlier this month, Orlando, Florida hosted the 30th annual National Hurricane Conference, and state and county Emergency Management Agencies are currently checking plans and assets for the upcoming season. Rick Palm, K1CE, editor of the ARRL's ARES E-Letter, said, "Now is the time for ARES members to assess their portfolio of communications equipment and disaster response knowledge." Hurricane season runs June 1-November 30.

Palm gives several tips for amateurs involved with hurricane operations:

* Monitor major HF hurricane networks during events this season. The Hurricane Watch Net on 14.325 MHz, is one of several key players. It serves either the Atlantic or Pacific during a watch or warning period and coordinates with the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami. Frequent, detailed information is issued on nets when storms pose a threat to the US mainland. In addition to hurricane spotting, local communicators may announce that residents have evacuated from low-lying flood areas. Other amateurs across the country can help by relaying information, keeping the net frequency clear and by listening. See the Hurricane Watch Net's Web site <http://www.hwn.org/> for more information. The net works closely with the hams at the NHC's Amateur Radio station WX4NHC <http://www.wx4nhc.com/>

* The SATERN Net (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) provides emergency communication support to the Salvation Army and populations at large. They also handle health-and-welfare traffic. SATERN holds high profile nets on 20 meters (14.265 MHz) during major hurricanes and has a long history of excellence, discipline and service. Refer to the SATERN Web site <http://www.satern.org/> for more information.

* The Maritime Mobile Service Net (MMSN) meets on 14.300 MHz and is composed of hams who serve and assist those in need of communications on the high seas. According to its Web site <http://www.mmsn.org/>, the primary purpose of the net is for handling traffic from maritime mobile stations. The network is recognized by the United States Coast Guard and has an excellent working relationship with that agency. The MMSN has handled hundreds of incidents involving vessels in distress and medical emergencies in remote locations, as well as passing health and welfare traffic in and out of affected areas. They also work closely with the NWS and NHC by relaying weather reports from maritime stations.

* The VoIP SKYWARN and Hurricane Net operates by combining both the EchoLink and IRLP linked repeater networks, while handling critical wide area communications during major severe weather and tropical events.

These operations have gained national stature in recent years and provide excellent service. Whenever tropical weather is imposing a threat to the US mainland and certain other areas of interest, the VoIP WX-NET will be fully operational. See the VoIP SKYWARN and Hurricane Net Web site <http://www.voipwx.net/> for more information.

Palm said that during hurricane events, there are usually two or three regional nets (usually on 40 or 20 meters) that spring to prominence as major key assets to the disaster response on an ad hoc basis. "Watch for these nets, as well as the nationally recognized networks described above, this season. Don't transmit on their frequencies unless you are absolutely sure you have something substantive to add, and then only under the direction of the net control station," Palm advised.

If you are interested in Emergency Communications, please be sure to check out the monthly ARES E-Letter. You can elect to receive this newsletter via e-mail by going to the Member Data Page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html> on the ARRL Web site.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Great is the Sun, and wide he goes" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: This week we had a couple of brief sunspot appearances -- 991 and 992 -- but they were both from Solar Cycle 23 and their emergence was fleeting. On Wednesday, April 23, the planetary A index rose to 32 due to a solar wind and south-pointing Interplanetary Magnetic Field (IMF). Expect geomagnetic conditions to stabilize this weekend, but to again become active on May 2. Sunspot numbers for April 17-23 were 0, 0, 13, 12, 0, 13 and 13 with a mean of 7.3. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.2, 70.2, 71, 70.8, 70.9, 71.3 and 70.7 with a mean of 70.6. Estimated planetary A indices were 8, 6, 5, 4, 4, 5 and 32 with a mean of 9.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 7, 5, 6, 1, 3, 4 and 17, with a mean of 6.1. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, the SP DX RTTY Contest, the Helvetia Contest, the QRP to the Field contest, the Nebraska QSO Party and the Florida QSO Party are all scheduled for April 26-27. The AGCW QRP/QRP Party and the QRP Minimal Art Session are both May 1. Next weekend is the NCCC Sprint Ladder on May 2. On May 3-4, be on the lookout for the MARAC SSB QSO Party, the MARAC CW QSO Party, the 10-10 International Spring Contest (CW), the Microwave Spring Sprint, the 7th Call Area QSO Party, the Portuguese Navy Day Contest, the Indiana QSO Party, the ARI International DX Contest and the New England QSO Party. The RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (SSB) is May 5. All times listed are

UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, May 4, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, May 16, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002), Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2), Antenna Modeling (EC-004), HF Digital Communications (EC-005), VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Hamvention Traffic Updates: With less than 20 days before the 2008 Dayton Hamvention, there is one small hitch, according to Hamvention organizers: road construction, and lots of it. "One of the main surface streets used by attendees of Hamvention every year is Needmore Road since it is almost a straight shot from I-75 (exit 58) to Hara Arena," said Hamvention Talk-In Chairman Rob Lunsford, KB8UEY. "Unfortunately, a rebuild project has begun on this roadway right in the travel path to Hara; it will be down to one lane each way for during Hamvention." There is also construction at the north end of the Downtown Dayton area (about the 53 to 56 mile markers on Interstate 75), Lunsford said. "In this area, the Ohio Department of Transportation has started a multi-year, multi-phase reconstruction of I-75 in which there are lane restrictions, bridge replacements and various other adjacent projects. These projects are much overdue and will, in the long run, drastically improve travel in the area. Unfortunately, for now we are faced with these projects in high volume areas that are already prone to trouble from even the slightest traffic issue. To assist everyone involved we are asking that those attending Hamvention please try to avoid these areas if possible. Our hope is that if we minimize our traffic in the area, and a problem does occur, we do not make it worse with our increased traffic flow." Lunsford said that individuals traveling on I-70 will not need to make any changes from years past. For more information or if you have questions feel free to contact Lunsford via e-mail

<talkin@hamvention.org>. Once in the Dayton area and you find you need assistance, Lunsford advises tuning to 146.940- for further assistance. Directions to Hara Arena can be found on the Dayton Hamvention Web site <http://www.hamvention.org/hv2008/accommodations/directions08.htm>.

* New Section Manager Appointed in New Hampshire: Al Shuman, K1AKS, of New Boston, New Hampshire, has been appointed Section Manager of the New Hampshire Section, effective April 21. ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, in consultation with New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, announced the appointment after Sterling Eanes, AK1K, of Hollis, Section Manager since July 2005, decided to step down due to mounting work responsibilities and other commitments. Shuman served as New Hampshire Section Manager for two previous terms: December 1992-June 1999 and October 2000-June 2005. His term of office continues through June 30, 2009.

* ARRL to Discontinue Web Classifieds: As of April 30, ARRL will cease listing classified ads in Radios On-Line, the classified ad section on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/RadiosOnline/>. According to ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, the ARRL has experienced an increased number of complaints by members and users regarding postings and practices that do not conform to the Radios On-Line Web site's original intent: "Despite our efforts to monitor the site regularly, these problems persist. These have included postings for guns and 'personal' ads. Our staff that administers this service has deleted items and notified the 'poster,' only to find the ad back two days later, placed in every category. We are spending a disproportionate amount of staff time dealing with this matter; it is no longer worth the cost of maintaining the service when other online services have been established to handle the specific need for online person-to-person sales."

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
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ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site
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bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including
delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the
"Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify
membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change
your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all
automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You
must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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397. GB5ST

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-04-30 12:50:35 UTC
From: LVN <gareth.paley@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <oeidnZY4--CV9oXVnZ2dnUVZ8h-dnZ2d@bt.com>
Source record: 2968

Special Event Station
Members of UKRA will activate the special event station GB5ST from April 31st for 3 days

Activity will be on all bands 160-10 meters and as well as 2 meters.

The group's challenge is to contact as many stations worldwide who have stubbed their toes in the last 5 years during their 3 day event. So if you have or know of someone who has stubbed their toe in the last 5 years call them. QSL via RSCB.

--
--
10-10 de G1LVN

Amateur Radio - social networking since 1897

398. Re: GB5ST

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-02 04:35:35 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <bf6l14hn0odj3rfmec04m20cpan9dsj7ur@4ax.com>
Source record: 2969

On Wed, 30 Apr 2008 08:50:35 EDT, "LVN" <gareth.paley@gmail.com>
wrote:

>The group's challenge is to contact as many stations worldwide who have
>stubbed their toes in the last 5 years during their 3 day event. So if you
>have or know of someone who has stubbed their toe in the last 5 years call
>them. QSL via RSCB.
>
Does falling down and breaking one's shoulder and elbow in two
separate toe-stubbing incidents count?

If so, what frequencies can we find them on?
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

399. Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1603 - May 2, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-02 09:35:47 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080502023312.04200e30@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2970
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1603 - May 2, 2008

The following is a closed circuit advisory and not necessarily for air.
With a report on Amateur Radio Newsline's finances, heres Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

--

OK, you all know why I am here. Its spring and all the bills from last
winter have been mounting up. And, as usual, there is really not very much
left in the treasury to pay them. Eventually they have got to get paid or
these news reports will cease. That time is now.

So we ask that you take a few moments to send a donation to the Amateur
Radio Newsline support fund so that we can keep these newscasts coming your
way. Making a contribution is only a mouse click away if you have Pay Pal.
Just go to www.arnewsline.org and click on the button at the top of the
page marked "Make Donation." Or you can send in a donation to the Amateur
Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937, Arcadia California,
91066.

Whichever way you choose, the all volunteer crew at the Amateur Radio
Newsline will be eternally grateful and these newscasts will be here for you..

Once again thats the Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box
660937, Arcadia California, 91066. Or by Pay Pal at www.arnewsline.org

For the Support Fund, Im Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

--

That ends the closed circuit. Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1603
with a release date of Friday, May 2nd, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Earthquakes swarm Nevada, an appeals court says
the ARRL is right and the FCC is wrong on BPL, the DARC returns to Dayton
and the results of Newsline's survey on the possible effect of high gas
prices on possible hamfest attendance. All this and more on Amateur Radio
Newsline" report number 1603 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: QUAKE STORM HITS THE RENO NEVADA AREA

The area in and around Reno, Nevada, was caught by surprise on Thursday,
April 24th. Thats when a magnitude 5 quake hit just before 4 p.m. Mountain
Daylight Time.

The U.S. Geological Survey reports that the quake was centered 4 miles west-northwest of Reno. It was followed by a swarm of aftershocks that have rattled nerves and put hams across the region on alert. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, is in Reno with the latest:

--

My wife and I were awakened to the tune of "Shake, Rattle & Roll" as sung by Mother Nature here in Reno. The areas west side near Mogul has been shaking continually with a swarm of small temblors since February 28.

The US Geological survey reported the largest quake at 5.0 struck Friday night April 25 just before Midnight. As Section Emergency Coordinator, I went straight to the radio where we opened an informal net locally. Reports started coming in from all over the area, seems that we woke up almost every ham in town!

With varying intensity, Glenn Thomas, WB6W checked in having felt it as far south as Minden, south of Carson City.

Joe Wolf, WA6RKN, who lived less than 2 miles from the epicenter told us of just about everything on his bookshelves hitting the deck, had a nervous wife and 3 unhappy ferrets, but that his house was in tact!

Then on Monday, a magnitude 4.2 tremor shook the city, followed by numerous aftershocks. No injuries have been reported from the latest in this bizarre two-month swarm of earthquakes.

Scientists say this is unusual because the tremors seem to be getting stronger, instead of weaker. Meanwhile amateur radio ARES members stand ready should a major earthquake strike the area.

Washoe County Emergency Coordinator Bob Miller, WA6MTY told me:

--

Audio only - hear it in the mp3 version of this newscast at www.arnewsline.org

--

But it is good to note that we have a great team of well-trained amateurs on hand should the call come in to help.

In the Shakey-est Little City in the World, Reno Nevada, Im Don Carlson for the Amateur radio newsline.

--

The U.S. Geological Survey says that aftershocks could continue for some time. Hams involved in emergency communications in the vicinity of Reno say that they are prepared. Ironically, the Emcommwest ham radio emergency communications convention takes place at the Circus Circus Hotel in Reno May 2nd through the 4th. Needless to say the Reno quake storm will be a hot topic of discussion at this years event. (ARNewsline")

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS TO BE ON FCC EAS PANEL

A follow up to last weeks story on the upcoming E-A-S summit slated for Washington D.C. It now appears as if there will se several hams taking part, They include Panelists Mark Manuelian, KE1AR, of CBS radio, Clay Freinwald, K7CR, of Entercom; and Art Botterell, KD6O, who is the manager of the community warning system for Contra Costa County Sheriffs Office in California.

There will be two discussion groups. The first panel on that day will focus on the state of EAS, especially system breakdowns in the "daisy chain" as well as ways to improve testing protocols. Anther panel will focus on next-generation technologies and explore what policies and protocols should be implemented to ensure compatibility between implementation of the Common Alert Protocol and state government operations. Both discussions will focus on what states need to do to ensure that state, county and local emergency response systems are functional. (RW)

**

RADIO LAW: APPEALS COURT SIDES WITH ARRL IN BPL ISSUE

In case you have not yet heard the news, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has sided with the ARRL in its Petition for Review of the FCC's Orders adopting rules governing Broadband over Powerline or BPL systems. The Court agreed with the ARRL on two major points and remanded the rules to the Commission.

Writing for the three-member panel were Circuit Judges Rogers, Tatel and Kavanaugh, Judge Rogers summarized their position by saying that the Commission failed to satisfy the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act by redacting studies on which it relied in promulgating the rule. Also that it failed to provide a reasoned explanation for its choice of the extrapolation factor for measuring Access BPL emissions. The term redacting means to edit or make changes to.

The Court was not persuaded by the ARRL's arguments on two other points, on which it found that the Commission had acted within its discretion. But the two key points on which the League has won force the FCC to either look again at their rules for the implementation of Access B-P-L or take this court decision into appeal. (ARRL)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC TO PRE ANNOUNCE MEETING VOTE AGENDA

The FCC will begin posting topics to be voted on at its monthly open meeting three weeks in advance. The Communications Act mandates that the commission meet at least monthly. Up until now, the agency has been issuing a notice of its agenda one week before a monthly meeting. The FCC said it would still issue that notice and now also list items slated for a vote on its Web site.

Some commissioners and industry observers had complained of a murky voting process, and a congressional committee has begun a review of the FCCs

processes. According to Chairman Kevin Martin, the idea is to make the agencys processes more visible. (RW)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC SAYS NO TO COMMERCIAL HAM FREQ USE REQUEST

The FCC has told Utah-based Miller Motorsports Park that it cannot use frequencies in the 70 centimeter ham band for business purposes. Miller had requested the use of frequencies in the 448 MHz ham band at 4 watts output. This, for use by 100 mobile for a race event scheduled for May 26th to June 1st.

The application by Miller said that the radios would be used for security, medical and maintenance for the entire event. It claimed that this communications network was vital to the life and safety of the spectators and drivers of this race. It even went so far as to imply that the National Telecommunications and Information Agency had approved the use of thesew 448 MHz channels.

But on Thursday, April 24, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, filed an Informal Objection with the FCC regarding a pending application. One day after filing the objection, the FCC agreed with the ARRL, saying that due to the possibility of interference to Amateur operators and also the race teams utilizing the proposed frequencies, it felt that it was not in the public interest to grant the Miller Motorsports Park's request. The FCC also advised Miller Motorsports that if it wished to pursue other frequencies, that it should coordinate with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the American Radio Relay League. (QRZ.com, ARRL, others)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KD6PCC repeater serving the city of Fontana, California.

(5 sec pause here)

**

WITH NEWSLINE: PLEASE RE-FILE YOUR 2008 YHOTY NOMINATION

Attention anyone who may have filed a nomination for a youngster for this years Young Ham of the Year Award. If you used the on-line form we did not get it. Nor do we yet know the reason why although we are pretty sure that its software related. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, tells us what went wrong and how you can get around the problem:

--

When the new www.yhoty.org website came on line late last year the software to deliver completed forms to us was working fine. In February we opened

the nominations for the 2008 award but none came in. Thats not unusual since many folks wait until the last minute to file. Kind of like April 15th when taxes are due.

In fact it was on or at least near April 15th that we began receiving thank-you notes for nominations that should have gone to the sender. Instead they were being e-mailed to the Newsline office but the nominating forms were simply disappearing into cyberspace.

We notified the webmaster of yhoty.org -- Kevin Boudreaux , N5XMH -- and he's working to try to rectify it. In the meantime he suggests that anyone who filed a nomination in past weeks do so again, but not using the on-line form which likely will be off-line by the time you hear this report.

Instead, download and print out the paper form, fill it out and send it to us at the address on the bottom of the page. Or, if you have a scanner, convert it to a file and e-mail it to us at newsline at ix dot netcom dot com.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause but we want to be certain that every youngster nominated gets his or her application seen by the judging committee.

So once again. Do not use the on-line nominating form. Download and print out the paper form at www.yhoty.org, fill it out and send it to us at the address on the bottom of the page. Or, convert it to a file and e-mail it to us at newsline at ix dot netcom dot com.

And, as we said earlier -- to those who have already filed using the on-line form, please re-file your nomination again -- on paper or by e-mail. Your original filing was lost in cyberspace by the software glitch and was never received.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Paternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

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As is always the case, this years nominating period for the Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award ends at midnight Eastern time on May 30 with this years winner to be announced by late June or early July. (ARNewsline")

**

ENFORCEMENT: ANTIQUE RADIO COLLECTOR RECONSIDERATION PETITION DENIED

The FCC has issued a Memorandum Opinion and Order denying a Petition for Reconsideration1 filed by Richard Mann doing business as The Antique Radio Collector. This, seeking reconsideration of a $7000 Forfeiture Order issued by the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the Enforcement Bureau on November 27, 2007.

In its Notice of Apparent Liability the FCC had claimed that the Antique Radio Collector had violated the FCC's rules regarding the marketing of uncertified A-M radio transmitters as far back as 2006. Specifically the S S TRAN model AMT3000.

As previously reported, in its response the Antique Radio Collector claimed that these were really not fully assembled but rather kits that he had put together by Mann at his residence. As such it was not aware of the need for a Commission issued certification authorizing a fully assembled AMT3000 AM transmitter.

But in deny the appeal the FCC says that even transmitters built from kits must be certified before being sold commercially. It says that as a result of its reconsideration of the facts that it finds that neither cancellation nor reduction of the forfeiture is warranted and that the $7000 Forfeiture Order should be affirmed.

The Antique Radio Collector was given the customary 30 days from the April 28th date of issuance of the order to pay or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC FINES BROADCASTER FOR FAILURE TO REDUCE POWER AT DUSK

A licensed broadcaster from Meridian, Mississippi, has been fined $1500. Frank Rackley, Jr. the licensee of Station WNBN-AM was handed the forfeiture for operation of the station from an unauthorized location and operation at a power level in excess of that authorized by the license.

WNBN-AMs station authorization requires it to reduce power from 2.5kW to 330 watts at local sunset time. During the month of January, the local sunset time was 5:15 p.m.. Andon January 14th, an agent from the New Orleans Office monitored station WNBN-AMs signal from 4:45 until 6:00 p.m. and did not observe any change in transmitter power. A few days later, on January 16th agents determined the station was broadcasting from coordinates other than which the station had registered with the FCC.

On February 22nd the New Orleans FCC Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture to Frank Rackley Jr.in the amount of $8,000. Rackley submitted a response to the NAL requesting a reduction of the proposed forfeiture. As a result of its review the FCC concluded that a reduction of the proposed forfeiture to $1,500 is warranted, based on demonstrated inability to pay.

Rackley and WNBN A.M. were given the usual 30 daysfrom the April 24th release of the Report amd Order to pay or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: HAM SENTENCED TO 23 MONTHS ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY POSSESSION CHARGE

A ham has been sentenced to prison time on federal child pornography charges. Sentencing of Kevin Alfred Strom, WB4AIO, took place on Monday, April 21st in Charlottesville Virginia's U.S. District Court. According to the WVIR Television news website, Strom earlier plead guilty to possessing child pornography on his computer.

The judge hearing the case sentenced Strom to 23 months in prison less credit for time already served plus 15 years supervised probation. The WVIR report indicates Strom could be out of prison by years end.

More on this story is on-line
<http://www.nbc29.com/Global/story.asp?S=8202320&nav=menu496_2>http://www.nbc29.com/Global/story.asp?S=8202320&nav=menu496_2
and at
<http://www.dailyprogress.com/cdp/news/local/crime/article/white_nationalist_sentenced_in_child_porn_case/20639/s>http://www.dailyprogress.com/cdp/news/local/crime/article/white_nationalist_sentenced_in_child_porn_case/20639/s
) (WVIR TV, Charlottesville Daily Progres)

**

ON THE WEB: THE SOUNDS OF VLF

The sounds of Very Low Frequency radio can now be heard live on the web. This with word that a collection of live natural radio streams of the VLF band from around the world is available at several websites. Here's a few seconds from a web based receiver in Sheffield in the U-K:

--

Actual web audio

--

The entire list of Very Low Frequency web accessible receivers is far to long to include here. You will find more in this weeks printed Amateur Radio Newsline report. (Via e-mail)

**

HAM RADIO ON THE WEB: WWW.NH7C.COM OFFERING FREE HAM CLASSIFIEDS

Two weeks ago the ARRL announced that it was dropping its ham radio classified ads from its website. Now, cones the Amateur Radio Social Network that says it welcomes those wanting to post such ads on its NH7C.com cyberspace home.

The Amateur Radio Social Network says that it created NH7C.com with the user in mind and sports many of the latest features available. The latest addition is classified ads that are free as is membership in the group itself

But NH7C.com is not the only site looking for your classified ads. Another is hamads.com also known as www dot qth dot com . That site has been offering free ham radio related classified ads for several years. (KC5FM)

**

HAM BUSINESS: N5WEB BUYS FORCE 12 ANTENNAS

Mark Hooper, N5WEB is the new owner of Force 12, Inc. antennas and towers. He will be manufacturing the product line in Bridgeport, Texas which is located near the Dallas Fort Worth area.

Introducing himself on the Force 12 website, Hooper says that he built his first radio from a schematic at the age of 10. He received his Novice license and built is own transmitter at the age of 15. Hooper ays that it

was these interests that ultimately led him to a career in electronics as an engineer, much of it supporting manufacturing operations for both large and small companies.

Hooper says that he is looking forward to using his expertise and 20 plus years experience in manufacturing to build the best antenna products on the market. He says that he and his staff look forward to hearing from you. That it is their goal to provide excellent customer service and support for your antenna needs in the coming years.

Hooper says to call or e mail and let us know how we can best be of service. Contact information is on the Force 12 website at /www.force12inc.com (Force 12 Release)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for todays radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: DARC RETURNING TO DAYTON

After several years of absence the Germany's national ham radio society, the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club will again be at the Dayton Hamvention.

Better known world-wide simply as the DARC, the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club will be represented at Hamvention by Joerg Jaehrig, DJ3HW, who is its IARU Liaison Officer. Also on hand to answer questions regarding ham radio in Germany will be Dennis Haertig, DL7RBI, who is the D-A-R-C Secretary of International Affairs. The two will be bringing with them a 15 minute video presentation titled "60 years of WAE Award" that will be presented in the ARRL sponsored movie room.

Information on the participation in Hamvention by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club in German can be found on-line at www.darc.de. More on what's planned for this years Dayton gathering is on line at the Hamvention website. Its in cyberspace at www.hamvention.org

(DARC)

**

NEWSLINE SURVEY RESULTS: GAS PRICES VS. POSSIBLE HAMFEST ATTENDENCE

As the spring and summer ham radio convention season approaches, we have the results of our month-long on-line survey that asks how high the price of a gallon of gas has to go before you decide not to go. And there were some surprises.

We structured the response table starting at $3.75 a gallon which was just below the maximum cost anywhere when the survey began and increased it in 25 cent increments all the way up to $5 a gallon. The latter being a figure nobody thought possible a month ago, but one now being bandied about by some involved in petroleum futures.

That aside, what dd our listeners say? A clear majority, some 42 percent put their limit at the $3.75 a gallon point. But a surprising 23.6 percent said that they would be willing to spring for $5 a gallon to spend hamfest time with their buddies and friends. 18 percent said that $4 a gallon was all that they were willing to spend while the rest was spread out from $3.35 to $3.75.

So how will these numbers translate into actual hamfest attendance? Well only the next two to three months of watching the gate numbers will tell for sure. But Emcommwest in Reno this weekend and the upcoming Dayton Hamvention in Ohio on May 16, 17, and 18 should both be good indicators of how much of an impact high fuel prices are having on your personal ham radio convention presence this year. (ARNewsline")

**

D-STAR CORNER: SAN DIEGOI D-STAR NET RECORDING NOW AVAILABLE

The audio recording of the D-Star San Diego Group Tuesday Night Tech Net is back. The D-Star San Diego Tuesday Night Tech Net allows D-Star owners and operators a roundtable forum at which to exchange ideas and information regarding the D-Star mode of operation. With the rapid advancement and all the changes taking place in the D-Star realm, this net proves to be quite informative and enjoyable for all who participate. If you are interested in hearing the recording, visit
<http://n6six.podbean.com/>http://n6six.podbean.com
<http://n6six.podbean.com/> or
<<http://n6six-hamshack.50megs.com/custom_1.html>http://n6six-hamshack.50megs.com/custom_1
.html>
. (N6SIX)

**

WORLDBEAT - JAPAN: HAMS GET EXPANDED 80 METER PRIVELEGES

Some good news for hams in Japan. As of Monday April 28th, Radio Amateurs in that nation have been given access to additional frequencies in the 80 meter band oa a co-primary shared basis. As a result of this action, Japanese amateurs are now allowed to operate 3599 to 3612 kHz, 3 680 to 3687 kHz, 3702 to 3716 kHz, 3745 to 3747 kHz and 3754 to 3770 kHz. This is in addition to all subbands that they were previously allowed to use. Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications made a public announcement that the domestic Table of Frequency Allocations and the Japanese Amateur Bandplan had been amended to reflect this change. (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT - BRUNEI: ON THE AIR ONCE AGAIN

The Brunei Darussalam Amateur Radio Association has announced that it will be back on air. At a recent press conference held at R-A-C Technologies the groups president announced that the association, which has been inactive for six years, will be holding its reactivation ceremony on Sunday, May 4th at the h National Stadium. Amateur Radio in Brunei really got started in the late 1970's by a number of local hams who formed the Askar Muda radio club. In 1999, the 27th SEANET Convention was successfully held in Brunei. (Borneo Bulletin On-Line)

**

ON THE AIR: MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND

On the air, the 2008 Museum Ships Event will be sponsored by The Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station will take place during the period of on June 7th from 0001 to 2359z on June 8th. Ships wishing to participate should send a note to museum@nj2bb.org with the name of ship, callsign, location, QSL information and contact information for person responsible. During this event there is participation of naval ships, lightships, steamships, research vessels and merchant ships. A list of participating ships is available at www.nj2bb.org (Press release)

**

DX

In D-X. listen out for Croatian special event station 9A08P which will be active through December 31st. This operation is to celebrate the City of Djurdjevac using all bands and modes. A special QSL card will be issued with the complete story on it. All QSO's will be confirmed automatically via the bureau.

And OZ1TL, is expected to be active from Bhutan as A52TL during his stay to attend some of the inauguration ceremonies of the nations new king. Activity will be mainly on CW on most bands including 160, 80 and 40 meters. QSL via his home callsign.

Lastly, for those of you who operate 50 MHz and above, word that HB9HLM, will be active as CN2DX from grid IM63BM in Monaco between July 26th and August 8th. He will have 100 watts on 6 meters and 500 watts on 2. A pair of 7 elements yagi's will be the 2 meter antenna, QSL via EA7FTR.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: AN SDR RECEIVER ON THE WWW

And finally this week, a kind of rhetorical question. What does a web based software defined radio sound like and what will it do? Well here's part of the answer. Take a listen:

--

Actual web audio

--

Thats audio from the latest web-based software defined or S-D-R radio located at the University of Twente's amateur radio club in the Netherlands. The system allows visitors to tune over parts of either the 40 or 80 meter bands. When we tuned in 80 was dead but there was activity on 40:

--

Actual web audio

--

What makes this system different from other web-based receivers is, that thanks to the use of Software-Defined Radio technology, this receiver can be tuned simultaneously by multiple users. And when tuning around a band, you can either enter a frequency directly, or click-drag on the frequency scale. Bandwidth can also be controlled, either by the button options, or by click-dragging on the passband edges of the frequency scale. Listen again:

--

Actual web audio

--

The web page also features a log book, a list of connected users and a chat facility. Additional bands are planned for the future. Its all available to experiment with on line at http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/

(Southgate)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline". Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's" only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline", P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go we want to remind you that the nominating period for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year is now open. Any licensed radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in the United States or Canada is eligible for the award. Full details and both a downloadable nominating form is in cyberspace at www dot YHOTY dot org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, Im Jim Damron, N8TMW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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400. Re: GB5ST

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-02 17:59:06 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <8JCdnVm6r_AAt4bVnZ2dnUVZ_iydnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2971

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Wed, 30 Apr 2008 08:50:35 EDT, "LVN" <gareth.paley@gmail.com>
> wrote:
>
>> The group's challenge is to contact as many stations worldwide who have
>> stubbed their toes in the last 5 years during their 3 day event. So if you
>> have or know of someone who has stubbed their toe in the last 5 years call
>> them. QSL via RSCB.
>>
> Does falling down and breaking one's shoulder and elbow in two
> separate toe-stubbing incidents count?

OM,

They don't really mean "toe". They don't really mean "stub".

Wink, nudge.

W1AC

--
(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

401. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 17 (Friday, May 2, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-03 01:42:40 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080502233457.76DD130FA0@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2972
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 17
May 2, 2008
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + FCC Denies Utah Motorsport Park Use of Amateur Radio Frequencies
* + Newspaper Reports "BPL plan is dead in Dallas"
* + Eight Tornadoes Ravage Eastern Virginia
* + Spring 2008 W1AW Frequency Measuring Test Scheduled for May
* + ARRL Card Checking at Dayton Hamvention
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* IN BRIEF:
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+ Japanese Amateurs Receive More Privileges on 75/80 Meters
+ VoIP Hurricane Net Looking to Recruit Net Control Operators
+ No ARRL Audio News on May 16
Notes from the DXCC Desk

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==========================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========================================================

==> FCC DENIES UTAH MOTORSPORT PARK USE OF AMATEUR RADIO FREQUENCIES

On Thursday, April 24, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, filed an
Informal Objection with the FCC regarding a pending application for a
Special Temporary Authority (STA) filed by Miller Motorsports Park in
Tooele, Utah. One day after filing the Objection, the FCC agreed with
the ARRL, saying, "Due to the possibility of interference to Amateur
operators and also the race teams utilizing the proposed frequencies, we
feel that it is not in the public interest to grant [Miller Motorsports
Park's] request."
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The FCC also advised Miller Motorsports that if they "wish[ed] to pursue other frequencies, [they] should coordinate with the ARRL and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)."

Miller Motorsports requested the use of frequencies 448.525, 448.650, 448.060, 448.290 and 448.610 MHz at 4 W ERP. They proposed to use 100 mobile units on each of these and other channels at or above 450 MHz for a race event scheduled May 26-June 1, 2008. The application filed by Miller Motorsports stated that the radios would be used for "security, medical and maintenance for the entire event" and that communications service is "vital to the life and safety of the spectators and drivers of this race event." Miller Motorsports also implied that the NTIA had approved the use of the 448 MHz channels.

The League's Informal Objection pointed out that "Amateur Radio Service licensees make extremely heavy use of the band 420-450 MHz, and especially the segment 440-450 MHz for FM voice repeaters. There are repeater stations in Salt Lake City, of which Tooele is a close-in suburb, using frequencies throughout the 448 MHz range for outputs, including 448.525, 448.625, 448.050 and 448.075 MHz. In addition, there are repeater outputs in other areas of the greater Salt Lake City area which are in regular operation at all times of the day or night, and radio amateurs using mobile stations would be predictably interfered with by operation as proposed in the STA."

The Objection also stated that there was the possibility that some of the spectators at Miller Motorsports Park, or otherwise in the area, might be Amateur Radio operators who might be operating using their portable transceivers "on the precise channels sought by the STA."

The ARRL called the Miller Motorsports Park choice of channels "completely inappropriate. The radio amateurs who are licensed to use these frequencies are under no obligation to either tolerate interference or to cease their own operation, regardless of the interference that might be suffered at any time" by Miller Motorsports.

While the FCC has issued STAs on the amateur allocations from time to time, the ARRL wrote, "many, perhaps a majority, are of no concern to the ARRL due to the choice of frequency band, duty cycle or power level proposed," what Miller Motorsports is requesting is "a completely incompatible and inappropriate use of Amateur Radio allocations." Citing "harmful interference to and from the Amateur Radio Service on channels in the 448 MHz band," the ARRL requested that the FCC deny Miller Motorsports' STA application.

==> NEWSPAPER REPORTS "BPL PLAN IS DEAD IN DALLAS"

The Dallas Morning News has reported that "an ambitious plan for using power lines to deliver fast Internet service to 2 million Dallas-area homes collapsed Thursday." Current Group, LLC has announced plans to sell its Dallas BPL network to Oncor, a regulated electric distribution and transmission business, for $90 million. Oncor reportedly has no plans to offer Internet service but will use the network to detect

distribution network issues
<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/bus/stories/DN-current_02bus.ART.State.Edition1.460d413.html>. While Current originally touted the network as a way to offer Internet service to consumers and had entered into a marketing arrangement with DirecTV, the Houston Chronicle quotes Oncor spokesman Chris Schein as confirming that Oncor will use the network only for monitoring the power grid: "Our business is delivering electricity, not being an Internet provider or a television provider." <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/business/5747397.html>

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, observed that "This announcement underscores yet again that the Bush Administration made a fundamental error in judgment when it erroneously identified BPL as a potential 'third wire' delivering broadband to consumers. As the Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit determined last week <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/?nc=1>, the FCC then compounded the error by 'cherry-picking' from its staff studies and ignoring other studies that proved the FCC was underestimating the interference potential of BPL systems. One can only hope that this latest marketplace failure of BPL will send a clear message that the answer to expanding consumer broadband access lies with other, more promising technologies that do not have such a potential to pollute the radio spectrum."

ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, was quick to point out that BPL was not going away in Dallas. According to Oncor Vice President Jim Greer, Oncor will use the BPL network to spot grid problems to detect large power outages before they affect customers. Oncor will not offer Internet service through the system as Current had originally planned when they built it.

The ARRL has no issues with BPL as long as it does not cause harmful interference to the amateur bands. Current's Dallas system is a good example of that, Hare said, as it is "notched" so as not to interfere with the Amateur Radio Service: "The Current system in Dallas is probably not causing interference to ham radio. Their equipment doesn't use the ham bands. It is also quiet except when in use. For meter reading and other utility applications, nearby modems may make the occasional short burst of noise, but not the cacophony of sound we hear with some other systems. You would probably be able to tell that BPL is there if you tune outside the ham bands. From an EMC perspective, what is needed now to complete this progress are regulations and standards that match BPL's most successful models."

DirecTV customers who get Internet service through Current's network will probably lose service when the deal goes through. "Oncor is not in the telecommunications business, and it has no plans to get into the telecommunications business," said Schein.

Dallas and Houston are the only metropolitan areas in Texas with BPL. In the past, the City of Austin looked at incorporating a BPL system in their community, but decided not to do so. In a report

<http://p1k.arrl.org/~ehare/bpl/COAAE_BPL_Final_Report.pdf> on how the BPL trial it undertook worked for them, the City of Austin summarized its reasons for that decision.

==> EIGHT TORNADOES RAVAGE EASTERN VIRGINIA

When tornadoes swept across the state of Virginia on Monday, April 28, local Amateur Radio operators responded to the call for assistance. According to Ken Murphy, KI4GEM, Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Portsmouth, an EF3 tornado touched down in Suffolk, Virginia around 4 PM local time, plowing its way east into Norfolk, damaging scores of homes, stores and cars and downing dozens of trees and power lines; Suffolk is about 20 miles from Norfolk, Virginia. Soon after the tornadoes touched down, Virginia Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a State of Emergency and directed state agencies to take all necessary actions to aid in the response to widespread damage from the severe weather. About 140 homes were destroyed, damaged or deemed uninhabitable.

The National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed eight tornadoes in Virginia: City of Suffolk (strong EF3), City of Colonial Heights (EF1), Brunswick County (EF1), Gloucester County (EF0), Mathews County (EF0), Halifax County (EF1), Surry County (EF1) and Isle of Wight County (EF1).

"The tornado produced severe damage to many structures, downed large trees, and destroyed power lines. Approximately 200 injuries were reported and several homes and businesses were destroyed. There were no fatalities," Murphy said. Upon spotting the tornado, Murphy placed a call on the Portsmouth repeater, asking for someone to notify the National Weather Service and the local EMS. A SKYWARN net was activated on another repeater; Portsmouth Emergency Coordinator Dave Livingston, K5SFM, and Bill Farmer, KI4GWC, served as Net control.

"This was an unusual activation in that an ARES AEC from one locality -- Portsmouth -- would not normally be on the scene of a tornado touching down in another locality -- Suffolk," said ARRL Virginia Section Manager Carl Clements, W4CAC. "Murphy requested that NWS be notified of the tornado and that the fire department and emergency teams be notified so they could respond. The Deputy Fire Chief of the Driver Volunteer Fire Department (who was the on-scene commander at the time) was concerned about the number of onlookers entering the disaster area. There were many power lines down and trees in the roadway and on buildings, as well as damaged natural gas mains. Some buildings were gone leaving a massive debris field."

The Driver VFD Chief requested that ARES activate in order to assist the local teams; 10 members of the Portsmouth ARES group responded. "The Chief had Murphy assign hams to the roadblocks at the major intersections to assist the police on the scene with traffic and crowd control. We also kept the Chief informed of the locations of other reported funnel clouds. At one point, the Fire Chief on the scene was advised that one of the team members was tracking the rapidly moving weather still in the area with the help of APRS," Clements said.

A spokesperson for the City of Suffolk said the area around Sentara Obici Hospital in Driver (a community within Suffolk) was hardest hit. The hospital was damaged but still able to treat patients. A spokesperson for the hospital said about 60 injured people were being treated there, and he expected most to be released. "We have lots of cuts and bruises and arm and leg injuries," he said.

Clements said that no further assistance from ARES has been requested. "All local police, fire, and EMS communications are intact and functioning. As in any disaster, the Emergency Management Officials are asking that unless you have a specific assignment from an on-scene agency (Red Cross, Salvation Army, official search and rescue teams and the like), please do not just show up at the stricken areas to offer assistance."

==> SPRING 2008 W1AW FREQUENCY MEASURING TEST SCHEDULED THIS MONTH

Capitalizing on the popular and effective automated online results reporting system developed by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, for the Frequency Measuring Test (FMT) <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/> in November 2007, W1AW will conduct a spring FMT. This FMT will begin on Wednesday, May 21 at 9:45 PM (EDT) (that's the same as 0145 UTC on May 22), replacing W1AW's normally scheduled phone bulletin. W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, recommends that those planning to participate should listen to W1AW's transmissions prior to the event to determine which band -- or bands -- will be best for measurement purposes.

In this edition of the FMT, listeners will be asked to measure the frequency of an audio tone, given an exact frequency for the carrier signal. The tone will be between 1000-2500 Hz. The carrier frequencies will be 3990 kHz (LSB), 7290 kHz (LSB), 14290 kHz (USB) and 18160 kHz (USB).

Measuring audio frequencies of a modulated signal is a useful skill for those interested in digital modes. Proper tuning of these signals is important to obtain the highest quality performance. For non-digital users, it is also important to understand the relationship between the frequencies of the modulated signal's sidebands and its carrier. The techniques for measuring a modulating tone are described in the November 2004 QST in an article <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/2004/04fmtsilver.pdf> on the Frequency Measuring Test by H. Ward Silver, N0AX. The FMT Web page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/> also has several interesting articles about measuring on-the-air signal frequencies.

The FMT will start with a general QST call from W1AW at exactly 0145 UTC, transmitted simultaneously on the frequencies listed above. The test will consist of three 60-second key down transmissions for each band, followed by a station identification. The test will last for approximately 15 minutes and will end with station identification. W1AW will identify before, during and after the transmissions. There are no plans at this time for a West Coast station.

As in the November 2007 FMT, your report should be submitted via the FMT Report form on the W1AW FMT Web site <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/>. Along with your call sign and e-mail address, enter your most accurate measurement on each band. There will be a window to list your equipment, describe the method you used to make the measurements and enter any Soapbox comments. Participants have 14 days to input their data. Participants may input their data more than once, although the final entry will be the one used for the results. W1AW will post the transmitted frequencies on the FMT Web site following the test. This will allow participants to quickly determine the accuracy of their equipment and methods. A complete package of results will be available via the FMT Web site after the 14-day reporting period is concluded. The results from the November 2007 FMT are available on the 2007 FMT Results Web site <http://www.b4h.net/fmt/fmtresults.php>.

==> ARRL CARD CHECKING AT DAYTON HAMVENTION

DXCC staff and volunteers will be checking cards at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention during all hours of operation on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The Dayton Hamvention is May 16-18 at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, said, "Many hams travel from all over the world to attend Hamvention, so card checkers are especially busy." Card checkers will be checking cards for the following ARRL awards: DXCC, Worked All States (WAS), VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC) and Worked All Continents (WAC). In order to help applicants and the card checkers through the process to avoid delays and allow the checkers to serve everyone, Moore offers the following tips:

Preparation
* There is a 120 card limit per applicant.
* Make sure that cards are in proper order -- band first, then mode. Applicants should place cards with multiple QSOs at the end.
* The order on the record sheet must match the order of the cards. The latest forms are on the DXCC Web site <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>.
* Have all paperwork completed before coming to the table, and make sure everything is legible.
* List only those QSOs for which you want credit.
* Applicants planning to do a hybrid application (paper application with Logbook of The World) should do the LoTW portion just prior to leaving for Dayton.

Upon Arrival
* Take a number.
* Stay in line.
* Notify the card checker of anything important before they start checking cards. The card checker, upon finishing checking the cards, will review any problem(s) with the applicant.
* Stay with the card checker until completion.
* Vendors may drop off their application to a checker and return later for pickup.

Upon Completion
* The card checker will return your cards to you; DXCC staff will not keep any cards.
* The card checker will advise applicants of the final fees upon completion of the application.
* Payment is due upon completion of your application. Applicants may pay for their award in the following ways: Credit Card or Cash (US or Euro only), Check (from USA bank only), Money Order (US or International). DXCC will not bill applicants.
* For the latest fee information, please see DXCC Rule 15 <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/rules.html>.

Moore advises that, if possible, applicants should bring a copy of their last credit slip. "Remember," Moore said, "if you are doing a hybrid application -- LoTW plus cards -- be sure you do the LoTW element prior to leaving for Hamvention."

If you have questions concerning the DXCC program, please contact DXCC desk via e-mail <dxcc@arrl.org>.

==> TEN NEW SATELLITES IN ORBIT

Ten satellites reached orbit April 28 aboard an Indian PSLV-C9 rocket launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Center. The primary payloads were India's CARTOSAT-2A and IMS-1 satellites. In addition to the NLS-5 and RUBIN-8 satellites, the rocket carried six CubeSat <http://www.cubesat.org/> research satellites, all of which communicate using Amateur Radio frequencies. All spacecraft deployed normally and appear to be functional at this time.

The SEEDS satellite was designed and built by students at Japan's Nihon University. When fully operational, SEEDS will download telemetry in Morse code and 1200-baud FM AFSK packet radio at 437.485 MHz. The satellite also has Slow-Scan TV (SSTV) capability. Several stations have reported receiving SEEDS CW telemetry and the team would appreciate receiving more reports from amateurs at their ground station Web page <http://sat.aero.cst.nihon-u.ac.jp/gs/english/cardform_e.html>.

AAUSAT-II <http://aausatii.space.aau.dk/eng/> is the creation of a student team at Aalborg University in Denmark. It will downlink scientific telemetry at 437.425 MHz using 1200 or 9600-baud packet.

Can-X2 <http://www.utias-sfl.net/nanosatellites/CanX2/> is a product of students at the University of Toronto Institute for Aerospace Studies, Space Flight Laboratory (UTIAS/SFL). Can-X2 will downlink telemetry at 437.478 MHz using 4 kbps GFSK, but the downlink will be active only when the satellite is within range of the Toronto ground station.

Compass-One <http://www.cubesat.de/> was designed and built by students at Aachen University of Applied Sciences in Germany. The satellite features a Morse code telemetry beacon at 437.275 MHz. Compass-1 will also provide a packet radio data downlink, which will include image data, at 437.405 MHz.

Cute 1.7 + APDII <http://lss.mes.titech.ac.jp/ssp/cute1.7/index_e.html> is a satellite created by students at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. This satellite will not only provide telemetry, it will also offer a 9600-baud packet store-and-forward message relay with an uplink at 1267.6 MHz and a downlink at 437.475 MHz.

Delfi-C3 <http://www.delfic3.nl/> was designed and built by students at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. It includes an SSB/CW linear transponder. The satellite will be in telemetry-only mode for the first three months of the mission, after which it will be switched to transponder mode. Delfi-C3 downlinks 1200-baud packet telemetry at 145.870 MHz. The linear transponder, when activated, will have an uplink passband from 435.530 to 435.570 MHz and a corresponding downlink passband from 145.880 to 145.920 MHz.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "To dazzle when the Sun is down, and rob the world of rest" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: For several weeks we expected today, May 2, to have active geomagnetic conditions. For instance, if you look at a forecast from April 23, it shows an expected planetary A index for May 1-3 of 10, 20 and 15. The next day, April 24, this changed to 8, 20 and 15, and on April 25 it was 10, 15 and 15. For May 1, we see the actual planetary A index for that day was 9, and for the following two days, the predicted values are 10 and 12, which are much more moderate. So obviously as we moved closer to this date, the return of a solar wind stream seemed less likely, although earlier today the planetary K index rose as high as 4, indicating unsettled to active geomagnetic conditions. Sunspot numbers for April 24-30 were 11, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 1.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 70.4, 69.8, 69, 68.1, 68.5, 68.6 and 67 with a mean of 68.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 18, 8, 10, 10, 11, 8 and 9 with a mean of 10.6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 13, 7, 5, 7, 9, 4 and 4, with a mean of 7. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, the NCCC Sprint Ladder is on May 2. On May 3-4, be on the lookout for the MARAC SSB QSO Party, the MARAC CW QSO Party, the 10-10 International Spring Contest (CW), the Microwave Spring Sprint, the 7th Call Area QSO Party, the Portuguese Navy Day Contest, the Indiana QSO Party, the ARI International DX Contest and the New England QSO Party. The RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (SSB) is May 5. Next weekend, the NCCC Sprint Ladder is May 9 and the Nevada Mustang Roundup is May 9-10. The VK/Trans-Tasman 80 Meter Contest (Phone) and the FISTS Spring Sprint are both on May 10. Be sure to check out the SBMS 2 GHz and Up WW Club Contest, the EUCW

Fraternizing CW QSO Party, the CQ-M International DX Contest, the VOLTA WW RTTY Contest and the 50 MHz Spring Sprint on May 10-11. The SKCC Weekend Sprintathon is on May 11 and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (Data) is on May 14. All dates listed are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, May 25, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, June 6, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010), Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001), Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006), Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009), Analog Electronics (EC-012) and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Japanese Amateurs Receive More Privileges on 75/80 Meters: Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) announced that Japan's Table of Frequency Allocations and the Japanese Amateur Bandplan <http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/6_Band_Plan/JAbandplan.pdf> have been amended, giving amateurs in that country more privileges on certain frequency blocks in the 75/80 meter band. Japanese amateurs are now allowed to operate the following additional frequencies on the 75/80 meters: 3.599-3.612 MHz, 3.680 to 3.687 MHz, 3.702-3.716 MHz, 3.745-3.747 MHz and 3.754-3.770 MHz. As of April 28, 2008, Japanese amateurs will have privileges on the following frequencies in the 75/80 meter band: 3.500-3.520 MHz (CW only), 3.520-3.525 MHz (Digital Mode and CW), 3.525-3.575 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.599-3.612 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.680-3.687 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.702-3.716 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.745-3.770 MHz (CW and Phone) and 3.791-3.805 MHz (CW and Phone). "This makes it a bit easier for US amateurs to make contacts with Japanese amateurs, especially in contests, since Japan does not have phone privileges on the 160 meter band," said ARRL Membership Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N. "These new privileges will also make it easier for DXpeditions to work Japan." -- Information provided by JARL <http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/>

* VoIP Hurricane Net Looking to Recruit Net Control Operators: The VoIP Hurricane Net <http://www.voipwx.net/> is looking for Net Control Operators (NCOs) to assist with its weekly Hurricane Preparation Net and during Hurricane Net activations. The VoIP Hurricane Net, created in 2002, is a support net working with WX4NHC <http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/>, the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC). The VoIP Net Management team is looking for NCOs from any geographic area to maintain a net for as long as emergency communications are required before, during and shortly after hurricanes; this could be up to 24 hours a day and sometimes for several days. Net Control Operators from the Pacific, Asia, Australia/New Zealand and other international areas can play a critical role in assisting net operations during the overnight hours of a North American activation during their local daytime, providing North American NCOs rest during their normal overnight hours. Fluent Spanish speakers are also encouraged to apply to become NCOs in order to further support operations in South and Central America, Mexico and Puerto Rico. The VoIP Net Management team will be offering NCO training in the coming weeks. If you're interested in becoming an NCO, please contact Director of VoIP Hurricane Net Operations Rob Macedo, KD1CY <rmacedo@rcn.com>, or VoIP Hurricane Net Weekly and Activation Net Control Scheduler Jim Palmer, KB1KQW <kb1kqw@voipwx.net>. -- Information provided by VoIP Hurricane Net

* No ARRL Audio News on May 16: There will be no ARRL Audio News on Friday, May 16. The ARRL Letter will be released on that day. ARRL Audio News will return on Friday, May 23.

* Notes from the DXCC Desk: ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the 2006 and 2007 YA/LY1Y operations in Afghanistan have been approved for DXCC credit. "If you had cards rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail <dxcc@arrl.org> to the ARRL DXCC Desk to have your DXCC record updated," Moore said.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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"Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify
membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change
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automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
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must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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402. Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-03 11:57:45 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <682uuaF2psiitU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2973

Just perusing the ARRL letter on rec.radio.info and the lead story was very interesting. It's about the ARRL objecting to the use of some 70cm frequencies for a commercial event.

This paragraph in particular caught my eye:

>"The ARRL called the Miller Motorsports Park choice of
>channels 'completely inappropriate. The radio amateurs who
>are licensed to use these frequencies are under no obligation
>to either tolerate interference or to cease their own operation,
>regardless of the interference that might be suffered at any
>time' by Miller Motorsports."

Just goes to show how things are different in the US to here in the UK. Over here we are only secondary users of the 70cm band (the primary user of just about everything above 2m is the Ministry of Defence) and so we have to put up with anything and everything, including car alarm keyfobs on 433.92 MHz as an example. We also only get 430-440 MHz rather than your 420-450.

Even in the 2m band (144-146 not 144-148 MHz..!), of which we are primary users,we cannot claim protection from interference.

Ah well..!

73 Ivor G6URP

403. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-03 20:25:37 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.05.03.20.22.28.966613@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2974

On Sat, 03 May 2008 07:57:45 -0400, Ivor Jones wrote:
> Just perusing the ARRL letter on rec.radio.info and the lead story was
> very interesting. It's about the ARRL objecting to the use of some 70cm

> frequencies for a commercial event.
>
....
> Just goes to show how things are different in the US to here in the UK.
> Over here we are only secondary users of the 70cm band (the primary use
r
> of just about everything above 2m is the Ministry of Defence) and so we
> have to put up with anything and everything, including car alarm keyfob
s
> on 433.92 MHz as an example. We also only get 430-440 MHz rather than
> your 420-450.

If I recall properly we're secondary to the military in
that band as well. Indeed, 70cm repeater operators are learning that the
hard way... as many repeaters are having to reduce power or even go QRT
at the request of our military, to protect a radar system.

But the motorsports folks have no regular authority in that band at all.

I'm not sure I understand why they thought they needed amateur spectrum
for that project.

404. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-04 03:16:09 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <pbmdnTomweHfZoHVnZ2dnUVZ_uydnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2975

Doug Smith W9WI wrote:
> If I recall properly we're secondary to the military in
> that [70cm] band as well. Indeed, 70cm repeater operators are learning that the
> hard way... as many repeaters are having to reduce power or even go QRT
> at the request of our military, to protect a radar system.
>
> But the motorsports folks have no regular authority in that band at all.
>
> I'm not sure I understand why they thought they needed amateur spectrum
> for that project.
>
>

The Pave/Paws system that is pushing some repeaters off 70cm predates the complaints by several decades, and I take the military's new attitude to be another nail in the coffin of ham radio's former "favorite son" status at the Pentagon.

It used to be that we hams were a corps of operators who could be pressed into service quickly during a war or other crisis. Now, with Morse as deeply buried as its creators and military electronics too secret to be entrusted to soldiers and sailors who haven't been vetted for security clearances, we're yesterday's news in the E ring.

We'll have to find another reason to justify the allocations we enjoy. It's going to be hard work, and not nearly as easy as learning Morse (not that that would help now). We're going to have to get better - in fact, much better - at public relations: the Red Cross and other disaster relief agencies have known the importance of image all along, but now hams have got to get in the game and advertise ourselves as an anlternative to traditional communications during hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, etc.

Of course we've had this debate before. Older hams such as I feel that we followed the program and did what was expected of us, and now I resend being pushed aside in favor of a Federal Emergency Management Agency which is, to my jaundiced eye, proficient only at promising what others will have to deliver and claiming credit for what others have done. It's a cold, cruel world, and we must get better at telling the public and the their elected officials how much we do.

Bill

--
Bill Horne, W1AC

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

405. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-05 03:13:56 UTC
From: Bill Powell <whp@att.net>
Message-ID: <ears149adoqiukk8suki2k3228edskurhq@4ax.com>
Source record: 2976

Anyone with some level of technical knowledge might wonder why a
billion dollar (boondoggle) "radar system" can't discriminate between
a fixed, known "target" (like a repeater)and one that is moving, comes
from over the horizon which might be something nasty?

Sounds like some real shoddy engineering took place at taxpayer
expense. I can think of 3 or 4 ways to remove false targets w/o
loosing any system level accuracy or sensitivity. In fact, didn't
they perfect that during the cold war?

Gee... Thinking about it some. All Abdulah (or Ivan or whoever)
needs to do is buy a 440 rig, an amp and a yagi and go out as a
"rover"; 3 or 4 kW ERP down the bear's craw for a while then move.

Sigh....

On Sat, 3 May 2008 23:16:09 EDT, Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:

>Doug Smith W9WI wrote:
>> If I recall properly we're secondary to the military in
>> that [70cm] band as well. Indeed, 70cm repeater operators are learning that the
>> hard way... as many repeaters are having to reduce power or even go QRT
>> at the request of our military, to protect a radar system.
>>
>> But the motorsports folks have no regular authority in that band at all.
>>
>> I'm not sure I understand why they thought they needed amateur spectrum
>> for that project.
>>
>>
>
>The Pave/Paws system that is pushing some repeaters off 70cm predates
>the complaints by several decades, and I take the military's new
>attitude to be another nail in the coffin of ham radio's former
>"favorite son" status at the Pentagon.
>
>It used to be that we hams were a corps of operators who could be
>pressed into service quickly during a war or other crisis. Now, with
>Morse as deeply buried as its creators and military electronics too
>secret to be entrusted to soldiers and sailors who haven't been vetted
>for security clearances, we're yesterday's news in the E ring.
>
>We'll have to find another reason to justify the allocations we enjoy.
>It's going to be hard work, and not nearly as easy as learning Morse
>(not that that would help now). We're going to have to get better - in
>fact, much better - at public relations: the Red Cross and other

>disaster relief agencies have known the importance of image all along,
>but now hams have got to get in the game and advertise ourselves as an
>anlternative to traditional communications during hurricanes, floods,
>earthquakes, etc.
>
>Of course we've had this debate before. Older hams such as I feel that
>we followed the program and did what was expected of us, and now I
>resend being pushed aside in favor of a Federal Emergency Management
>Agency which is, to my jaundiced eye, proficient only at promising what
>others will have to deliver and claiming credit for what others have
>done. It's a cold, cruel world, and we must get better at telling the
>public and the their elected officials how much we do.
>
>Bill

406. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-05 06:20:10 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <h9i2f5-6hl.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 2977

In article <ears149adoqiukk8suki2k3228edskurhq@4ax.com>,
Bill Powell <whp@att.net> wrote:

>Anyone with some level of technical knowledge might wonder why a
>billion dollar (boondoggle) "radar system" can't discriminate between
>a fixed, known "target" (like a repeater)and one that is moving, comes
>from over the horizon which might be something nasty?

>Sounds like some real shoddy engineering took place at taxpayer
>expense. I can think of 3 or 4 ways to remove false targets w/o
>loosing any system level accuracy or sensitivity. In fact, didn't
>they perfect that during the cold war?

Take a look at this month's issue of CQ for a possible explanation of
the problem.

To sum it up briefly: PAVE PAWS is a phased-array radar system, with
a large number of individual turnstile antennas on each side. During
reception, the signals picked up by the various individual antennas
are combined electrically/electronically, in ways which cause them to
mix in-pase for signals coming from the desired direction and
out-of-phase for other directions.

Older-generation phased array antenna systems perform the phase
shifting by switching individual phase shifters (delay lines or
similar) in series with the feedlines from the individual antennas.
The delayed signals are then combined and detected. If you want to
point the beam in a different direction, you change all of the
phase-shifter delays.

The newer generation of phased-array radar systems actually digitizes
the incoming signal at each antenna, and then does the linear mixing
(addition/subtraction) entirely in the digital domain.

Why the change? I gather that it allows for both a finer degree of
control of the delays (allowing higher resolution in beam-pointing),
and also allows multiple different delay-and-combine operations to be
performed in parallel (just add banks of DSPs), allowing one to track
multiple targets simultanously.

The disadvantage of this new system (as stated in CQ): it has rather
less ability to reject off-axis signals than the older delay-line
method of phasing. In the delay-line system, off-axis interference
would tend mix out-of-phase *before* it was detected, and would
largely cancel out. In the new system, *every* individual antenna and
digitizer receives the interfering signal at full strength - there's
no phase cancellation in the analog domain.

This would leave the newer systems at a significant disadvantage with regard to saturation and desensitization by strong off-axis signals. It's not so much a question of false targets appearing, I think, but a question of the system losing the ability to detect the real targets. The digigal method of doing phase-shifting and beamforming is faster and more precise than the switched-analog method, but apparently somewhat less robust in this regard.

As Scotty said, "The more complicated they make the plumbing, the easier it is to plug up the drains."

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

407. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-05 15:23:18 UTC
From: Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com>
Message-ID: <1DFTj.1859$17.874@newssvr22.news.prodigy.net>
Source record: 2978

Bill Powell wrote:
> Anyone with some level of technical knowledge might wonder why a
> billion dollar (boondoggle) "radar system" can't discriminate between
> a fixed, known "target" (like a repeater)and one that is moving, comes
> from over the horizon which might be something nasty?

Even weather radar can do that with drops of water. :-)
--
73, Cecil http://www.w5dxp.com

408. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-05 15:34:06 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9A956B76E13C3VeebleFetzer@127.0.0.1>
Source record: 2979

whp@att.net (Bill Powell) wrote in
news:ears149adoqiukk8suki2k3228edskurhq@4ax.com:

> Sounds like some real shoddy engineering took place at taxpayer
> expense. I can think of 3 or 4 ways to remove false targets w/o
> loosing any system level accuracy or sensitivity. In fact, didn't
> they perfect that during the cold war?

If I was trying to do real-time analysis of such weak signals with the goal of protecting the nation, I'd take advantage of every technical and legal option available to me to limit or remove the potential for interference from very strong local signal sources.

Do you also object to the "National Radio Quiet Zone" in West Virginia?

--
Bert Hyman | St. Paul, MN | bert@iphouse.com

409. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-06 00:38:10 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <bddba3a7-2b3f-4818-993e-ba8a534b67a2@w8g2000prd.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2980

Bill Horne wrote on Sat 3 May 2008 under the thread 'Discussions' in RRAM:

>The Pave/Paws system that is pushing some repeaters off 70cm predates
>the complaints by several decades, and I take the military's new
>attitude to be another nail in the coffin of ham radio's former
>"favorite son" status at the Pentagon.

As a veteran of the US Army Signal Corps 1952 to 1960 and as an engineer who has been involved in DoD electronics during my civilian career, I've seen NO evidence that US amateur radio was ever in some "favorite son" status in the US military.

>It used to be that we hams were a corps of operators who could be
>pressed into service quickly during a war or other crisis.

Perhaps this was true in 1941. It was NOT true in 1952 when I voluntarily entered US Army service (during the Korean War active phase), trained at the Signal School at Fort Monmouth, NJ, and subsequently assigned to long-distance, high-volume message traffic handling on a 24/7 basis at a Far East Command Hq station in Tokyo. I served in that assignment for three years, had access to documents and reports on communications within the military and queried many on the (then) modern methods of communications by radio.

>From the military point of view of 56 years ago, having an
interest in radio or the more general electronics field is only
important towards assignment in a particular military occupation
specialty (still familiarly called 'MOS'). Knowing on-off keying
CW skills via amateur radio MIGHT get one assigned to Field Radio
school (then the only Army MOS actually requiring OOK CW skill).
Field Radio MOS then involved using HF from a truck-transportable
station that was also equipped with teleprinters; teleprinted
messaging was the norm in the Korean War (active phase '50-'53).
The MAJORITY of 'radio' communications back then, a half century
ago, was by VOICE and that over line-of-sight ranges. Military
radio plans in the field were already organized into three
overlapping radio bands from high HF into low VHF, the bands
subdivided for infantry-artillery-armor unit use. No one needed
any morse code skills to operate those radios then. Indeed, it
was more akin to one-way talking on a telephone, something that
most civilians had already done in the 1950s.

>Now, with
>Morse as deeply buried as its creators and military electronics too

>secret to be entrusted to soldiers and sailors who haven't been vetted
>for security clearances, we're yesterday's news in the E ring.

I have NOT seen any of that "burial" nor of the "secrecy" alleged to any Pentagon "ring" in my Army service nor in the many years that followed as a civilian working on DoD contracts involving communications. The "secrecy" is actually on a very low Confidential level, the lowest of the three classifications. As a matter of fact, most Army radios of a half century ago where NOT used by signal personnel nor did they ever require any sort of security classification; no more so than revealing ANY military information to the enemy on anything.

I have no personal knowledge of what actually transpires in ANY "ring" of the Pentagon. I must depend on periodicals and documents published by defense electronics and electronics professional associations to yield such information. In those, and in archived copies of "Signal" (a quarterly of the Army Signal Corps, available new to signal personnel) there has been NO such statements of any "favoritism" expressed from a half century ago to today.

SECRECY in communications is regularly carried out today by UNvetted "soldiers and sailors" using a variety of cryptologically embedded (but selectable) means within radios. The standard small-unit (battalion or below) field radio is the SINCGARS family operating 30 to 88 MHz. The first SINCGARS went operational in 1989, almost two decades ago. Over 300,000 R/Ts basic to the AN/PRC-119 man-pack transceiver have been built by ITT, Fort Wayne, IN. More are available in HTs built by other firms plus the contracts awarded to Harris Corporation for newer, smaller SINCGARS-compatible multi-band radios. All of that family have their coding set by a "hopset" entry (encryption key and frequency-hopping sequence settings) which IS controlled by a "vetted" signal officer. The actual coding method is digital, beginning with a pseudo-random sequence generator involving digital feedback of a digital shift register could be known by an unfriendly...but the permutations of possible keys is so large that it is impractical for them to carry around super-computers in the field to defeat the cryptology in time to be effective. Note: The electronics technology to do all that has been known (and most things published about it openly) for over three decades, some of it public for four decades. In short, today's US military CAN use very robust, secure codes to allow UNvetted military personnel to communicate. They have had the capability to do so for nearly two decades.

PAVE PAWS has been around for decades. It is in the technology classification using multiple receivers to decrease the antenna beam width with an ability to enhance phase shifting of the incoming wavefront (allows other processing refinements of returns). Anyone can gather information on its general technological structure. Since it IS primary in its assigned operating frequency and IS part of

National Defense, that National Defense ought to be considered
primary by US citizens who wish to survive. Is a radio hobby
more important than national survival?

>We'll have to find another reason to justify the allocations we enjoy.
>It's going to be hard work, and not nearly as easy as learning Morse
>(not that that would help now). We're going to have to get better - in
>fact, much better - at public relations: the Red Cross and other
>disaster relief agencies have known the importance of image all along,
>but now hams have got to get in the game and advertise ourselves as an
>anlternative to traditional communications during hurricanes, floods,
>earthquakes, etc.

Please leave the morse code test issue OUT. That has been settled
for US amateur radio by the FCC after much, much debate for too long
a time.

IMAGE for the general public MUST be aimed OUTSIDE of amateur radio
publications. It cannot remain the insider topic WITHIN amateur
radio groups or publications. If it is REALLY there then it could
(and should) get out into the mainstream. Such emergency good works
news just haven't gotten out to the general public. The public sees
FCC issues as they affect broadcasting and cell phones in the national
news. maybe something about business radio of public safety radio.
Amateur radio news is not an important issue for such media.
The public has rarely seen amateur radio communications during
emergencies during national news...it HAS seen various National Guard
units and local government agencies doing communications on the news,
including FEMA equipment (going back to 1994 and the Northridge
Earthquake in January with quickly-transported video message displays
relayed by satellite for their own health-and-welfare messages seen
in handwriting of senders and shown on local TV).

I'm not going to comment on the Katrina hurricane situation. That
involves many more NON-amateur radio policies among local and state
agencies. The Katrina hurricane happened over two years ago and
the USA has had more emergencies since then. Rehashing the Katrina
situation does NO good in attempting to get the word out to the
general public about amateur radio. If ham radio is really as good
as some declare it, it should be worth national attention. It has
gotten very little on the national news in the last half century.
QED.

One thing that should NOT continue is to keep thinking in the
paradigms of pre-WWII 'radio' as is often presented in amateur
radio magazines. Technology has gone through several plateau jumps
of advancement since that long-ago time. Fantasies of some amateur
radio licensees are still rooted to back then. Those are lost in
the reality of today's radio capabilites and uses. The general
public has its own fantasies and it is foolish to attempt trying
to tell them other fantasies.

Amateur radio is a HOBBY. Let's try to focus on that.

Model vehicles are a hobby for others. The Academy of Model Aeronautics doesn't pretend to advance the state of the art of aviation but it was successful in lobbying for a hundred frequency channels for radio-control two decades ago. Consider that hobbyists are citizens and that the US government does listen to its citizens. Work from that basis.

Leonard H. Anderson AF6AY
af6ay@arrl.net
LenAnderson@ieee.org (Life Member)

410. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-06 00:39:20 UTC
From: Bill Powell <whp@att.net>
Message-ID: <4t5v14hd95hoqrkg7gpjtf265bqard5gpk@4ax.com>
Source record: 2981

On Mon, 5 May 2008 11:34:06 EDT, Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com> wrote:

>whp@att.net (Bill Powell) wrote in
>news:ears149adoqiukk8suki2k3228edskurhq@4ax.com:
>
>> Sounds like some real shoddy engineering took place at taxpayer
>> expense. I can think of 3 or 4 ways to remove false targets w/o
>> loosing any system level accuracy or sensitivity. In fact, didn't
>> they perfect that during the cold war?
>
>If I was trying to do real-time analysis of such weak signals with the
>goal of protecting the nation, I'd take advantage of every technical
>and legal option available to me to limit or remove the potential for
>interference from very strong local signal sources.
Technical for sure but it appears that even technology available to
the general public isn't in (effective) use.
A known and fixed "target" in ANY digital processing system is very
easily noted and then removed from the data stream.
Legal resources? Sounds like the typical "When all else fails, blame
the ham" excuse.

>Do you also object to the "National Radio Quiet Zone" in West
>Virginia?
Absolutely not! And, all a ham has to do there is to coordinate in
advance. They have MANY issues with RFI from non-ham sources to
contend with there.
Wonder if PAVEPAWS is going to start shutting down microwave ovens and
wireless dog fences next? :-)

Bp
PS - No complaints w/ the government entity but w/ the contractor(s).

411. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-06 03:04:31 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <ebce2b53-bd15-4a8f-af7f-7ab7854abdef@z72g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2982
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On May 3, 11:16 pm, Bill Horne wrote:
> Doug Smith W9WI wrote:
> > If I recall properly we're secondary to the military in
> > that [70cm] band as well.

> > But the motorsports folks have no regular authority in that band > > at
all.
>
> > I'm not sure I understand why they thought they needed
> > amateur spectrum for that project.

They obviously don't understand what amateur radio is all about.

> The Pave/Paws system that is pushing some repeaters off 70cm > predates
> the complaints by several decades, and I take the military's new
> attitude to be another nail in the coffin of ham radio's former
> "favorite son" status at the Pentagon.

Maybe - or maybe not. Secondary status means no interference need be
tolerated by the primary.

There used to be a 50 watt limit on 420-450 MHz for amateurs due to
the possibility of interference to radar.

> It used to be that we hams were a corps of operators who could
> be pressed into service quickly during a war or other crisis.

That's still the case. But it doesn't mean that the primary users of a
band have to put up with interference from secondary users.

> Now, with Morse as deeply buried as its creators and military
> electronics too
> secret to be entrusted to soldiers and sailors who haven't
> been vetted
> for security clearances, we're yesterday's news in the E ring.

I'm not sure what you mean by "Morse as deeply buried as its
creators".

We hams continue to use Morse Code on the air - extensively, too!
MARS is running Morse Code nets again, on an experimental basis.

It's true that Morse Code has all but been eliminated by the US
military for its own communications uses. That's no surprise, even
though Morse Code was used extensively by the US military in both
World Wars, Korea, and Vietnam. But that doesn't mean hams should stop

using Morse Code.

> We'll have to find another reason to justify the allocations we
> enjoy.

How about these:

1) Public service communications (not just in emergencies, but for events like parades, marathons, bike races, etc.) Remember the search for Space Shuttle debris a few years back? Amateurs provided communications for at least some search groups, and it turned out to be more useful and flexible than cell phones or other radio services.

2) Education in radio and electronics. Learn-by-doing, IOW. Recently, ARRL ran a homebrew contest to design a 40 meter CW/SSB transceiver that would use less than $50 in parts. Several entries met all the requirements, and a winner was recently announced. What better way to learn radio than by building an operating a homebrew station?

3) Historical preservation. We have museums, historic districts, etc., in other areas, why not in radio? We hams have shown that old and new technologies can coexist, and an active operation is so much better than a dry nonfunctional museum display.

4) Experimentation/wilderness area. Most of the rest of the radio spectrum is channelized, digitized, and carefully planned as to its users and uses. The amateur bands are like a wilderness area, without all the central planning and channelization, where operator skill and technical knowhow can try all sorts of new and old things.
And where all citizens who can pass the basic tests for a license have access to lots of spectrum, modes, and activities.

> It's going to be hard work, and not nearly as easy as learning
> Morse (not that that would help now).

Morse Code is still worth learning, IMHO.

> We're going to have to get better - in
> fact, much better - at public relations: the Red Cross and other
> disaster relief agencies have known the importance of image all
> along,
> but now hams have got to get in the game and advertise ourselves
> as an
> anlternative to traditional communications during hurricanes,
> floods, earthquakes, etc.

Agreed - but also as a fun thing to do. Emergency and public service comms are just one part of what hams do.

The key factor is that the "served agencies" want different things today in the way of communications. In some emergencies they won't need hams at all, in others they will really need amateurs to help out. But they're the customer, as it were.

73 de Jim, N2EY

412. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-06 04:28:57 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <94nv145c89a1sjlqfhanug00l9ienci9bm@4ax.com>
Source record: 2983

On Sat, 3 May 2008 16:25:37 EDT, Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
wrote:

>But the motorsports folks have no regular authority in that band at all.
>
>I'm not sure I understand why they thought they needed amateur spectrum
>for that project.

Because they probably bought cheap amateur equipment, opened it out,
and then found out that there weren't any channels available in the
450-470 MHz band that they could get licenses and frequency
coordination for. Several sports events did just that until they got
caught. One of my "day jobs" is as frequency coordinator for systems
in the 450 MHz band, and we run into this all the time. The Congress
refuses to give the FCC the necessary funding to apprehend them, and
the Justice Department refuses to prosecute what they claim is petty
offenses.

I've ranted about this before. I'm glad that Chris Imlay (ARRL
General Counsel) got on this thing as hard as he did. We all owe a
round of thanks to him.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
ARRL Volunteer Counsel

email: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

413. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-06 07:54:23 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <SJ-dncPf--FFfYLVnZ2dnUVZ_hqdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2984

AF6AY wrote:
> Bill Horne wrote on Sat 3 May 2008 under the thread 'Discussions' in
> RRAM:
>
>> The Pave/Paws system that is pushing some repeaters off 70cm predates
>> the complaints by several decades, and I take the military's new
>> attitude to be another nail in the coffin of ham radio's former
>> "favorite son" status at the Pentagon.
>
> As a veteran of the US Army Signal Corps 1952 to 1960 and as an
> engineer who has been involved in DoD electronics during my
> civilian career, I've seen NO evidence that US amateur radio
> was ever in some "favorite son" status in the US military.

The ham who gave me my novice exam, WA1BGR (SK), had a 10 KW generator in his backyard that he received from Air Force surplus via MARS. Not your $2,000.00 toilet seat, to be sure, but certainly a step up from the equipment available to the average ham, especially in 1964 New Hampshire, where power failures were a regular event. Would you be more comfortable if I said "poor relation" instead?

The fact is that equipment and expertise flowed from the military to the hams who were willing to work for it. That couldn't have happened by accident, and I don't believe it was an accident that ham allocations in shortwave bands survived during the era before geostationary satellites, when there was pressure from other governments and from corporate users here to carve out larger portions for broadcasting or commercial use.

>> It used to be that we hams were a corps of operators who could be
>> pressed into service quickly during a war or other crisis.
>
> Perhaps this was true in 1941. It was NOT true in 1952 when I
> voluntarily entered US Army service (during the Korean War active
> phase), trained at the Signal School at Fort Monmouth, NJ, and
> subsequently assigned to long-distance, high-volume message
> traffic handling on a 24/7 basis at a Far East Command Hq
> station in Tokyo.

Welcome Home.

[snip]

>>From the military point of view of 56 years ago, having an
> interest in radio or the more general electronics field is only
> important towards assignment in a particular military occupation
> specialty (still familiarly called 'MOS'). Knowing on-off keying

> CW skills via amateur radio MIGHT get one assigned to Field Radio
> school (then the only Army MOS actually requiring [On-off keying] CW skill).

[snip]

> No one needed
> any morse code skills to operate those radios then. Indeed, it
> was more akin to one-way talking on a telephone, something that
> most civilians had already done in the 1950s.

I said we were a trained corps of "_operators_", not just CW operators. I know that military radios almost always use voice: I ran the Navy MARS station at Danang in 1971 and 1972. I got the job because I had a ham license and I was there, and the unit commander cared about what I could _do_, not what my MOS was.

FWIW, CW still came in handy on a couple of occasions: when signals dropped too low for phone patches, I could slide the KWM-2A down to the ham band and operate "maritime mobile" on CW to get health-and-welfare traffic through. One occasion I remember involved a seaman with a pregnant wife who was headed home on emergency leave due to complications of some kind: I'll never forget the look on his face when I read him the reply to the "ARL Two, ARL Nineteen" priority message I had sent minutes before - "Your wife and newborn son both OK congratulations dad".

Of course, Health and Welfare traffic isn't a military necessity, but only a fool would neglect the morale of his men, and it didn't matter to the CO that I knew CW or that I used SSB most of the time - what _mattered_ was that I knew about long-path propagation, about how important it was to scrape the corrosion off the coax connectors, and that I could get the job done. They don't teach anything about operating "maritime mobile" at Fort Monmouth.

>> Now, with
>> Morse as deeply buried as its creators and military electronics too
>> secret to be entrusted to soldiers and sailors who haven't been vetted
>> for security clearances, we're yesterday's news in the E ring.
>
> I have NOT seen any of that "burial" nor of the "secrecy" alleged
> to any Pentagon "ring" in my Army service nor in the many years
> that followed as a civilian working on DoD contracts involving
> communications. The "secrecy" is actually on a very low
> Confidential level, the lowest of the three classifications. As
> a matter of fact, most Army radios of a half century ago where
> NOT used by signal personnel nor did they ever require any sort
> of security classification; no more so than revealing ANY military
> information to the enemy on anything.

Well, I suppose anyone with a soldering gun could fix a KY-28 when the pins come off: but only a ham would know that he could get solder from the tube pins of a trashed PRC-25 and use a fire to heat up a knife for

the job. It wasn't me, but I know it _was_ a ham that did it.

> I have no personal knowledge of what actually transpires in ANY
> "ring" of the Pentagon. I must depend on periodicals and documents
> published by defense electronics and electronics professional
> associations to yield such information. In those, and in archived
> copies of "Signal" (a quarterly of the Army Signal Corps, available
> new to signal personnel) there has been NO such statements of any
> "favoritism" expressed from a half century ago to today.

I could be sarcastic and say "What a surprise! An official publication
that didn't talk about unofficial policies!", but I'll just point out
that WA1BGR had his generator, and lots of other hams who put in the
time with MARS had those and other trophies to show for their work,
including Model 19 TeleType sets when they were still _the_ standard
means of digital communication, temporary antenna masts that could give
a club a winning edge on Field Day, and even access to military training
for their sons that gave the young men a competitive edge in ROTC
scholarship selection.

[snip]

> PAVE PAWS has been around for decades. [snip]
> Since it IS primary in its assigned operating frequency and IS part of
> National Defense, that National Defense ought to be considered
> primary by US citizens who wish to survive. Is a radio hobby
> more important than national survival?

It's at least as important as not allowing oneself to be swayed by
jingoistic appeals to misplaced patriotism. Even assuming that PAVE PAWS
accomplishes it's stated mission and provides warning of a
submarine-launched nuclear attack, and even assuming that anyone
survives such an event, Ham Radio operators and equipment would be
essential to keep life going.

>> We'll have to find another reason to justify the allocations we enjoy.
>> It's going to be hard work, and not nearly as easy as learning Morse
>> (not that that would help now). We're going to have to get better - in
>> fact, much better - at public relations: the Red Cross and other
>> disaster relief agencies have known the importance of image all along,
>> but now hams have got to get in the game and advertise ourselves as an
>> alternative to traditional communications during hurricanes, floods,
>> earthquakes, etc.
>
> Please leave the morse code test issue OUT. That has been settled
> for US amateur radio by the FCC after much, much debate for too long
> a time.

You're the one who brought it in: as I said before, we were a trained
corps of operators, not just CW operators. Hams aren't just trained to
pound brass: those that homebrew their own gear or compete in Field Day
or participate in disaster-preparedness are trained to think on their

feet, and that means they care about getting the job done, not the mode(s) they use to do it.

> IMAGE for the general public MUST be aimed OUTSIDE of amateur radio
> publications. It cannot remain the insider topic WITHIN amateur
> radio groups or publications. If it is REALLY there then it could
> (and should) get out into the mainstream. Such emergency good works
> news just haven't gotten out to the general public.

That's the problem: the agencies that welcome our support are very good at claiming the credit and putting _THEIR_ brand name in front of the public, but ham operators must become more agressive and effective at establishing *our* *own* identity. When you lift the veil that covers the inner workings of most "public service" organizations, you will find that their first priority and best-funded effort is advertising _their_ name and _their_ accomplishments.

Wearing a "Red Cross Volunteer" shirt when the TV cameras arrive doesn't help ham radio: we need to have "Amateur Radio Emergency Service" or "Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service" and similar labels on our backs so that the public realizes that we're still out there and able to help anyone that needs it, not simply a part of the Red Cross or other agency.

> The public sees
> FCC issues as they affect broadcasting and cell phones in the national
> news[,] maybe something about business radio [or] public safety radio.
> Amateur radio news is not an important issue for such media.
> The public has rarely seen amateur radio communications during
> emergencies during national news...it HAS seen various National Guard
> units and local government agencies doing communications on the news,
> including FEMA equipment [snip].

[snip]

> If ham radio is really as good as some declare it, it should be
> worth national attention. It has gotten very little on the
> national news in the last half century.

That's our fault, not someone else's: noone is awarded national attention because they're "worth" it, no matter how hard they work at going good. We'll get national attention when _we_ make it a priority to do so - not only during, but before and after the events that draw media attention. All the other players are vying for their 15 seconds of fame, and we're fools if we _assume_ that anyone will give away so much as 15 milliseconds to us.

> One thing that should NOT continue is to keep thinking in the
> paradigms of pre-WWII 'radio' as is often presented in amateur
> radio magazines. Technology has gone through several plateau jumps
> of advancement since that long-ago time. Fantasies of some amateur
> radio licensees are still rooted to back then. Those are lost in
> the reality of today's radio capabilites and uses. The general
> public has its own fantasies and it is foolish to attempt trying

> to tell them other fantasies.

I don't think in terms of "pre-WWII" radio: I think in terms of what can be accomplished with today's tools using today's training. However many "plateau jumps" technology goes through, the reality is that it will still require operators on the ground to set it up, to maintain it, and to safeguard it during operation.

I don't presume to know the general public's fantasies, but we're not going to be fantasizing when we plan how we'll make the public aware of our status and our achievements, just as other organizations and agencies do.

[snip]

Long story short: what's important to the media is selling soap. That's what they make money at, so that's what they pay attention to. In order to sell soap, the cameramen seek images that they know will keep the viewers tuned in during the soap commercials. The Red Cross knows this, the Salvation Army knows this, and the National Guard officers assigned to media liason (that _is_ a separate MOS now, isn't it?) know it too.

They help the media to sell soap, and they get their names and their agenda in front of the public as a result. If ham radio is to have any influence in Washington or at the International frequency allocation conferences, we must learn how to sell our own brand of soap.

HTH. YMMV. HAND.

W1AC

--
Bill Horne, W1AC

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

414. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-06 09:12:03 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <68agtsF2s47liU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2985

In news:ebce2b53-bd15-4a8f-af7f-7ab7854abdef@z72g2000hsb.googlegroups.com,
N2EY@aol.com <N2EY@aol.com> typed, for some strange, unexplained reason:

[snip]

: Maybe - or maybe not. Secondary status means no interference need be
: tolerated by the primary.

Not always, we're the primary users of 2m over here, but we can't complain
about interference.

: There used to be a 50 watt limit on 420-450 MHz for amateurs due to
: the possibility of interference to radar.

Don't recall we ever had that over here, but I may be wrong.
:
: > It used to be that we hams were a corps of operators who could
: > be pressed into service quickly during a war or other crisis.
:
: That's still the case. But it doesn't mean that the primary users of a
: band have to put up with interference from secondary users.

Ah, but who is the primary user..? Here it's the military. Amateurs have
to put up with anything and everything. On all bands.

73 Ivor G6URP

415. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-06 14:44:15 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <93ba8e70-b4da-4695-b761-07d07d4a4c98@f63g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2986
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On May 6, 5:12 am, "Ivor Jones" wrote:
> Innews:ebce2b53-bd15-4a8f-af7f-7ab7854abdef@z72g2000hsb.googlegroups.com,
> N...@aol.com typed, for some strange, unexplained reason:
> : Secondary status means no interference need be
> : tolerated by the primary.

I should have been more clear, and qualfied the above as "here in the
USA"
>
> Not always, we're the primary users of 2m over here, but we can't complain

> about interference.

> : There used to be a 50 watt limit on 420-450 MHz for amateurs due to
> : the possibility of interference to radar.
>
> Don't recall we ever had that over here, but I may be wrong.

It was a US restriction a long time ago.
> :
> : > It used to be that we hams were a corps of operators who could
> : > be pressed into service quickly during a war or other crisis.
> :
> : That's still the case. But it doesn't mean that the primary users of a
> : band have to put up with interference from secondary users.
>
> Ah, but who is the primary user..? Here it's the military. Amateurs have
> to put up with anything and everything. On all bands.
>
Well, here in the USA amateurs are definitely the secondary users of
420-450 MHz.
So while we can complain, we don't have the same "standing", as it
were.

73 de Jim, N2EY

416. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-06 18:03:17 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <f9e9a825-e727-4e16-ba1a-88fb330bc5c2@x35g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2987

On May 4, 11:13 pm, Bill Powell <w...@att.net> wrote:
> Anyone with some level of technical knowledge might wonder why a
> billion dollar (boondoggle) "radar system" can't discriminate between
> a fixed, known "target" (like a repeater)and one that is moving, comes
> from over the horizon which might be something nasty?

I think the radar system can indeed discriminate. One problem, I
think, may be this:

Radar that uses a single antenna for both transmit and receive cannot
"see behind" a
reflecting obstacle, nor an interfering RF source. So the amateur
repeater casts a "shadow"
as it were.

To make it more of a sporting course, the amateur signal is
intermittent, and FM. Which may look
like all kinds of things on the radar display.

>
> Sounds like some real shoddy engineering took place at taxpayer
> expense.

Maybe, but probably not. Some things are fundamental limitations of
the physics involved.

> I can think of 3 or 4 ways to remove false targets w/o
> loosing any system level accuracy or sensitivity. In fact, didn't
> they perfect that during the cold war?

Of course the processing system may be able to be programmed to ignore
the amateur repeater - which would make it the perfect place to hide
something.

Remember that the radar system in question is probably being used in
roles it was not originally designed for. That's probably why the
problem didn't show up before. For example, if the radar was meant to
look for high-altitude intruders, things like ground clutter and RF
sources below a few hundred feet could simply be ignored. If the
system is now being adapted to look for low-altitude and water-bourne
intruders, those RF sources become a big headache that the system
wasn't designed to handle.

> Gee... Thinking about it some. All Abdulah (or Ivan or whoever)
> needs to do is buy a 440 rig, an amp and a yagi and go out as a
> "rover"; 3 or 4 kW ERP down the bear's craw for a while then move.

Maybe. But the result would probably be just the opposite: firing up that setup would announce his exact bearing and altitude. IOW, announcing "HERE I AM" to the radar system. With no legitimate sources of RF in the area, and no "shadows" to hide behind, finding the intruder would be easier and faster.

This sort of thing isn't new. When you don't know the exact threat, you try to plug every possible hole.

Way back in WW2, the Allies spent a lot of time and expense developing receivers that had extremely low local-oscillator radiation. Only approved receivers could be used aboard Allied vessels. The concern was that enemy U-boats could detect and find Allied convoys by listening for the local-oscillator radiation. When you have dozens of ships all monitoring the same frequency using big antennas and unshielded receivers, the total LO radiation could be heard a long way off. And while radio silence could be maintained in a convoy most of the time, the receivers were needed for weather reports, U-boat warnings, distress calls and such.

It turned out that the U-boats did not listen for the LO radiation after all. But this was not known until after the war.

73 de Jim, N2EY

417. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-06 18:05:11 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <8391477f-3b41-4663-869c-767b9bc33eb4@34g2000hsh.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2988
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On May 6, 3:54 am, Bill Horne wrote:
> AF6AY wrote:
> > Bill Horne wrote on Sat 3 May 2008 under the thread 'Discussions' in
> > RRAM:

> The ham who gave me my novice exam, WA1BGR (SK), had a 10 KW generator
> in his backyard that he received from Air Force surplus via MARS. Not
> your $2,000.00 toilet seat, to be sure, but certainly a step up from the
> equipment available to the average ham, especially in 1964 New
> Hampshire, where power failures were a regular event.

The first ham I ever met was Sam, K3RTR, (SK). He had a complete RTTY setup in his basement shack (near the post office in Upper Darby, PA, back in 1966 or so. He was very active in Navy MARS, too. Even a 12-year-old newcomer like me got the connection.

> The fact is that equipment and expertise flowed from the military to the
> hams who were willing to work for it. That couldn't have happened by
> accident, and I don't believe it was an accident that ham allocations in
> shortwave bands survived during the era before geostationary satellites,
> when there was pressure from other governments and from corporate users
> here to carve out larger portions for broadcasting or commercial use.

I think the equipment flow was both an incentive for the volunteers and a recruiting tool. It certainly was better than simply scrapping older stuff, or getting a few pennies per pound in surplus.

I recall that, officially, the equipment handed out through MARS channels did not actually belong to those who got it; they could not sell it and if MARS ever wanted it back they had to return it. In reality I don't think the Navy ever came looking for Sam's Model 19, but of such distinctions are entire programs made possible.

As to the survival of the amateur HF bands, I think there were several factors involved. One was the fact that those bands were relatively narrow - from 1958 to 1979, we US hams had access to only 3.3 MHz of the 27 MHz of bandspace from 3 to 30 MHz. More than half of that 3.3 MHz was the relatively-undependable 10 meter band, and parts of 75 and 40 meters were shared with SW broadcasting. So the potential gain in spectrum to be had from amateurs was small.

The HF amateur bands were and are allocated by international treaty. If the US tried to change that treaty to give more bandspace to the military, it would be clear to the other side, of course.

There was also the influence of well-known amateurs such as Gen.
Curtis LeMay, Barry Goldwater, Art Collins and even Arthur Godfrey.

Besides, there was plenty of historic precedent. Before WW2, the Army
had used parts of 80 meters for communications during training
exercises. When the war ended, US hams did not get all their bands
back right away, as the various services needed time to move off of
them. Note that it took many years before we got all of 160 back
(which is MF, not HF, but it proves the point).

> I said we were a trained corps of "_operators_", not just CW operators.
> I know that military radios almost always use voice: I ran the Navy MARS
> station at Danang in 1971 and 1972. I got the job because I had a ham
> license and I was there, and the unit commander cared about what I could
> _do_, not what my MOS was.

Thank you for your service.

> FWIW, CW still came in handy on a couple of occasions: when signals
> dropped too low for phone patches, I could slide the KWM-2A down to the
> ham band and operate "maritime mobile" on CW to get health-and-welfare
> traffic through. One occasion I remember involved a seaman with a
> pregnant wife who was headed home on emergency leave due to
> complications of some kind: I'll never forget the look on his face when
> I read him the reply to the "ARL Two, ARL Nineteen" priority message I
> had sent minutes before - "Your wife and newborn son both OK
> congratulations dad".

Great story!

I have known a few amateurs who were military radio operators in Korea
during the early part of that conflict, and they did indeed use Morse
Code for military communications.

> Of course, Health and Welfare traffic isn't a military necessity, but
> only a fool would neglect the morale of his men, and it didn't matter to
> the CO that I knew CW or that I used SSB most of the time - what
> _mattered_ was that I knew about long-path propagation, about how
> important it was to scrape the corrosion off the coax connectors, and
> that I could get the job done.

IOW, practical radio skills.

> They don't teach anything about operating
> "maritime mobile" at Fort Monmouth.

> Well, I suppose anyone with a soldering gun could fix a KY-28 when the
> pins come off: but only a ham would know that he could get solder from
> the tube pins of a trashed PRC-25 and use a fire to heat up a knife for
> the job. It wasn't me, but I know it _was_ a ham that did it.

Like I said, practical radio skills....

This sort of thing shows up in various ways.

Way back in EE school (class of 1976), I was in a class where the
day's subject was analysis of a common-source JFET amplifier with
tuned input and output circuits. Prof. K. drew the circuit on the
board and asked us what it would do if the tuned circuits were
resonant at about the same frequency.

Everyone in class said it would amplify signals near the resonant
frequency of the tuned circuits. I offered that if certain conditions
were met, it would oscillate. The other students thought I was nuts
because we hadn't gotten to oscillators yet, but Prof. K asked why I
responded that way and what the conditions would be. I replied that
real JFETs have significant capacitance between gate and drain, and if
the gain were high enough, etc., the conditions for oscillation would
be met. Prof. K said "That's right, very good" which astounded the
rest of the class.

Then he asked "You're a ham radio operator, right?" which surprised me
even more, since I didn't know him well at all. I said I was and he
replied that the hams in his classes always knew the practical end of
things and how to turn theory into practice.

> It's at least as important as not allowing oneself to be swayed by
> jingoistic appeals to misplaced patriotism. Even assuming that PAVE PAWS
> accomplishes it's stated mission and provides warning of a
> submarine-launched nuclear attack, and even assuming that anyone
> survives such an event, Ham Radio operators and equipment would be
> essential to keep life going.

Agreed - but we *are* secondary users on 420-450, aren't we?
>
> as I said before, we were a trained
> corps of operators, not just CW operators. Hams aren't just trained to
> pound brass: those that homebrew their own gear or compete in Field Day
> or participate in disaster-preparedness are trained to think on their
> feet, and that means they care about getting the job done, not the
> mode(s) they use to do it.

Exactly. Lots of examples of that, even today.

> the agencies that welcome our support are very good
> at claiming the credit and putting _THEIR_ brand name in front of the
> public, but ham operators must become more agressive and effective at
> establishing *our* *own* identity.

I would say "assertive" rather than "aggressive", but the concept is
basically the same.

> When you lift the veil that covers
> the inner workings of most "public service" organizations, you will find
> that their first priority and best-funded effort is advertising _their_
> name and _their_ accomplishments.
>
> Wearing a "Red Cross Volunteer" shirt when the TV cameras arrive doesn't
> help ham radio: we need to have "Amateur Radio Emergency Service" or

> "Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service" and similar labels on our backs
> so that the public realizes that we're still out there and able to help
> anyone that needs it, not simply a part of the Red Cross or other agency.

Excellent idea!

> noone is awarded national
> attention because they're "worth" it, no matter how hard they work at
> going good. We'll get national attention when _we_ make it a priority to
> do so - not only during, but before and after the events that draw media
> attention. All the other players are vying for their 15 seconds of fame,
> and we're fools if we _assume_ that anyone will give away so much as 15
> milliseconds to us.

Particularly if it's not even clear who we are!

> I think in terms of what can
> be accomplished with today's tools using today's training. However many
> "plateau jumps" technology goes through, the reality is that it will
> still require operators on the ground to set it up, to maintain it, and
> to safeguard it during operation.

That's a concept that needs to be pushed. One of the modern paradigms
is to deemphasize the need for skilled, trained, knowledgeable
people. It's always as if the technology just happens.

Perhaps that view is changing a little - note the cell-phone TV
commercials where the huge crowd of people follows the customer with
the cell phone.

> I don't presume to know the general public's fantasies, but we're not
> going to be fantasizing when we plan how we'll make the public aware of
> our status and our achievements, just as other organizations and
> agencies do.

Yep.

> Long story short: what's important to the media is selling soap. That's
> what they make money at, so that's what they pay attention to. In order
> to sell soap, the cameramen seek images that they know will keep the
> viewers tuned in during the soap commercials. The Red Cross knows this,
> the Salvation Army knows this, and the National Guard officers assigned
> to media liason (that _is_ a separate MOS now, isn't it?) know it too.

FEMA is learning it too. The hard way.

> They help the media to sell soap, and they get their names and their
> agenda in front of the public as a result. If ham radio is to have any
> influence in Washington or at the International frequency allocation
> conferences, we must learn how to sell our own brand of soap.
>
Actually, I would say we have several kinds of soap to sell. Emergency
and public-service comms is certainly one kind, but there are many
others. All have a place.

In fact, this is what can make amateur radio difficult to sell. There are so many different activities that are part of Amateur Radio that it's tough to come up with a quick visual or sound-bite. Whether it be the ham pounding brass on 80 meters with a homebrew hollow-state rig, or the ham on the shuttle talking to middle-school kids, or the ham providing communication at the Boston Marathon, the next hurricane, earthquake, etc., it's all ham radio and it's all good.

Getting that message across is our challenge

73 de Jim, N2EY

418. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-06 19:22:20 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <9qa124lcb8n103ggshcdpf5a2va2a4vlta@4ax.com>
Source record: 2989

On Tue, 6 May 2008 14:03:17 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>Remember that the radar system in question is probably being used in
>roles it was not originally designed for. That's probably why the
>problem didn't show up before.

I haven't chimed in because I had a foot on both camps, so to speak.
The problem is not new, and was handled on a case-by-case basis until
it became a "real big" problem when the system was upgraded. Most if
not all of the ham repeaters which fall in the "circle of interest"
for the Beale AFB site were in my District (San Francisco) and I
knew/know several of the repeater owners personally.

A practical example of the problem in the non-military world: One
would have problems using the usual consumer type in-line cable
amplified splitter with a VHF/UHF receiver such as a scanner because
the receiver deals in signals of the order of 0.5 uV or less while the
amplifier is designed to deal with signals in the order of 1 mV or
more and consequently the noise floor is much higher.

Whether the contractor(s) designing the system and/or running the
tests are competent or not is an exercise left for the reader.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

419. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-06 20:18:09 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <h4f124pe8kptlfg5agppt6q3vjkmvr24qg@4ax.com>
Source record: 2990

On Tue, 6 May 2008 14:05:11 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>I think the equipment flow was both an incentive for the volunteers
>and a recruiting tool. It certainly was better than simply scrapping
>older stuff, or getting a few pennies per pound in surplus.

I am told by a ranking MARS member that the loan/giveaway program stopped many years ago. We used to see a lot of military surplus gear on the market even up into the late 1950s - I remember the ARC-5 stuff that you and I got started with, and the surplus tank low-band FM receiver that I had for monitoring the Sheriff and the Highway Patrol before crystallized receivers and scanners became consumer items -- but that's all history now. Post-Korean War stuff never hit the market.

I am told that what the military doesn't give/sell/loan to foreign governments and even our own National Guard is scrapped (i.e. crushed beyond usefulness) , no doubt due to the pressure of the equipment manufacturers (yes, there are still quite a few left in the USA) who are more than happy to sell new stuff to amateur and commercial users alike at listed prices.
>
>There was also the influence of well-known amateurs such as Gen.
>Curtis LeMay, Barry Goldwater, Art Collins and even Arthur Godfrey.

Ah yes, the legendary Friday-night Poker School.... (I'm still a member of the SAC Memorial ARC, as are several others in this group).
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

420. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-06 20:40:11 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <e6a14f08-d5dd-4bb7-bca5-35b51f1db0b7@l17g2000pri.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2991
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On May 5, 8:04 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> On May 3, 11:16 pm, Bill Horne wrote:

>> It used to be that we hams were a corps of operators who could
>> be pressed into service quickly during a war or other crisis.
>
>That's still the case.

Incorrect. Amateur radio operating protocol is nothing like what
is used in the US military.

That "case" might have been valid prior to WWII but that time
period was 67 and more years ago.

>> Now, with Morse as deeply buried as its creators and military
>> electronics too
>> secret to be entrusted to soldiers and sailors who haven't
>> been vetted
>> for security clearances, we're yesterday's news in the E ring.
>
>I'm not sure what you mean by "Morse as deeply buried as its
>creators".

I would suggest you borrow a 'communications receiver' that can
tune in the HF spectrum OTHER than amateur radio band allocations.

For one thing, the US military had all but abandoned morse code
mode before 1953 for any mass-volume messaging connecting North
America to military bases around the rest of the world.

For another thing, the US military has abandoned HF for any mass-
volume messaging and now uses secure military communications
satellites, troposcatter, and the DSN (Digital Switched Network)
for 24/7 communications. DSN has very robust security and is the
major system of 'flash' alerts to land bases. Alerts for
submarines (to listen to HF thru microwaves for the main message)
are slow-speed encrypted data at VLF that can be received while
submerged. The US military still keeps HF radios on a standby
basis but only uses them for periodic operational checks. MARS
is not a part of the daily US military messaging routine, although
it is much closer to the use of operations protocol than amateurs.

>We hams continue to use Morse Code on the air - extensively, too!

Please define "extensively" (with or without exclamation mark).

No one has stated or implied that amateur use of morse code was not "extensive." In an unofficial poll at the ARRL website some time ago, #1 communications mode on amateur bands was voice.

>MARS is running Morse Code nets again, on an experimental basis.

Military Affiliate Radio System mission was changed about five years ago to act in accord with other US government agencies to (ostensibly) link them together. Army MARS Hq is at Fort Huachuca, AZ, the same military base that houses the Army Military Intelligence training facilities.

>It's true that Morse Code has all but been eliminated by the US
>military for its own communications uses.

That is not true. For routine tactical or strategic communications the US military has abandoned morse code.

The M.I. school at Fort Huachuca still trains some in morse code signal intercept analysis but that is NOT communications per se. To attempt stating that SIGINT operations "use morse code" is like saying the Army still uses muskets and Revolutionary War uniforms because one Army unit in Washington, DC, has them for ceremonial duties.

>That's no surprise, even
>though Morse Code was used extensively by the US military in both
>World Wars, Korea, and Vietnam.

Morse code was used "extensively" in World War ONE. In that 1914 to 1918 period voice communications was relegated to wireline communications circuits. Teleprinter circuits had already been established before the US entry into WWII, including its use on USN ships (see the 'SIGABA' descriptions on various websites for online encryption capability over teleprinter as early as 1940).

As a soldier during and just after the Korean War, doing mass-volume communications via HF, I can assure you that morse code was NOT used for such communications about logistics or military planning plus (in a secondary basis) broadcasting news and 'health and welfare' messages carried for the Red Cross and other agencies to military members.

The vast majority of communications carried on during the recognized active period of US involvement in Vietnam was voice and teleprinter. Like the Korean War, the Vietnam War was not a 'true' war yet service members were killed or wounded as a part of that actual warfare.

During the prosecution of the Korean War, the US military routinely handled about a quarter million messages a month through military facilities. That was nearly doubled for the Vietnam War. Morse code communications MIGHT have been used in rare instances for both wars but its role was so minor as

to be discounted compared to the MASS of messaging needed to maintain troops and equipment far from the USA.

All of that military communications information is public and available to anyone who cares to look for it. I would suggest the U.S. Army Center For Military History as a starting point for very detailed historical accounts of the US Army since the Revolutionary War.

>But that doesn't mean hams should stop using Morse Code.

NOBODY has said "hams should stop using" it. Please try to restrain generating another sub-thread about it. Please try to educate yourself about radio uses outside of amateur radio as described other than the ARRL publications or website.

In order to EDUCATE THE PUBLIC, I would suggest channeling your promotion OUTSIDE of amateur radio venues. The general public and lawmakers don't much look into ham radio venues.

AF6AY

421. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-06 20:44:53 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <68bk4vF2sbkrsU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2992
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

In news:93ba8e70-b4da-4695-b761-07d07d4a4c98@f63g2000hsf.googlegroups.com,
N2EY@aol.com typed, for some strange, unexplained reason:
: On May 6, 5:12 am, "Ivor Jones" wrote:
: >
Innews:ebce2b53-bd15-4a8f-af7f-7ab7854abdef@z72g2000hsb.googlegroups.com,
: > N...@aol.com typed, for some strange, unexplained
: > reason:
: > : Secondary status means no interference need be
: > : tolerated by the primary.
:
: I should have been more clear, and qualfied the above as "here in the
: USA"

I guessed that ;-)

: > Not always, we're the primary users of 2m over here, but we can't
: > complain about interference.
:
: > : There used to be a 50 watt limit on 420-450 MHz for amateurs due
: > : to the possibility of interference to radar.
: >
: > Don't recall we ever had that over here, but I may be wrong.
:
: It was a US restriction a long time ago.

Ok, thought I'd never heard of it.

: > : > It used to be that we hams were a corps of operators who could
: > : > be pressed into service quickly during a war or other crisis.
: > :
: > : That's still the case. But it doesn't mean that the primary users
: > : of a band have to put up with interference from secondary users.
: >
: > Ah, but who is the primary user..? Here it's the military. Amateurs
: > have to put up with anything and everything. On all bands.
: >
: Well, here in the USA amateurs are definitely the secondary users of
: 420-450 MHz.
: So while we can complain, we don't have the same "standing", as it
: were.

Well of course we can complain, but nobody will take any notice..!

73 Ivor G6URP

422. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-06 23:52:41 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <8e3f3c6d-6c82-4c28-9d76-f508b08fb654@c19g2000prf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2993
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On May 6, 12:54 am, Bill Horne wrote:
> AF6AY wrote:

> > As a veteran of the US Army Signal Corps 1952 to 1960 and as an
> > engineer who has been involved in DoD electronics during my
> > civilian career, I've seen NO evidence that US amateur radio
> > was ever in some "favorite son" status in the US military.
>
> The ham who gave me my novice exam, WA1BGR (SK), had a 10 KW generator
> in his backyard that he received from Air Force surplus via MARS. Not
> your $2,000.00 toilet seat, to be sure, but certainly a step up from the
> equipment available to the average ham, especially in 1964 New
> Hampshire, where power failures were a regular event. Would you be more
> comfortable if I said "poor relation" instead?

In 2004 electric power failures in western Washington state were a
regular event. All rural homes in Kitsap County, WA, have fireplaces
and stacks of wood outside for that...despite electric power rates
there being among the lowest in the USA.

>
> The fact is that equipment and expertise flowed from the military to the
> hams who were willing to work for it. That couldn't have happened by
> accident, and I don't believe it was an accident that ham allocations in
> shortwave bands survived during the era before geostationary satellites,
> when there was pressure from other governments and from corporate users
> here to carve out larger portions for broadcasting or commercial use.
>
> >> It used to be that we hams were a corps of operators who could be
> >> pressed into service quickly during a war or other crisis.
>
> > Perhaps this was true in 1941. It was NOT true in 1952 when I
> > voluntarily entered US Army service (during the Korean War active
> > phase), trained at the Signal School at Fort Monmouth, NJ, and
> > subsequently assigned to long-distance, high-volume message
> > traffic handling on a 24/7 basis at a Far East Command Hq
> > station in Tokyo.
>
> Welcome Home.

There is no need for sarcasm. I returned to the States in 1956.
The active phase of the Korean War stopped in June of 1953.
['truce talks' continue to this day in Korea along the DMZ]
The Vietnam War ended for the USA 35 years ago.

I would reply to more of your message but Google doesn't like it or something.

AF6AY

423. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-07 04:03:45 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <68c9qjF2se7e4U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2994
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

In news:e6a14f08-d5dd-4bb7-bca5-35b51f1db0b7@l17g2000pri.googlegroups.com,
AF6AY typed, for some strange, unexplained reason:
: On May 5, 8:04 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
: > On May 3, 11:16 pm, Bill Horne wrote:
:
: >> It used to be that we hams were a corps of operators who could
: >> be pressed into service quickly during a war or other crisis.
: >
: >That's still the case.
:
: Incorrect. Amateur radio operating protocol is nothing like what
: is used in the US military.

[snip]

Well, I seem to have sparked quite a debate..!

However, a lot of it seems to have gone more than a little OT (which doesn't surprise me and is actually quite interesting, so don't consider it a moan..!)

But.. what are the thoughts on my original point, that of the differences in attitude of the authorities in the US and UK about protection from interference from commercial operators using frequencies within the amateur bands..? It seems to me, unless I've misunderstood, that in the US you can still claim a certain degree of protection from other users, whereas here we can't.

73 Ivor G6URP

424. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-07 04:04:53 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <68f29b5a-c3e4-456b-ac67-ce24c89fa40f@f63g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2995

On May 6, 4:18 pm, Phil Kane <Phil.K...@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> On Tue, 6 May 2008 14:05:11 EDT, N...@aol.com wrote:
> >I think the equipment flow was both an incentive
> >for the volunteers
> >and a recruiting tool. It certainly was better
> >than simply scrapping
> >older stuff, or getting a few pennies per pound in surplus.
>
> I am told by a ranking MARS member that the
> loan/giveaway program
> stopped many years ago.

Well, it still existed when I became a ham in 1967. But that
was quite a while ago...

>We used to see a lot of military surplus gear
> on the market even up into the late 1950s - I remember
> the ARC-5 stuff
> that you and I got started with, and the surplus tank low-band FM
> receiver that I had for monitoring the Sheriff and the Highway
> Patrol
> before crystallized receivers and scanners became consumer
> items -- but that's all history now.

I still have some ARC-5 stuff in working order, and lots of parts. A
couple of LM frequency meters, and a couple of ME-297 VOMs.

I got started with stuff a lot more basic than an ARC-5, too.

At least here in Philly, WW2 surplus was common well into the 1970s.
Fair Radio Sales, to name one mailorder place, was still selling WW2
surplus at low prices in that same timeframe. The N2EY library has
some of their catalogs....

For example, the 1976 Fair Radio catalog lists the BC-457 and BC-458
at $14.95 each (new condition), and the R-23, R-25 and R-26 at prices
from $15.95 to $22.95. Earlier catalogs have a much wider selection at
much lower prices.

>Post-Korean War stuff never hit the market.

Not in the quantities of WW2 stuff, obviously.

I think that one factor in the enormous amount of WW2 surplus was that
American industry was pouring the stuff out in enormous quantities by
1945, building up for at least another year of full scale combat, when

the war suddenly ended. That situation has not recurred since.

A look in the 1994 Fair Radio catalog shows the following:

Collins 490T1 (CU-1666) antenna coupler for 618T, $400 used

AM-6155/GRT-22 RF power amplifier, 225-400 MHz, 50W output, $235

R-1051B/URR HF receiver, used, $750

RT-618C & AM-3007 HF transceiver set, $795

RT-749/ARC-109 UHF transceiver, 225-400 MHz, $495

RT-594/ARC-3A HF transceiver, $210

R-390A receiver prices from $135 to $330

(you get the idea - there's a lot more)

So there must have been some path for some surplus to the US market, although except for a few things the prices would be a problem.

> I am told that what the military doesn't give/sell/loan to foreign
> governments and even our own National Guard is scrapped (i.e.
> crushed
> beyond usefulness) , no doubt due to the pressure of the
> equipment
> manufacturers (yes, there are still quite a few left in the USA) who
> are more than happy to sell new stuff to amateur and commercial
> users alike at listed prices.

I have been told that a lot of stuff is scrapped rather than have it fall into the wrong hands.

> >There was also the influence of well-known amateurs such as
> >Gen. Curtis LeMay, Barry Goldwater, Art Collins and even
> >Arthur Godfrey.
>
> Ah yes, the legendary Friday-night Poker School.... (I'm still a
> member of the SAC Memorial ARC, as are several others in
> this group).

Excellent! I am delighted to hear that, but not surprised.

Add K2ORS, aka "Shep" (though he used the name Parker on the ham bands) to the above list.

73 es tnx for the info

Jim, N2EY

425. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-07 04:06:21 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <76346461-9288-494e-a50d-2356889ac5ad@u6g2000prc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2996

Bill Horne wrote on Tues 6 May 2008 00:54

>... I don't believe it was an accident that ham allocations in
>shortwave bands survived during the era before geostationary satellites,
>when there was pressure from other governments and from corporate users
>here to carve out larger portions for broadcasting or commercial use.

There is considerable history of frequency allocations available at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) website. Some of it is free for download or perusing. The ITU-R handles largely civil radio allocations but also takes into account military uses. Mass-volume messaging just on HF bands by common carrier services were already established in the latter half of the 1930s. That is also explained in the 'Collins Sideband Book' by Bruene, Shoenike, and Pappenfus. The migration of mass-volume messaging from HF to microwaves via commsat and, later, high-speed optical fiber cable, were done to avoid the ionospheric disturbances common to HF.

WARC-79 (World Administrative Radio Conference of 1979) yielded more bands to radio amateurs worldwide. There were some added expansions to 'SW BC' but, by bandwidth count, amateurs got more than broadcasters. The '40m interference' issue of broadcasters versus amateurs took until WRC-03 (World Radio Conference of 1953) to achieve a compromise that won't be complete for a few years from now. Broadcasters were granted new bands in HF at WRC-03. In the last four decades there have been MANY changes to HF use by many radio services...and FAR MORE above 30 MHz. The migration of common carrier radio services from HF provided more space for individual fixed radio communications on HF. There is still room for other radio services on HF but few want it.

The international radio use of the spectrum above 30 MHz over the last half century has been so extensive it could fill a small book to contain its changes. Those who have access to the huge table of frequency allocations in Part 2, Title 47 C.F.R. over the years can infer what they want. It covers civil and government frequency allocations from 9 KHz to 300 GHz.

The migration of common carrier services from HF took about a quarter century to complete. It didn't happen overnight. The number of slots on the geosynchronous orbit were filled over a decade ago.

'Shortwave' broadcasters like their migration to satellite relay because it relieves the outages occurring on HF as the ionosphere changed. That's unfortunate for SWLs who were

accostumed to essentially free programming but is a definite improvement of the fading and other effects on purely HF paths. Successful tests of DRM (Digital Radio Mondial) have been going on for at least four years. Adoption of DRM as a standard 'SWBC' mode is delayed by such listeners not desiring to obtain DRM-compatible receivers. Technically this digital broadcasting scheme has worked out very well.

So far there have been NO auctions established for US civil radio services below 30 MHz. The HF ham allocations can be said to be safe from takeover. Speculating on HF being gobbled up by capitalists is more fantasy than reality.

Long-haul mass-messaging services have been increased by 'repeaterless' fiber optic cables (amplification pumping and signal reconditioning only required at land stations). One of the longest today is the double 4 GPS optical fiber carrying digital signals running from the UK through the Med, under the Indian Ocean, around southeast Asia, then north to Japan. At 10 bits per circuit, each 4 GBS path can carry 100,000 circuits simultaneously...and full-duplex at that. There are many of other optical fiber paths in the world, over land and under water.

USA radio amateurs were denied a full band on 60m due to failure of proponents from recognizing that many fixed HF frequencies in-around that band had already occupied those spots for decades. USA hams got only five separated channels, each just big enough to carry one SSB voice channel. I see that as just poor planning by the ARRL who petitioned for it.

HF on the EM spectrum has far fewer users (other than hams now than it did four decades ago. The US military uses it now for backup (with limited traffic handling) as a sort of last-resort contingency use.

Of course, US hams use HF 'extensively.' For hobby purposes. It is NOT 'pioneering the [HF] airwaves' (that being done in the 20s and 30s) but some like to imagine they are doing that.

AF6AY

426. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-07 04:07:53 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <53cb5b34-d39b-4d93-965f-9a54392847fd@k10g2000prm.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2997

Bill Horne wrote on Tues 6 May 2008 00:54

>AF6AY wrote:

>I said we were a trained corps of "_operators_", not just CW operators.
>I know that military radios almost always use voice: I ran the Navy MARS
>station at Danang in 1971 and 1972. I got the job because I had a ham
>license and I was there, and the unit commander cared about what I could
>_do_, not what my MOS was.

The Military Affiliate Radio System was never a part of the tactical or strategic radio communications effort/network/system within the US military since it began (under another name) in pre-WWII US Army. It was generally considered to be a Public Relations activity akin to Special Services functions such as the AFRS (later changed to AFRTS, Armed Forces Radio and Television Service) or the Special Service traveling sports teams. Those of us who did the 24/7 grunt work of keeping all units communicating with one another did not consider MARS to be 'great.' None of us 24/7 grunt communicators required any federal license to do our jobs.

>FWIW, CW still came in handy on a couple of occasions: when signals
>dropped too low for phone patches, I could slide the KWM-2A down to the
>ham band and operate "maritime mobile" on CW to get health-and-welfare
>traffic through. One occasion I remember involved a seaman with a
>pregnant wife who was headed home on emergency leave due to
>complications of some kind: I'll never forget the look on his face when
>I read him the reply to the "ARL Two, ARL Nineteen" priority message I
>had sent minutes before - "Your wife and newborn son both OK
>congratulations dad".

FWIW, I can relate a similar tale. The 250-TTY torn-tape relay floor at ADA Control had many operators on each shift. Each was assigned a group of circuits. TTY tape was chadless, both punched and printed. Red Cross and other agencies got lowest priority handling after the start of the 'radio day' (about 2 AM local time). One TTY operator spotted a message to another on his shift. He showed the tape to his friend who was overjoyed at the news that he was now a newborn father. Red Cross people wanted to pass the message to recipient in person. New father blurted out "I already knew it." That sparked a lot of indignity to the officials who only thought of 'procedure' and 'order of things.' He was reported to his company commander. CO was caught in a bind, being good to his men but also having to play politics with higher officials. I did some mild pleading of his case,

suggesting Company Punishment (similar to Captain's Mast in USN). CO caught the drift and, knowing I had been scheduled as CQ (Charge of Quarters) that night, remanded his 'punishment' to me to handle while on CQ. Newborn father was still feeling good despite being chewed out so his 'punishment' was largely to keep me from falling asleep while on the 5 PM to 8 AM next-day CQ period. NO MARS involvement there, none needed.

BTW, a military purchased Collins KWM-2 is the AN/FRC-93 and is the commercial version with all crystals, not limited to amateur radio bands (of 1975). There's an FRC-93 TM on the Internet, PDF size of about 6 MB. I have one. It is essentially the technical manual written, produced by Collins.

In three years of my assignment with ADA in the Army, there was only ONE day of a two-hour total radio blackout on HF in 1955. Minimum RF power output at ADA was 1 KW on HF. That is only 10 db higher than typical ham radio HF transmitters. All operations were 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and remained that way until 1963 when Army downsizing had all ops transferred to USAF, equipment, sites and all. USAF gave it all up with sites, buildings given to the Japanese in 1978. That was 30 years ago.

AF6AY

427. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-07 04:08:33 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <59e9acb3-b4cc-4327-9f39-c7324bbc4c3c@l64g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2998
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On May 6, 4:44 pm, "Ivor Jones" wrote:
> Innews:93ba8e70-b4da-4695-b761-07d07d4a4c98@f63g2000hsf.googlegroups.com,
> N...@aol.com typed, for some strange, unexplained reason:
> : On May 6, 5:12 am, "Ivor Jones" wrote:

> : > Not always, we're the primary users of 2m over here,
> : > but we can't
> : > complain about interference.

Hold that thought...

> : Well, here in the USA amateurs are definitely the secondary
> : users of
> : 420-450 MHz.

Personally I'd rather have, say, 1 MHz of worldwide-exclusive-amateur allocation than 2 MHz of shared bandspace. But that's a minor thing, really.

The big problem here in the USA with regard to amateur bands is that our FCC tolerates too much RFI from unlicensed emitters. For example, plasma TVs and other consumer electronics are notorious RF noisemakers. The whole BPL controversy is a classic example of a bad engineering idea being pushed for the wrong reasons. There's lots more, but a lot of it boils down to lack of enforcement resources coupled with the idea that the RF spectrum doesn't need as much protection from noise pollution.

Recently, there was a particular brand/model of flat screen TV that radiated significant RF on the emergency-locator frequency. That caused quite a bit of excitement....

> : So while we can complain, we don't have the
> : same "standing", as it
> : were.
>
> Well of course we can complain, but nobody will take any notice..!
>
"You want to complain? Look at these shoes; I've only had 'em three weeks and the heels are worn right through! If you complain, nothing happens, you might as well not bother....."

73 de Jim, N2EY

428. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-07 04:10:29 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <26154819-eb8f-41ae-9252-8caade84b5c3@t12g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2999

Bill Horne wrote on 6 May 2008:

>Of course, Health and Welfare traffic isn't a military necessity, but
>only a fool would neglect the morale of his men, and it didn't matter to
>the CO that I knew CW or that I used SSB most of the time - what
>_mattered_ was that I knew about long-path propagation, about how
>important it was to scrape the corrosion off the coax connectors, and
>that I could get the job done. They don't teach anything about operating
>"maritime mobile" at Fort Monmouth.

Fort Monmouth is the home of CECOM, the ARMY's Central Electonics COMmand. The US Army waterborne vehicles are limited to river-crossing large inflatables although some are sent to USN or USMC schools for landing craft, hovercraft training. The "AN/" in a military nomenclature stands for Army-Navy and has for 6 decades. Any soldier, sailor, or airman can operate an "AN/" equipment if so authorized. Land field communications equipment is usually built to withstand total submergence in water. That CAN happen on land.

Rest assured that field radio and radio relay students at Fort Gordon, GA, (Camp Gordon in the 50s) DID learn about short- and long-path [RF] propagation...and how to keep coaxial connectors, indeed all connectors clean and workable...and MUCH more. NVIS techniques have been taught for three decades at Gordon, usually referred to as 'Nevis' as its familiar name.

Fort Gordon has taught operation of the standard small-unit land radio for two decades, the AN/PRC-119 plus its mobile and fixed versions (same R/T), plus the airborne unit, the first of the SINCGARS family. SINCGARS compatible radios don't have frequency or band selectors in the usual sense. It has a touch-screen with display to enter both the code key and the frequency-hopping key as determined by the local signal officer. First operational in 1989, it was field tested in the First Gulf War, then used 'extensively' in the Second Gulf War plus Afghanistan. Digitized voice, digital data, selectable clear-channel or encrypted anywhere in the 30 to 88 MHz region. ITT Fort Wayne, IN, has made 300K+ of those and Harris Corporation now has contracts for more in a newer, smaller version. It is remarkably robust, especially in crypto mode, can be netted. Internal time base can be calibrated via GPS signals via an AN/PSN-11 'Plugger' by plugging it into a connector on its front panel. There are SINCGARS-compatible HTs now on duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

>Well, I suppose anyone with a soldering gun could fix a KY-28 when the
>pins come off: but only a ham would know that he could get solder from
>the tube pins of a trashed PRC-25 and use a fire to heat up a knife for
>the job. It wasn't me, but I know it _was_ a ham that did it.

The AN/PRC-25 was solid-state except for the single vacuum tube
in the PA. AN/PRC-77 was its fully solid-state version. Both
were VHF with channelized tuning (considered abhorent by a few
hams) but turned out to be mainstays for Vietnam field radio use.
Both are now obsolete.

Having seen the innards of both up close and personal, there are
plenty of places to obtain solder from it...if that was a real
necessity. Jury-rigged repairs have been going on with ALL
military land equipment since before WWII and not just by licensed
radio amateurs. <shrug>

> I have no personal knowledge of what actually transpires in ANY
> "ring" of the Pentagon. I must depend on periodicals and documents
> published by defense electronics and electronics professional
> associations to yield such information. In those, and in archived
> copies of "Signal" (a quarterly of the Army Signal Corps, available
> new to signal personnel) there has been NO such statements of any
> "favoritism" expressed from a half century ago to today.

>> PAVE PAWS has been around for decades. [snip]
>> Since it IS primary in its assigned operating frequency and IS part of
>> National Defense, that National Defense ought to be considered
>> primary by US citizens who wish to survive. Is a radio hobby
>> more important than national survival?
>
>It's at least as important as not allowing oneself to be swayed by
>jingoistic appeals to misplaced patriotism.

Opponents to amateur radio use of anything could point (accurately)
to "jingoistic" statements of "misplaced patriotism" towards the
ARRL. <shrug> There are many sides to any issue.

>Ham Radio operators and equipment would be
>essential to keep life going. [after a nuclear holocaust]

I've had one complete physical exam since getting my amateur radio
license last March. My primary physician had detected no new
super-human powers in my body. :-)

That absolute statement is unprovable. Radio amateurs are as mortal
as any other human being. As one who has seen electronic equipment
developed for all possible 'radio' environments. Amateur radio gear
is NOT close to rad-hardened military equipment. It is essentially
consumer electronics grade although better than most consumer stuff.
Only two ready-made HT radios (as I recall) are advertised as fully
submersible.

Boosters of amateur radio licensee qualities tend to forget that there are many, many more 'civilians' who are knowledgeable and proficient in radio communications equipment and techniques. Their numbers may be MORE than the total number of ham licensees in the USA. Licensed radio amateurs in the USA make up only about a quarter of one percent of the total population.

>...Hams aren't just trained to
>pound brass: those that homebrew their own gear or compete in Field Day
>or participate in disaster-preparedness are trained to think on their
>feet, and that means they care about getting the job done, not the
>mode(s) they use to do it.

That's a lovely thought, but misleading. Lots of 'civilians' are also able to "think on their feet" and do so regularly. Utility repairpersons reacting to large-scale damage repair are one such example that I've observed up-close and personal.

My observation of 'Field Day' since its onset has been a radio contest carried out in a park on a nice day in June with picnic food. When QST had a two-page article on Field Day recipies, that pretty much wiped out any notion in my mind that Field Day was any 'emergency exercise.'

AF6AY

429. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-07 04:10:48 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <MJmdne5aTcq6Yb3VnZ2dnUVZ_sWdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 3000
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

AF6AY wrote:
> On May 6, 12:54ï¿½am, Bill Horne wrote:
>>> It was NOT true in 1952 when I
>>> voluntarily entered US Army service (during the Korean War active
>>> phase), trained at the Signal School at Fort Monmouth, NJ, and
>>> subsequently assigned to long-distance, high-volume message
>>> traffic handling on a 24/7 basis at a Far East Command Hq
>>> station in Tokyo.
>> Welcome Home.
>
> There is no need for sarcasm.

None was intended: if you see my salute to your service as sarcasm,
that's on you. Vietnam veterans have been using those words as a
greeting ever since we came back: for a while, we were the only ones
saying them.

W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

430. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-07 12:57:47 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <4f98fae9-16b9-4dc2-92e6-e72174d91895@27g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2901
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On May 7, 12:03 am, "Ivor Jones" wrote:

> what are the thoughts on my original point, that of the differences
> in attitude of the authorities in the US and UK about protection
> from
> interference from commercial operators using frequencies
> within the
> amateur bands..? It seems to me, unless I've misunderstood,
> that in the US
> you can still claim a certain degree of protection from other users,
> whereas here we can't.

The following is just an informal observation...

Here in the USA, we have two regulatory agencies for radio: FCC, which does non-government radio, and NTIA, which does government/military radio. NTIA trumps FCC, of course. The radar-interference case mentioned elsewhere in this thread clearly shows who has priority on the band in question.

But your question is about *commercial* (nongovernment) users/ intruders into the amateur bands, where such use is not part of the regulations.

In theory, those intruders are breaking the law and should be removed by the FCC. In practice, the FCC is complaint-driven, which means amateurs must identify the intruder and complain to the FCC. Helping with such complaints is one of the major functions of the ARRL and its legal department.

But simply complaining to FCC does not mean the problem will be solved, because FCC's resources are very limited. The motorsports story referred to required a lot of work on the part of the ARRL and the amateurs involved.

73 de Jim, N2EY

431. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-07 12:58:25 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <7d5ef54e-daeb-45b1-bfe6-31be0d004014@y38g2000hsy.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2902

On May 5, 8:38 pm, AF6AY <LenAnder...@ieee.org> wrote:

> One thing that should NOT continue is to keep thinking in the
> paradigms of pre-WWII 'radio' as is often presented in amateur
> radio magazines.

What paradigms do you mean?

> Technology has gone through several plateau jumps
> of advancement since that long-ago time.

In some areas, that's true, but in others (such as simple practical HF antennas and transmission lines) things haven't changed very much.

> Fantasies of some amateur
> radio licensees are still rooted to back then. Those are lost in
> the reality of today's radio capabilites and uses. The general
> public has its own fantasies and it is foolish to attempt trying
> to tell them other fantasies.

Could you give some specific examples of the paradigms you mean, the "plateau jumps" in technology, and the fantasies you describe?

> Amateur radio is a HOBBY. Let's try to focus on that.

Amateur radio isn't *just* a hobby, though. The record of public service communication by radio amateurs shows there is a lot more to it, to give just one example.

> Model vehicles are a hobby for others. The Academy of Model
> Aeronautics doesn't pretend to advance the state of the art of
> aviation but it was successful in lobbying for a hundred
> frequency channels for radio-control two decades ago.

Let's consider that idea in detail...

Model control radio frequencies consist of those 100 channels near 70 MHz. Power output is limited to 1 watt and the transmitting antenna can be no larger than a quarter-wave monopole.

Model control isn't about using radio for its own sake, which IMHO is the heart-and-soul of amateur radio. Model control is about using radio for a single purpose, as a means to an end.

Does anyone think amateur radio should be limited by rules similar to those for model control? Or that the kind of allocations given to model-control enthusiasts would be adequate for amateur radio?

>�Consider
> that hobbyists are citizens and that the US government does
> listen to its citizens. �Work from that basis.

It seems to me that you are saying that radio amateurs should not talk about their roles in emergency communication (Hurricane Katrina, for example), public service communication (New York City Marathon), experimentation (K3TUP and cancer research), education (Space Shuttle hams), etc. IOW, all that should be deemphasized and ignored.

It seems to me that you're saying we hams should define ourselves as hobbyists *only*, and expect that to be the sole reason we have amateur bands and FCC/ITU protection.

Is that correct?

Jim, N2EY

432. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-07 17:48:04 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <68e70iF2t0a33U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2903
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

In news:4f98fae9-16b9-4dc2-92e6-e72174d91895@27g2000hsf.googlegroups.com,
N2EY@aol.com typed, for some strange, unexplained reason:
: On May 7, 12:03 am, "Ivor Jones" wrote:
:
: > what are the thoughts on my original point, that of the differences
: > in attitude of the authorities in the US and UK about protection
: > from
: > interference from commercial operators using frequencies
: > within the
: > amateur bands..? It seems to me, unless I've misunderstood,
: > that in the US
: > you can still claim a certain degree of protection from other users,
: > whereas here we can't.
:
: The following is just an informal observation...
:
: Here in the USA, we have two regulatory agencies for radio: FCC, which
: does non-government radio, and NTIA, which does government/military
: radio. NTIA trumps FCC, of course. The radar-interference case
: mentioned elsewhere in this thread clearly shows who has priority on
: the band in question.
:
: But your question is about *commercial* (nongovernment) users/
: intruders into the amateur bands, where such use is not part of the
: regulations.
:
: In theory, those intruders are breaking the law and should be removed
: by the FCC. In practice, the FCC is complaint-driven, which means
: amateurs must identify the intruder and complain to the FCC. Helping
: with such complaints is one of the major functions of the ARRL and its
: legal department.
:
: But simply complaining to FCC does not mean the problem will be
: solved, because FCC's resources are very limited. The motorsports
: story referred to required a lot of work on the part of the ARRL and
: the amateurs involved.
:
: 73 de Jim, N2EY

Ah, thanks. However, over here we do have "legal" intrusions into some of the amateur bands, most are in the microwave region, notably 10GHz, where we lost a sizeable chunk a while back.

The main one though is 431-432 MHz which is not available for use within 100km of Charing Cross (central London) and also for some distance around the military radar installation at Fylingdales in Yorkshire. In the London area I believe it's allocated to taxis of all things..! There isn't a lot of amateur activity in that segment, I think some wide-split repeaters may have inputs or outputs there but generally it's a low-occupancy segment of the band, so all in all it's not a major hassle.

It's the principle of the thing that annoys me, though. Even where we are primary users, such as 2m, we can claim *no* protection from interference, even if the cause of said interference shouldn't be there.

73 Ivor G6URP

433. Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-07 22:37:43 UTC
From: Bill Powell <whp@att.net>
Message-ID: <uab424hsdateu7sj9qr42pc30goqrdu4am@4ax.com>
Source record: 2904

Public notice posted yesterday - proposal to use 430-448 MHz for
remotely-controlled surveillance robot:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1077A1.pdf

Sigh...

434. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 01:02:42 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <3nj4241olracum7f2sotvg2mf0pl85gt8f@4ax.com>
Source record: 2905

On Wed, 7 May 2008 00:06:21 EDT, AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote:

>The migration of mass-volume messaging from HF to
>microwaves via commsat and, later, high-speed optical fiber cable,
>were done to avoid the ionospheric disturbances common to HF.

Actually, Len, the first "migration" was to the pre-fiber undersea cables. I was involved in moving Israel's circuits off HF onto the Haifa-Marseilles cable (and thence onto the TAT-5 cable) in 1967, several years before the parallel Intelsat satellite service was turned on. We had several ISB circuits to NY - double hop, mind you - and the rest of our circuits were HF to London, Paris, Athens, Moscow, and several other European cities and thence by landline and TAT-5 to the rest of the world. Of course, that all changed when Intelsat and the fiber cables came into service.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

435. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 01:43:47 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <cik424dc9m455vki6mtpm1fm1n7q556oaj@4ax.com>
Source record: 2906

On Wed, 7 May 2008 00:06:21 EDT, AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote:

>HF on the EM spectrum has far fewer users (other than hams
>now than it did four decades ago. The US military uses it now
>for backup (with limited traffic handling) as a sort of last-resort
>contingency use.

Very much out of the spotlight, states and counties have been setting
up HF networks on "commercial" frequencies for disaster relief, search
and rescue, and other functions where VHF/UHF won't do. I'm involved
with that here. This is in parallel with, not supplanting, the
volunteer services that amateur operators are rendering on HF, VHF,
and UHF through the ARES/RACES organizations. Not surprisingly, most
of the career professional Emergency Communication managers of these
governmental units are hams as well.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

436. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 01:52:50 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <npm4241pb0f2hff8g984eql9qhp34poobr@4ax.com>
Source record: 2907

On Wed, 7 May 2008 00:07:53 EDT, AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote:

> None of us 24/7 grunt communicators required any
>federal license to do our jobs.

You've been saying that for years, Len. It's disingenuous at best.

It's accurate to say that none of you had to have an _FCC_ license to
do your job. In reality, the "Federal license" that was required was
the assignment to your job by military superiors - who could yank you
out of there for any reason, real or imagined, effectively 'canceling"
that "license". At least the FCC has to hold a hearing at which you
can defend yourself.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

437. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 02:30:41 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <ee937d66-877e-42e9-bf8b-2255ab852f4e@8g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2908

On May 7, 9:02 pm, Phil Kane <Phil.K...@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> On Wed, 7 May 2008 00:06:21 EDT, AF6AY <LenAnder...@ieee.org> wrote:
> >The migration of mass-volume messaging from HF to
> >microwaves via commsat and, later, high-speed optical fiber cable,
> >were done to avoid the ionospheric disturbances common to HF.
>
> Actually, Len, the first "migration" was to the pre-fiber undersea
> cables.

The first of which (TAT-1) became operational in 1956.

Both the coaxial (copper) and fiber cables under the oceans require repeaters if their length exceeds 100 km or so. Some of the early undersea coaxial cables with their vacuum-tube repeaters are still functional, but their capacity is trivial compared to the fibers.

>I was involved in moving Israel's circuits off HF onto the
> Haifa-Marseilles cable (and thence onto the TAT-5 cable) in 1967,
> several years before the parallel Intelsat satellite service was
> turned on. We had several ISB circuits to NY - double hop, mind >
you -
> and the rest of our circuits were HF to London, Paris, Athens,
> Moscow,
> and several other European cities and thence by landline and
> TAT-5 to the rest of the world.

Great story, Phil! Does any of that remain as a backup? My guess would be that it is long gone.

>From a capacity standpoint, satellites are the backup now in most places, because the fiber bandwidth is so much greater.

It wasn't just ionospheric disturbance that pushed the change to satellites and cable, either. There's only so much useful HF spectrum, and the newer technologies offer many orders of magnitude greater bandwidth.

>Of course, that all changed when Intelsat and
> the fiber cables came into service.

And it continues to change. In this area, direct fiber-to-the-customer is becoming the standard; many homes here have no copper communications and little if any radio reception at all. Everything comes through the fiber - telephone (multiple lines if you want), highspeed internet, and TV. The fiber is RFI-and EMI-immune, too. The biggest headache they present for us hams is that sometimes the

switching power supply for the customer equipment is electrically noisy.

IMHO the real threat to Amateur Radio isn't the possible reallocation of the HF amateur bands to other services (although that's always a possibility, and VHF/UHF are not nearly so secure).

The major threat today, I think, is that the bands we have - MF, HF, VHF and UHF - are slowly being made less-usable or even unusable by a combination of factors:

1) Lack of enforcement against intruders, such as unlicensed use of 10 meters by truckers and others, spreading out from 11 meters. This has been a problem since at least the 1970s.

2) Reduction in the number of housing units where a ham can have a reasonable antenna system. Boilerplate anti-antenna CC&Rs have been pretty standard since the 1970s in many areas, and once in place they are often impossible to remove.

3) Consumer electronics that are not adequately RFI proofed.

4) Consumer electronics and other devices that make excessive RF noise in the ham bands. As the number of such devices increases, the noise floor in many locations rises to unusable levels.

5) A regulatory environment where the above problems are simply not given any priority. (You know more about that than I, Phil!)

73 de Jim, N2EY

(who had a small part in the installation of some overland fibers back in the '80s and '90s)

438. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 02:31:32 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <tln424ptaag9st109bne7jr5kiruaftb46@4ax.com>
Source record: 2909

On Wed, 7 May 2008 00:10:29 EDT, AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote:

>The AN/PRC-25 was solid-state except for the single vacuum tube
>in the PA. AN/PRC-77 was its fully solid-state version. Both
>were VHF with channelized tuning (considered abhorent by a few
>hams) but turned out to be mainstays for Vietnam field radio use.
>Both are now obsolete.

And we will never see them on the commercial surplus market available
to hams, like the WW-II stuff was decades earlier.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

439. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 03:13:01 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <vor4245ggbnj1hsbi668u5l4vlpe2bv052@4ax.com>
Source record: 2910

On Wed, 7 May 2008 22:30:41 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>And it continues to change. In this area, direct fiber-to-the-customer
>is becoming the standard; many homes here have no copper
>communications and little if any radio reception at all. Everything
>comes through the fiber - telephone (multiple lines if you want),
>highspeed internet, and TV. The fiber is RFI-and EMI-immune, too. The
>biggest headache they present for us hams is that sometimes the
>switching power supply for the customer equipment is electrically
>noisy.

The biggest headache for the subscriber is that all of the eggs are in
one basket and all it takes is some bozo with a backhoe to sever the
cable (trunk or drop) and everything goes away.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

440. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 08:48:31 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <o5o424h3c1qb4h77hnc3bmfpdnkhbgl02p@4ax.com>
Source record: 2911

On Wed, 7 May 2008 13:48:04 EDT, "Ivor Jones"
<ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote:

>It's the principle of the thing that annoys me, though. Even where we are
>primary users, such as 2m, we can claim *no* protection from interference,
>even if the cause of said interference shouldn't be there.

Things must have changed since my initial training in international radio regulation in the mid-1960s where the British Post Office (the forerunner of the RA) was held up as a model of "we'll lock you up if you don't have a licence to operate there" - and the French were pointed out as an example of "the ordinary citizen needs a radio as much as he needs a machine gun".....hams were a grudging exception, and of course when cellphones became available, everyone got one because they knew that cellphones were not radios, right? <g>

Then again, the FCC in the US - where I ultimately spent most of my professional career - was also very involved in "catching bad guys". The epidemic of unlawful CB operations of the 1970s and 80s - for which most of the world's governments never forgave the US - and an unfortunate shift in regard to what the government's obligations were - changed all that.

Notwithstanding the historical precedents of military-civilian sharing of frequency bands, granting commercial interests licenses to operate in the amateur bands is basic bad regulatory policy. All of us old-time regulation professionals knew that as an article of faith. The new crop is guided more by the buck (or the Euro, or the quid) than by what good regulatory policy is.

As far as the military goes, I learned early in the game that de facto the military of any country can operate on any frequency that it so desires if (1) it doesn't interfere with anything operating in that country and it (2) doesn't identify. If it wants to play the gentleman game the country will notify the operation to the ITU Radiocommunications Bureau (ITU-R) which now does what the International Frequency Registration Bureau (IFRB) did before ITU reorganization. Whether the information is accurate or not is an exercise left for the listener.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

441. Re: Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 08:50:35 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <m6q424lq3q2fqgont6pe4jn75qrlv63e32@4ax.com>
Source record: 2912

On Wed, 7 May 2008 18:37:43 EDT, Bill Powell <whp@att.net> wrote:

>Public notice posted yesterday - proposal to use 430-448 MHz for
>remotely-controlled surveillance robot:
>
>http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1077A1.pdf
>
>Sigh...

Pikers! Why didn't they apply for 20 kW and REALLY cause
interference?? <g> It almost sounds like they are using something
"off the shelf" that is being used elsewhere where the ham band ends
at 430 MHz. I've seen this stuff before.

My gut feeling is that with the present "leadership" at the FCC
(despite the fact that several good friends are in the Homeland
Security and Public Safety Bureau and wouldn't support it but for
pressure from above) it will be granted on a secondary priority behind
all the other secondary priority users. I hope that I am wrong and it
is denied.

Another reason to support the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

442. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 08:52:05 UTC
From: Jeff <jeff@local.host>
Message-ID: <4822b598$0$6432$834e42db@reader.greatnowhere.com>
Source record: 2913

> Ah, thanks. However, over here we do have "legal" intrusions into some of
> the amateur bands, most are in the microwave region, notably 10GHz, where
> we lost a sizeable chunk a while back.
>
> The main one though is 431-432 MHz which is not available for use within
> 100km of Charing Cross (central London) and also for some distance around
> the military radar installation at Fylingdales in Yorkshire. In the London
> area I believe it's allocated to taxis of all things..! There isn't a lot
> of amateur activity in that segment, I think some wide-split repeaters may
> have inputs or outputs there but generally it's a low-occupancy segment of
> the band, so all in all it's not a major hassle.
>
> It's the principle of the thing that annoys me, though. Even where we are
> primary users, such as 2m, we can claim *no* protection from interference,
> even if the cause of said interference shouldn't be there.
>
> 73 Ivor G6URP

The main problem in the UK is not the commercial use of 431-432 in the London area, rather the proliferation of licence exempt low power devices. Everything from key fobs to weather stations and tower crane anti-collision systems. They are popping up quite legally all over 70cms.

Even one 70cms repeater was ordered off the air because it was stopping people from remotely opening their car doors in a nearby carpark!

The UK has a Pave Paws derivative at Fylingdales at that caused a ban on new repeater applications in 70cms, the military being worried about the increase in noise floor that additional signals would introduce.

73
Jeff

443. Re: Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 12:33:14 UTC
From: Richard Crowley <rcrowley@xp7rt.net>
Message-ID: <24mdnVto_odqb7_VnZ2dnUVZ_qOknZ2d@pcez>
Source record: 2914

"Bill Powell" wrote ...
> Public notice posted yesterday - proposal to use 430-448 MHz for
> remotely-controlled surveillance robot:
>
> http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1077A1.pdf

Won't they have a bunch of bandwidth next february
when all the analog TV broadcasting goes dark? Then
they could choose a band that is even better at "building
penetration", etc.

444. Re: Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 14:34:25 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-1ADE7B.09493308052008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 2915

Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> [...]
> Another reason to support the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund.

Actually, it's another reason to wish that we had a REAL advocacy
organization, like the National Rifle Association, rather than the weak
and ineffectual ARRL, which is little better than the FCC's compliant
and obsequious lapdog.

--
Klystron

445. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 17:38:39 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <68gijgF2s4b16U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2916

In news:o5o424h3c1qb4h77hnc3bmfpdnkhbgl02p@4ax.com,
Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> typed, for some strange,
unexplained reason:
: On Wed, 7 May 2008 13:48:04 EDT, "Ivor Jones"
: <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote:
:
: >It's the principle of the thing that annoys me, though. Even where
: >we are primary users, such as 2m, we can claim *no* protection from
: >interference, even if the cause of said interference shouldn't be
: >there.
:
: Things must have changed since my initial training in international
: radio regulation in the mid-1960s where the British Post Office (the
: forerunner of the RA) was held up as a model of "we'll lock you up if
: you don't have a licence to operate there" - and the French were
: pointed out as an example of "the ordinary citizen needs a radio as
: much as he needs a machine gun".....hams were a grudging exception,
: and of course when cellphones became available, everyone got one
: because they knew that cellphones were not radios, right? <g>

Indeed. My friend Colin G3USA (great callsign, eh..!) tells me that in his
early days on air in the 60's an amateur could expect to be regularly
visited by an officer of the Radio Investigation Service who would check
your logbook and that you knew how to use a wavemeter for example.

In my 25 years of being licensed I've never been inspected once.

73 Ivor G6URP

446. Re: Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 17:40:33 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <RvqdneVKLJkVvL7VnZ2dnUVZ_gadnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2917

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Wed, 7 May 2008 18:37:43 EDT, Bill Powell <whp@att.net> wrote:
>
>> Public notice posted yesterday - proposal to use 430-448 MHz for
>> remotely-controlled surveillance robot:
>>
>> http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1077A1.pdf
>>
>> Sigh...
>
> Pikers! Why didn't they apply for 20 kW and REALLY cause
> interference?? <g> It almost sounds like they are using something
> "off the shelf" that is being used elsewhere where the ham band ends
> at 430 MHz. I've seen this stuff before.

Good point: that explains a lot, doesn't it? It all comes down to money, and given a choice between something ready-made and tested that can be marked up 10,000%, or a one-of assembly that costs more than you'd ever dare to charge, the choice seems obvious.

Hmmm, you know, that also explains why 146-148 MHz isn't available to hams in large portions of the world. Lot's of rigs from the U.S. market, easy to buy and use, can be plugged-and-played anywhere the governments choose. Must have been a similar process for 220.

I guess we hams _have_ been experimenters after all: we provided the funding to design and debug reliable gear that will now make life easy for some entrepreneurs. It wasn't the kind of experiment I would have chosen to start myself, but C'est la Vie.

> My gut feeling is that with the present "leadership" at the FCC
> (despite the fact that several good friends are in the Homeland
> Security and Public Safety Bureau and wouldn't support it but for
> pressure from above) it will be granted on a secondary priority behind
> all the other secondary priority users. I hope that I am wrong and it
> is denied.
>
> Another reason to support the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund.

What ever happened to all that TV spectrum that's supposed to be made available for "homeland security" next year? Does a bomb-sniffing robot not qualify, or has the thought of participating in a spectrum auction frightened the manufacturer into an attempted "land grab" instead?

The answer is obvious. You know, I'd like to see Michael Powell's investment portfolio: I bet that there are a lot of good stock tips to

be gleaned from it.

W1AC

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

447. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 17:41:31 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <IZWdnTJgyY9mhr7VnZ2dnUVZ_qCunZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2918

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Wed, 7 May 2008 00:10:29 EDT, AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote:
>
>> The AN/PRC-25 was solid-state except for the single vacuum tube
>> in the PA. AN/PRC-77 was its fully solid-state version. Both
>> were VHF with channelized tuning (considered abhorent by a few
>> hams) but turned out to be mainstays for Vietnam field radio use.
>> Both are now obsolete.
>
> And we will never see them on the commercial surplus market available
> to hams, like the WW-II stuff was decades earlier.

If I had been asked to make a choice of whether they _should_ be
available, I'd probably have shaken my head sadly and said "No". Given
that the PRC-25 covered not only the Low-VHF public safety bands and
some TV frequencies, but also the aircraft marker-beacon channel, as
well as six meters, I'd have to (reluctantly) agree with whomever else
said "No" in this case.

It's a shame, but it's also easy to understand: the FCC was _very_ badly
burned by the Citizen's Band fiasco, and I'd bet other government
bureaucrats in and out of the military had that fresh in their minds as
Vietnam was winding down and the PRC-25's were filling up warehouses.

73, Bill W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

448. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 20:03:52 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <4823412e$0$30507$4c368faf@roadrunner.com>
Source record: 2919

Bill Horne wrote:
> Phil Kane wrote:
>> And we will never see them on the commercial surplus market available
>> to hams, like the WW-II stuff was decades earlier.
>
> It's a shame, but it's also easy to understand: the FCC was _very_ badly
> burned by the Citizen's Band fiasco, and I'd bet other government
> bureaucrats in and out of the military had that fresh in their minds as
> Vietnam was winding down and the PRC-25's were filling up warehouses.

It's really more simple than that actually. At the end of World War Two, every one thought, "Well, that's the end of that. There will NEVER be another war now."

The military planners were looking at another 8 years of combat in the Pacific and on the island of Japan to bring a conclusion to World War Two. When the second atomic bomb was dropped, Japan threw in the towel and quit.

With the rather sudden end of the war with Japan, that left stocks for the planned additional 8 years of warfare with no place to use it.

So there really was more "war surplus" stuff available at the end of World War Two.

Most of the equipment used in Europe was left behind or just thrown off of ships etc rather than bring it back. Or we would still be seeing equipment for sale.

By the time Vietnam was over, the military, having found themselves fighting an enemy that didn't have any problems using our own equipment, they decided "No, that's not gonna happen again" and the move towards "demilitarizing" equipment rather than just auctioning it off by the pallet, or disposing it like the last time around.

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

449. Re: Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 20:04:34 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <9642082a-e532-4bd9-8000-61b86c479b63@c58g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2920

On May 8, 7:33 am, "Richard Crowley" <rcrow...@xp7rt.net> wrote:
> "Bill Powell" wrote ...
>
> > Public notice posted yesterday - proposal to use 430-448 MHz for
> > remotely-controlled surveillance robot:
>
> >http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1077A1.pdf
>
> Won't they have a bunch of bandwidth next february
> when all the analog TV broadcasting goes dark? Then
> they could choose a band that is even better at "building
> penetration", etc.

I thought that they where going to auction all that new found spectrum to the likes of Google and Sprint to be used for nationwide data/voice services. I don't recall if they where going to slice out any for other service types but here's hoping they do. Seems like a small slice dedicated to this kind of thing might be useful.

I can imagine that with all the hoopla between the primary spectrum user on 440 and the ham repeaters in the east and west that this might not fly with the FCC. Can you imagine the possible interference this might cause with the Air Force?

-= bob =-
KC4UAI

450. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-08 23:19:44 UTC
From: jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com
Message-ID: <v3ecf5-04k.ln1@mail.specsol.com>
Source record: 2921

Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:

> On Wed, 7 May 2008 00:10:29 EDT, AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote:

> >The AN/PRC-25 was solid-state except for the single vacuum tube
> >in the PA. AN/PRC-77 was its fully solid-state version. Both
> >were VHF with channelized tuning (considered abhorent by a few
> >hams) but turned out to be mainstays for Vietnam field radio use.
> >Both are now obsolete.

> And we will never see them on the commercial surplus market available
> to hams, like the WW-II stuff was decades earlier.
> --

A quick Google search show several surplus outfits selling these things.

Having used them in the military, I can't imagine why a ham would
want one these days.

They are also overpriced in my opinion.

--
Jim Pennino

Remove .spam.sux to reply.

451. Re: Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-09 01:22:44 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <2e3724hfj65psvjarafhpj6umpv3ich6do@4ax.com>
Source record: 2922

On Thu, 8 May 2008 13:40:33 EDT, Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:

>What ever happened to all that TV spectrum that's supposed to be made
>available for "homeland security" next year? Does a bomb-sniffing robot
>not qualify, or has the thought of participating in a spectrum auction
>frightened the manufacturer into an attempted "land grab" instead?

See my other post on this soapbox....
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

452. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-09 04:35:21 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <d7aa5b8c-0c09-4958-8436-cfd09d7c3292@m3g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2923

On May 8, 4:03 pm, Jeffrey D Angus <jan...@socal.rr.com> wrote:
> Bill Horne wrote:
> > Phil Kane wrote:

> > It's a shame, but it's also easy to understand: the
> > FCC was _very_ badly
> > burned by the Citizen's Band fiasco, and I'd bet other
> > government
> > bureaucrats in and out of the military had that fresh
> > in their minds as
> > Vietnam was winding down and the PRC-25's were
> > filling up warehouses.

I'm interested in more detail about how different people see "the
Citizen's Band fiasco.

IMHO, what happened was that FCC created UHF CB in 1948, and it went
OK except that its popularity was limited. This was because, in those
days, the good UHF equipment cost too much and the inexpensive UHF
equipment had pretty dismal performance.

So in 1958, FCC created 27 MHz CB, with the idea that the
equipment would be simpler and less expensive, while still giving
adequate performance for the intended uses. And it worked - for a
while.

But what FCC never counted on was that large numbers of people would
buy CB sets and simply ignore the regulations for CB. FCC could not
begin to adequately enforce the rules once the CB culture had become
one of simply ignoring them.

How do others see it?

> It's really more simple than that actually. At the end of World
> War Two, every one thought, "Well, that's the end of that. There
> will NEVER be another war now."

Well, the WW2 veterans I have known didn't think that way. But that's
really a minor thing.

> The military planners were looking at another 8 years of combat
> in the Pacific and on the island of Japan to bring a conclusion
> to World War Two. When the second atomic bomb was
> dropped, Japan
> threw in the towel and quit.

Do you have a source for the 8 years figure? From what I have read, and veterans' accounts, the invasion of Japan was expected to take a year or so, with enormous casualties on both sides.

But as you said, the atomic bomb, plus continued conventional bombing and the near-blockade by USN submarines, made all that pretty academic.

One WW2 veteran I knew well, who was in 7th Air Force B-24s, had 13 missions to Japan when the war ended. It took 40 missions to get rotated home, and he said that even in mid-1945 the chances were 1 in 3 a B-24 crew would not survive 40 missions.

> With the rather sudden end of the war with Japan, that left stocks
> for the planned additional 8 years of warfare with no place to use
> it.

Agreed, whether it was for 1 year or 8 years. Plus a lot of stuff was being made for Lend-Lease.

> So there really was more "war surplus" stuff available at the end
> of World War Two.
>
> Most of the equipment used in Europe was left behind or just thrown
> off of ships etc rather than bring it back. Or we would still be
> seeing equipment for sale.

I don't know if that's really true. From the veterans I have known some stuff was left behind, of course, because occupation troops still needed some things. But after May 1945, usable stuff from the European and other theatres was shipped back to the US for use in the invasion of Japan.

When the war ended suddenly, there whole supply chain was full of stuff in all stages of completion.

Remember that while the war ended in 1945, we were still seeing WW2 surplus for sale 25+ *years* later.

> By the time Vietnam was over, the military, having found
> themselves
> fighting an enemy that didn't have any problems using our own
> equipment, they decided "No, that's not gonna happen again" and > the
> move towards "demilitarizing" equipment rather than just
> auctioning
> it off by the pallet, or disposing it like the last time around.

Yep - but there's more to the story.

WW2 required enormous quantities of equipment, and American industry was almost totally dedicated to war production. For just one example, almost 20,000 B-24 bombers of various suffixes were produced in less than 5 years, which means 20,000 complete radio sets plus spares for them. And that's just one kind of airplane!

Korea, Vietnam and other conflicts were simply not on that scale.

In addition, much of the hardware produced for WW2 was essentially obsolete when the war ended. Piston-engine propeller fighter aircraft were already being replaced by the first-generation jets by 1945, for example. The use of HF for short-range radio was being replaced by VHF. Radar had gone through several generations during the war; in 1941 a 112 MHz radar was state-of-the-art, while in 1945 there were 10 GHz sets in mass production.

So there was a lot of old stuff in warehouses and in the supply chain to be disposed of.

Perhaps the biggest factor is simply this: A lot of WW2 surplus gear was easily adapted to ham use. A BC-342 receiver, for example, could be easily adapted for use in the ham shack. While it might not have been state-of-the-art even in 1946, it was a dern good ham rx for $50-70.

But later surplus, when we hams could get it, wasn't so easily used as ham gear. And it wasn't nearly so inexpensive.

73 de Jim, N2EY

453. Re: Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-09 04:35:39 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <7248b8f5-9b50-4e39-8428-b9c30391fe11@25g2000hsx.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2924

On May 8, 10:34 am, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> Actually, it's another reason to wish that we had a REAL advocacy
> organization, like the National Rifle Association, rather than the
> weak
> and ineffectual ARRL, which is little better than the FCC's
> compliant and obsequious lapdog.

That's an interesting comment....

How could an amateur radio advocacy organization be more effective?
Unlike the NRA, there's no radio-equivalent to the Second Amendment.

As for the ARRL being "weak and ineffectual", note the recent court decision on FCC's actions wrt BPL. That required taking the FCC to court, which is a pretty bold and risky move. Or note how FCC ruled against those motorsports' use of 440 - ARRL had a big role in that.

Sure, ARRL doesn't always win, but neither does the NRA.

Most of all, I don't see the ARRL as "FCC's compliant and obsequious lapdog". Time after time, ARRL has opposed FCC on issues affecting amateur radio.

What would you have an advocacy group do differently, given the limited number of US hams?

73 de Jim, N2EY

454. Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1604 - May 9, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-09 13:27:46 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080509015055.0209e108@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2925
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

NOTE TO PREFEED LIST: Because Ill be away from Los Angeles next week attending the Dayton Hamvention, and because this list lives only on my PC there will be no "prefed" sent out dor newscast 1605. Please just assume it will be at the www.yhoty.org website at about this time on Friday, May 16 and download the text version there. The prefeeds will resume for newscast 1606 on May 23. -- ARNewsline

Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1604 - May 9, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1604 with a release date of Friday, May 9th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. First response planners say major disasters and communications tops their list of concerns. Also, seven new ham radio cubesats are in space, B-P-L appears dead in Dallas Texas and scouts get ready for Hamvention 2008. Find out how on Amateur Radio Newsline" report number 1604 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: SURVEY SAYS TECHNOLOGY PARAMOUNT TO PLANNERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

First responders say that responding to a major disaster is their top worry and technology plays a key role in planning. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more:

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The May issue of Popular Communications Magazine says that sixty five percent of 200 public safety officials and first responders cited the ability to respond to natural disasters as a top concern. This, in response to a nationwide survey conducted jointly by the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials and telecommunications manufacturer Motorola.

The survey revealed that in the area of interest in new technology, some 47 percent of those surveyed had interested in new satellite tracking technology. Another 41 percent said automatic license plate recognition was a paramount issue.

Regarding the area of communications, given a hypothetical funding increase for their departments, public safety officials seemed to agree that almost as much needed to be spent on communications technologies than on training of personnel. Communications improvements were only topped by the need for additional personnel.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the studio in Los Angeles.

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The complete article is on page 8 of the May issue of Popular Communications magazine. (PopComm)

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RADIO LAW: FCC REFUSES PETITION TO EXPAND 2 METER REPEATER SUBBANDS FOR DIGITAL OPERATIONS

I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, with late breaking news. Dateline Washington D-C where the Federal Communications Commission on May 7th denied a petition filed by two California hams asking that an additional repeater subband be created on 2 meters. This, ostensibly to permit the introduction of digital voice repeaters in areas where no spectrum exists for them.

In the petition for Rule Making filed last October 10th, Ken D. Chafin, W6CPA, and Leon J. Brown, KC6JAR, Commission amend its rules to allow repeater stations to transmit in the 145.5 to145.8 MHz segment of the 2 meter amateur band. This, in addition to the 2 meter frequency segments currently authorized for repeater station operation. In their petition Chafin and Brown argued that additional spectrum is needed for repeater stations because some amateur repeater stations have begun using certain digital communication protocols, and "digital voice operation is incompatible with existing analog operations . This, because digital voice users are unable to determine if the desired frequency is in use by analog users and can inadvertently cause harmful interference to those users. The pair also argued that coordinating groups have been unable to separate analog and digital voice repeater operations to avoid harmful interference because the available repeater spectrum in the 2 meter band is fully occupied by existing analog users in most metropolitan areas."

After consideration of their request, the agency concluded that the Petition does not present grounds for the Commission to propose to amend its rules. That repeater stations are authorized to transmit on any frequency in the 2 meter band except the 144.0 to 144.5 MHz and 145.5 to146.0 MHz frequency segments. These two segments were excluded to minimize the possibility of harmful interference to other amateur service stations and operating activities, especially "weak signal" operations. The FCC says that allocating an additional three hundred kilohertz of the 2 meter band to repeater operation would not be consistent with that concern. Rather, it would likely result in increased interference to non-repeater stations.

Moreover, to the extent that the petition proposes a separate frequency segment for use by digital but not analog repeater stations, the FCC note that when the Commission has previously addressed the issue of interference between amateur stations engaging in different operating activities, it has declined to revise the rules to limit a frequency segment to one emission type in order to prevent interference to the operating activities of other amateur radio service licensees Rather, the Commission noted that

interference between amateur stations is already addressed by Section 97.101(b) and (d) of the Commissions Rules. These require amateur licensees to cooperate in selecting transmitting channels and in making the most effective use of amateur frequencies, provide that no amateur frequency will be assigned for the exclusive use of any station allocated to the Amateur Radio Service, and prohibit operators from willfully or maliciously interfering with or causing interference to any radio communication or signal.

The bottom line. The FCC says no new repeater subband will be created to cater to the desires of digital voice operators. Rather, those wanting to use this or any other emerging modes will have to do so within the context of the existing Amateur Services rules. Rules that say repeaters, be they analog or digital have to stay in their own R-F back yards and operate in a way as to cause no interference to other users of bands where repeater and non repeater operations both exist. It also might be viewed as a kind of subliminal warning to coordinators who are considering putting digital voice repeaters in spectrum outside of established repeater subbands to reconsider and not make such a move. (FCC)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: 7 NEW CUBESAT - HAMSATS ALL OK

The April 28th launch of 10 satellites aboard an Indian Space Research rocket put 7 amateur radio cubesats and 3 commercial scientific birds into space. Telemetry indicates that all solar panels and antennas have properly deployed. Other telemetry shows values for all on orbit housekeeping activities are normal. More on these birds is on line at the U-R-L in this weeks printed Newsline report.

An excellent source of information for each of these satellites can be found at: http://space.skyrocket.de/index_frame.htm (scroll down to the April 28 data). Also see Ralph W0RPK Cubesat Webpage at: http://showcase.netins.net/web/wallio/CubeSat.htm. (ANS)

**

THE BPL WAR: NEWSPAPER REPORTS "BPL PLAN IS DEAD IN DALLAS

Broadband Over Powerline or B-P-L appears to be a dead issue in Dallas, Texas.

The ARRL quotes a Dallas Morning News report that a plan for using power lines to deliver Internet service to 2 million area homes collapsed. This after Current Group, LLC announced plans to sell its Dallas B-P-L network for $90 million to Oncor.

Oncor is a regulated electric distribution and transmission business that reportedly has no plans to offer Internet service. Instead it will use the network to detect power distribution monitoring.

Current originally touted the network as a way to offer Internet service to its consumers and had entered into a marketing arrangement with DirecTV. DirecTV customers who get Internet service through Current's network will probably lose service when the deal goes through.

Dallas and Houston are the only metropolitan areas in Texas with BPL Internet access to customers homes. Austin had also considered the use of B-P-L but decided against it.

More is on-line at <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/bus/stories/DN-current_02bus.ART.State.Edition1.460d413.html>http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/bus/stories/DN-current_02bus.ART.State.Edition1.460d413.html

. (ARRL)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: MARKET REEF WILL BE ON IN JULY

Some breaking news in the world of D-X. Word has been released that six well known operators will activate Market Reef between from July 11th to the 14th . The expedition is time so that the operators will be able to take part in the I-A-R-U High Frequency World Championship event on July 12th and 13th.

The group says that it will have three stations on the air on 160 through 6 meters. All operators will use their home calls portable Oh J Zero before and after the IARU Contest, except for O-H-1-V-R who will use O-J-Zero-V-R. QSL each station to his or her home calls and O-J-Zero-V-R via OH1VR.

A special callsign for the contest has been applied for and is not yet known. We will have more DX news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (OPDX)

**

RADIO LAW: COMPANY WANTS TO TRANSMIT DRM IN ALASKA

Digital Aurora Radio Technologies has applied to the FCC to use Short Wave Digital Radio Mondiale in Alaska. A report on the 26 MHz D-R-M site at www.26mhz.us say that the company has applied to the FCC for authorization to experiment with statewide DRM in the 5, 7 and 9 MHz shortwave bands. While no specific frequencies are mentioned the company says that its ultimate goal of this project is to provide a terrestrial digital radio service to the citizens of Alaska.

A unique element of the proposed station is its use of government surplus over-the-horizon radar transmitters for the project. Tests by the system manufacturer, Continental Electronics, demonstrated the capability of the transmitter to broadcast Digital Radio Mondiale with excellent performance characteristics and within the spectral mask recommended by the ITU for this mode

The FCC has assigned the callsign WE2XRH to this station, but its license was pending at the time of this writing. Digital Aurora Radio Technologies is home based in Delta Junction Alaska, approximately 130 miles southeast of Fairbanks. Digital Radio Mondiale or DRM is an open, non-proprietary digital standard for sound and data broadcasting, world-wide. (Southgate)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world, including the following bulletin station.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: THE VOIP HURRICANE NET WANTS YOU

If you are skilled in emergency communications then the Voice over Internet Protocol or VoIP Hurricane Net wants you.

According to a press release the VoIP Net Management team is looking for operators from any geographic area to maintain a net for as long as emergency communications are required before, during and shortly after hurricanes. This could be up to 24 hours a day and sometimes for several days.

Net Control Operators from the Pacific, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and other international areas are also very essential. They play a critical role in assisting net operations during the overnight hours of a North American activation during their local daytime. This, by providing North American controllers a rest period during their normal overnight hours. Also needed are hams fluent Spanish in order to further support operations in South and Central America, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

The net management team will be offering control operator training in the coming weeks. If you're interested please contact Rob Macedo, KD1CY, who is the Director of Net Operations or Scheduler Jim Palmer, KB1KQW who is the nets weekly Activation Net Control. Both are good in the callbook or at QRZ.com.

The VoIP Hurricane Net was created in 2002. It serves as a support network providing services to WX4NHC. Thats the amateur radio station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida. (VOPI Net Release)

**

RESCUE RADIO: FCC WANTS CELL SITES TO HAVE EMERGENCY POWER

The government wants every cellular telephone tower in the country to have at least 8 hours of battery or other power backup at every one of the nations cellular tower and other receive and transmit sites, but it has not addressed how the cell phone infrastructure will be able to handle the millions of calls that might be expected during a man made or natural disaster. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:

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The FCC says that when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in 2005, wind and flooding knocked out power to hundreds of cell towers and cell sites. This says the regulator lead to the silencing of wireless communication

exactly when emergency crews and victims needed it.

To avoid similar telecommunications collapse in the future, the Federal Communications Commission wants cellular transmitter sites in the U.S. to have at least eight hours of backup power in the event mains power fails. Several cellular service providers agree that their networks need to become more resilient to disaster, but they oppose the FCC's backup power regulations, claiming they were illegally drafted and would present a huge economic and bureaucratic burden.

A federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., has already placed put the new regulations on hold while it considers an appeal by some in the wireless industry. But the FCC is expected to fight hard to get its way. The agency says that the need for backup power at cell sites in the event of emergencies has been made abundantly clear by recent events, and the cost of failing to

have such power may be measured in lives lost.

There is one fallacy with the FCC argument. While battery power at cell sites might keep them operational unless the tower falls or the site is totally destroyed, it does not mean that very many calls would get through. The very nature of the cellular telephone infrastructure is rather fragile and was not developed to be a stand alone emergency communications system. Thats because its open for anyone, anywhere to use 24 hours a day.

What the FCC has yet to address is how to handle the call volume that would likely bring cellular service to a halt if an emergency like the agency is describing were to come to pass. An emergency where a decentralized two way radio system would likely be the only form of communications system to survive. An emergency communications system such as that provided free of charge by radio amateur across the United States and world wide.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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There are almost 210,000 cell towers and roof-mounted cell sites across the country and carriers have said many would require some modification. At least one industry estimate puts the price tag for an 8 hour back up power system at up to $15,000 each. (Published reports)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: SOUTHWEST MISSOURI SKYWARN AT EMNERGENCY EXPO

Hams who are active in the Southwest Missouri SKYWARN network along with the National Weather Service, demonstrated what they do during the Family Preparedness Festival on Saturday, May 3rd at the Springfield Expo Center. The display was part of an emergency expo sponsored by Convoy of Hope and the Springfield, Missouri Chamber of Commerce.

The Southwest Missouri SKYWARN group handed out packets of information from the National Weather Service on severe weather spotting and safety . They

also had a tornado simulator operational and screened videos of tornadoes and severe thunderstorms taken from the field.

Ham radios and other specialized equipment used in severe weather spotting was in full operation for public viewing. Information was available to anyone looking to become a ham radio operator and the needed training to participate in SKYWARN. (eHam)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: NEW POLL - ARE THEY COMING OUR WAY

Bill Morine, N2COP, says that for the first time in several years, his local club in Williamgton, North Carolina, has been asked by two non-profit groups to provide communications for events. The first was the local air show where there were 10 hams helped to coordinate a crowd of 20,000. The second is an upcoming local YMCA group that will be hosting a 1,300 participant triathlon in November.

Accordong to Bill, in both cases, staff members said they had approached cellular service providers which had supplied phones to their events since the 1990s. The cell carriers said they didn't want to any longer donate phones or air time to the events

Bill says that if this trend is true, it can re-open public service opportunities and media exposure for amateur radio. He and we are curious if anyone else out there is witnessing the same thing. Please check the on-line polls area at www dot arnewsline dot org to respond. (N2COP, ARNewsline")

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: 5TH ANNUAL ARMAD ON MAY 24

May is Military Appreciation Month and the fifth annual Amateur Radio Military Appreciation day -- better known as ARMAD -- will take place May 24th.

ARMAD is an award winning event and live forum involving Amateur Radio Operators from around the world to spread messages of support for our Military Veterans, and Active Duty Members.

A non-political Amateur Radio Project that has grown rapidly, ARMAD has received recognition and support from many local communities and national organizations.

ARMAD encourages our Amateur Radio Operators from our communities to gather at public venues such as shopping malls, parks, VA Hospitals and sporting events, to allow the public to express verbal positive support live over two way radio for members of the Military, Veterans, Reserves, National Guard, and Military Support Groups.

ARMAD has produced a public service spot suitable for airplay on any radio station. We've heard it and its great. For more information please visit

www.armad.net. (armad)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: GW1FKY CALL IS IN SPACE

The Southgate News reports that Ken Eaton GW1FKY had always dreamed of one day flying in space. Now, thanks to the Technical University of Delft, GW1FKY is orbiting the earth. At least he is vicariously. The story goes like this.

When the team building the Delfi-C3 satellite, attended the AMSAT-UK International Space Colloquium they made a very generous offer to help boost AMSAT-UKs satellite building fund. They decided to allow one Amateur's callsign to fly in space onboard their satellite. This chance to have your call sign fly on the satellite was auctioned at the Annual AMSAT-UK Dinner and there was fierce bidding to win this privilege. Ken Eaton GW1FKY was the winner and his call sign was put into Delfi-C3 and has now been launched into Earth orbit. (Southgate)

**

HAMVENTION NEWS: DAYTON EXECUTIVE HOTEL CLOSES

Turning to Hamvention related news, word that the Dayton Executive Hotel, a 253-room hotel on Needmore Road, has closed. WHIO-TV reported Tuesday, April 29th that the hotel, that the hotel has 231 rooms, but it was only about 10 percent booked. Former employees told the station that mainly construction workers were their guests at the present time.

In relation to the Dayton Hamvention, the Dayton Executive Hotel was one of the closest to the Hara Arena. Located at the Needmore Road exit of Interstate 75, it was mainly frequented by smaller vendors and flea market sellers who wanted to stay as close to the Hara complex.

At airtime its unknown as to how many Hamventiuon goers, if any, will be affected by the Dayton Executive Hotel closure. (News reports)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: 350 ATTEND EMCOMMWEST IN RENO

Emcommwest, an ARRL Specialty Convention sported a record crowd of over 350 people this year in Reno, Nevada.

Keynote speaker, Dennis Dura, K2DCD Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager from the ARRL said that he was delighted with the convention and that he just may have to make this event one of his regular visiting sites.

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH special council of the FCCs enforcement Bureau, who thanked amateur radio emergency communicators for their hard work with disasters and for assisting many served agencies. He said that amateurs should be commended for their work in support to their nation and local communities.

Mr. Ham Radio, Gordon West, WB6NOA came in from southern California, as a forum presenter and banquet speaker. His presentation kept the capacity crowd on their toes as he did one of his famous presentations, this time with a piece of smoking gear, allegedly purchased at the Saturday morning swap meet. This was one of the highlights of the weekend.

Emcommwest will be back next year May 1-3 once again in Reno. For pictures of the event, check the website at www dot emcommwest dot org. (Emcommwest)

**

HAM RADIO ON THE WEB: HOUSTON AMSAT NET ON ITUNES

The Houston AMSAT Net Podcast has now been picked up by iTunes. To subscribe, do a search on the iTunes site for "Houston AMSAT Net," "KK5DO" or "Bruce Paige." Any of those three search arguments should bring it up and you will then be offered the opportunity to subscribe to the Podcast. (ANS)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for todays radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: FORMER K7ANQ - AGE 99 - SK

99 year old former Alaska resident Lily Osterback Alford, the former K7ANQ, died April 24th at home in Lake Stevens, Washingtron.

According to the Anchorage Daily News, it was in the 1930's that newspapers labeled Lily as the 'Queen of the North.' because she had the ability to communicate with people all over the world on the family's homemade transmitter and receiver.

According to family members Lily was half Aleut. Her greatest moment of fame came in the early 1930s as the only 'Indian Girl' in the United States to hold a ham radio license at that time.

A memorial celebration of the life of Lily Osterback Alford was held at the Bitterlake Community Center in Seattle, Washington. (Anchorage Daily News)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: INTERNET INTO THE JET BLUE

The Internet is taking to the sky and its using radio to do it. Jim Damron, N8TMW, has the details:

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JetBlue Airways will be teaming up with Research in Motion and Yahoo to provide free e-mail and instant messaging on its flights. Network World says that this means that there are now at least four airlines with announced plans to experiment with in-flight broadband connectivity. Others involved in bringing passengers a similar service include American Airlines, Alaska Airlines and the newly formed Virgin America.

What does not seem to be on the table at this time is in-flight cellular telephone use. While many business people believe it would be advantageous to be able to conduct deals from on high, others in the general public say that they do not want to be annoyed by someone chatting away coast to coast as they try to grab a few hours of sleep. So for now it looks as if text messaging and maybe Internet browsing will be the first major step in bringing the Internet to the sky.

From Charleston West Virginia, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, reporting.

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Look for more airlines to jump on board the inflight web access band-wagon before years end. (Science OnLine)

**

WORLDBEAT - ITALY: ITALIAN HAMS GET 4 METER BAND

Italy's Ministry of Communications has authorized Italian amateurs to use three spot frequencies on the 4 meter or 70 MHz band. All modes are permitted at a maximum of 25 watts effective radiated power on 70.100, 70.200 and 70.300MHz, plus or minus 25 kHz. This experimental allocation runs until December 31, 2008. Further information can be found at www.space.it/70MHz. (SouthgaTE)

**

WORLDBEAT - UK: RSGB COMPLETES MOVE TO NEW HQ

The Radio Society of Great Britain has completed its relocation to its new headquarters in Bedford and is fully operational. The Bedford office is purely administrative and will not be open to visitors.

A new visitors center, the RSGB Pavilion, will be set up at Bletchley Park. It will include the National Amateur Radio Library and Museum and the GB3RS shack. Bletchley Park is an estate located in the town of Bletchley, in Buckinghamshire. During World War II, it was the location of the United Kingdom's main Nazi axis code-breaking operation.

As to the RSGB move, for the time being, QSL Bureau cards should continue to be sent to PO Box 1773, Potters Bar, EN6 3DP. They are being automatically forwarded to the QSL handler. The new headquarters mailing address is 3 Abbey Court, Priory Business Park, Bedford, England, MK44 3WH. The phone number and all e-mail addresses remain the same. (rsgb)

**

WORLDBEAT - NEW ZEALAND: IARU REGION 3 TURNS 40

Region 3 of the International Amateur Radio Union is turning 40. The New Zealand Amateur Radio Transmitters bulletin says that this month marks the 40th anniversary of the formation of Region 3 which was formed in 1968 at its Inaugural meeting, held in conjunction with the 1968 Federal Convention of the Wireless Institute of Australia. In the city of Sidney

From outside Australia those present at this meeting included Harry Burton, ZL2APC, and Tom Clarkson, ZL2AZ, from New Zealand. Also present were Emilio Asisitores, DU1EA, of the Philippines, along with Kan Mizoguchi, JA1BK, and Kenichi Kajii, JA1FG, from Japan.

Attending representing the IARU world body was its then President Bob Denniston, W0DX. National societies represented at the inaugural congress were the JARL, NZART, PARS and the WIA. (NZART)

**

ON THE AIR: INTERNATIONAL MUSEUMS WEEKENDS FROM GREECE

Greece will be on the air for a pair of upcoming ham radio operating events. SV2CWV, SV2HRV, SV2KBB and SV2LBB will be active using the special callsign SX2MT during the 2008 International Museums Weekends from the Museum of Vergina in Hella, Greece.

The International Museums Weekend takes place on the weekends of June 14th and 15th and 21st to the 22nd. Activity by the Greek stations will be on all bands and using all modes. QSL via SV2KBB, direct only or electronically using eQsl (opdx)

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DX

In D-X, word that members of the Ukrainian National Team will be active as

EM5HQ during the 2008 IARU HF Contest on July 12th and 13th. The QSL manager for this year event is UR5EAW. All QSLs will be sent via the QSL Bureau. Stations making 4 QSOs with the station EM5HQ will be sent a special certificate.

M0OXO and M0NJW will be active as MJ0X from Les Minquiers Islands during the R-S-G-B Islands On The Air Contest on July 26th and 27th. Outside of the contest, look for Charles to sign GB8LMI between July 23rd and the 29th. QSL via M3ZYZ.

JL3RDC will be active as NH0DX from the Marians Islands during the

CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest from October 25th to the 26th. This, as a Single-Operator, All-Band High-Band entry. QSL via JL3RDC direct only. No cards will be accepted via the bureau.

PA0IJM, will be active as SI9AM from the King Chulalongkorn Memorial Amateur Radio Societyin Sweden from late evening through May 15th. QSL via SM3CVM, by the bureau or direct to his Callbook address.

A7HMZ will make his usual regular May trip to Pohnpei and will once again be active as V63DX between May 19th and the 24th. He will operate on all band and modes including 6 meters. QSL via JA7HMZ.

Lastly, Ted Melinosky, K1BV, says that he has assumed QSL Manager duties for 4L8A. Ted is also the QSL Manager for D4B, D44TT and EY8MM. His address is 12 Wells Woods Road, Columbia, CT. 06237.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: SCOUTS AT HAMVENTION 2008

And finally this week, if you see a lot of scouts in the halls And flea market of the 2008 Dayton Hamvention, it wont be an illusion. Thats because Scout Leaders will be reaching out to ham radio operators at Hamvention to encourage them to provide more amateur radio opportunities to scouts back in their home towns. Amateur Radio Newsline's own scout leader, Mark Abramovich, NT3V, is here with the details:

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Bill Ragsdale, K6KN, is a district chairman for Yolo, in the Golden Empire Council in Woodland, California, just outside of Sacramento.

A ham since 1954, Bill came up with the idea of combining his two hobbies - Scouting and amateur radio into a presentation he'll give on Saturday, May 17 at 9 a.m. in Room 2 at Hamvention

"I put together a 45-minute program on the interaction between Scouting and ham radio," explains Ragsdale. "It's called 'Adventures with Elmer Baden Powell. It's a play on the concept of Elmer as a mentor and Baden Powell as the founder of the Scout movement."

Ragsdale, active on Scouting internet chat sites, has assembled a small staff of volunteers to help deliver a program that will offer lots of good ideas for hams willing to hook up with Scouts.

"We cover how to get involved with the Jamboree on the Air, how to use IRLP and Echo Link to establish worldwide communications and how to put on local events at that time period," Ragsdale says.

The bottom line, Ragsdale says, is it's easy to get involved.

"Scouts have events such as camporees, jamborees, jamborama that are outdoor events and we find that amateur radio is a natural fit for that," he says.

Ragsdale says he's also setting up a booth in one of the exhibit halls to encourage some networking between Scouts and hams.

"We anticipate we'll have 500 or 600 people come by the booth and our idea is to educate them and provide resources for them that they can take away with them," Ragsdale says.

And, there's one more thing the group will do.

Matt Murphy, KC8BEW, of the Muskingham Valley Council in Zanesville, Ohio, is behind an effort to get Boy Scout camps which have ham radio operating for the summer to register with a database he's calling SCOTA for Scout Camps on the Air.

"We'll kind of pattern it like some of the others, lighthouses for one, IOTA, something like that," Murphy says. "And, what we'll do is come up with a numbering system which, incidentally, has been provided to us by the Boy Scouts of America because every council has an assigned number."

Murphy says the idea has been gelling for less than a year. He says he's looking first to gather the data and then set up a general area on the web where it can be accessed.

"It started out about six, eight-months-ago," Murphy says. "Started coming up with the idea and started taking it from there. And, I'm hoping to get some contact with Boy Scouts at the national headquarters.

"My council, local council is helping out a little bit and kind of get the word out to begin that way."

You can learn more about this program by going to our website, A-R Newsline-dot-O-R-G, click on the script for this

week's show and scroll down to That Final Item where you'll find a website anchored by W6BSA and Ragsdale.

Visit http://YoloBSA.editme.com/Dayton for further information.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

--

The 2008 Dayton Hamvention takes place May 16th, 17th and 18th at the Hara Arena. To name manufacturers will be there, The ARRL will have its expo there. Newsline will be hosting the Ham Radio Town Meeting on Saturday the 17th and we hope to see many of you there as well. (ARNewsline")

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline". Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's" only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline", P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award ends at midnight on May 30th. Nominations postmarked after that time or received electronically after that time will not be considered. A nominating form as a dot pdf file is available at our

special Young Ham of the Year website at www.yhoty.org. Download it, fill it out and send it to us by U-S mail or electronically.

Again thats www.yhoty.org to nominate a young ham for this years Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year. And as we said, the nomination cuttoff date is midnight on May 30th, 2008.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, Im Don Carlson, KQ6FM, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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455. Re: Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-09 15:31:26 UTC
From: "Paul W. Schleck" <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>
Message-ID: <48246214$0$30934$540ea2cf@novia.net>
Source record: 2926

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
Hash: SHA1

In <7248b8f5-9b50-4e39-8428-b9c30391fe11@25g2000hsx.googlegroups.com> N2EY@aol.com writes:

>On May 8, 10:34 am, Klystron <x...@yyy.zzz> wrote:

>> Actually, it's another reason to wish that we had a REAL advocacy
>> organization, like the National Rifle Association, rather than the
>> weak
>> and ineffectual ARRL, which is little better than the FCC's
>> compliant and obsequious lapdog.

>That's an interesting comment....

>How could an amateur radio advocacy organization be more effective?
>Unlike the NRA, there's no radio-equivalent to the Second Amendment.

>As for the ARRL being "weak and ineffectual", note the recent court
>decision on FCC's actions wrt BPL. That required taking the FCC to
>court, which is a pretty bold and risky move. Or note how FCC ruled
>against those motorsports' use of 440 - ARRL had a big role in that.

>Sure, ARRL doesn't always win, but neither does the NRA.

>Most of all, I don't see the ARRL as "FCC's compliant and obsequious
>lapdog". Time after time, ARRL has opposed FCC on issues affecting
>amateur radio.

>What would you have an advocacy group do differently, given the
>limited number of US hams?

>73 de Jim, N2EY

The narrative does seem to fall flat when a so-called "compliant and
obsequious lapdog" sues its master in Federal Court and scores at least
a partial win.

Furthermore, there's other significant differences between the ARRL and
the NRA that need to be considered when making suggestions about how to
increase the League's effectiveness.

For one, the NRA is a 501(c)4 organization, whereas the ARRL is
501(c)3. Both are not-for-profit and exempt from federal tax (state
laws vary). However, there are subtle, but important differences
between each one, which are detailed at:

http://nonprofitmanagement.suite101.com/article.cfm/what_is_a_501c4_organization

Some of the high points are:

- 501(c)3 organizations can receive Federal grants. 501(c)4 organizations cannot.

- Donations to 501(c)3 organizations are tax-exempt. Donations to 501(c)4 organizations are not.

- 501(c)4 organizations can devote an unlimited time to lobbying, and can participate in political campaign activity, including supporting or opposing anyone running for public office. 501(c)3 organizations are strictly limited in their lobbying, and cannot support or oppose anyone running for public office.

So, to be as effective as the NRA in your mind, the ARRL would probably have to form a 501(c)4 organization, in addition to the existing 501(c)3 organization. The NRA does actually have both, with a 501(c)3 called the "NRA Foundation" which does charitable work consistent with the rules for that type of organization, and can benefit from tax-exempt donations and Federal grants, in exchange for separating off the lobbying and campaigning activities into the 501(c)4.

The NRA has over 4 million members. Even if the League was able to enjoy 100% membership among hams in the U.S., that would only be about 650,000. So for similar dues amounts (about $35 annual, $1,000 life), the NRA is able to raise far more money. Do you feel that the trade-offs in forming a 501(c)4 organization for lobbying and campaigning would be worthwhile despite the required increases in expenses, from loss of tax exemption and access to Federal grants, that would have to be spread out over a much smaller membership base? Could there even be a risk to the effectiveness of the League in the eyes of elected officials if they did form a 501(c)4 organization, and thus become "yet another" lobbying/campaigning group?

- --
73, Paul W. Schleck, K3FU
pschleck@novia.net
http://www.novia.net/~pschleck/
Finger pschleck@novia.net for PGP Public Key

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----
Version: GnuPG v1.4.5 (SunOS)

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=M9sm
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456. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-09 15:34:43 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <SPOdnb6xuaA68LnVnZ2dnUVZ_hOdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2927

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On May 8, 4:03ï¿½pm, Jeffrey D Angus <jan...@socal.rr.com> wrote:
>> Bill Horne wrote:

>>> It's a shame, but it's also easy to understand: the
>>> FCC was _very_ badly burned by the Citizen's Band fiasco,
>>> and I'd bet other government bureaucrats in and out of the
>>> military had that fresh in their minds as Vietnam was
>>> winding down and the PRC-25's were filling up warehouses.
>
> I'm interested in more detail about how different people see "the
> Citizen's Band fiasco.
>
> IMHO, what happened was that FCC created UHF CB in 1948, and it went
> OK except that its popularity was limited. This was because, in those
> days, the good UHF equipment cost too much and the inexpensive UHF
> equipment had pretty dismal performance.
>
> So in 1958, FCC created 27 MHz CB, with the idea that the
> equipment would be simpler and less expensive, while still giving
> adequate performance for the intended uses. And it worked - for a
> while.
>
> But what FCC never counted on was that large numbers of people would
> buy CB sets and simply ignore the regulations for CB. FCC could not
> begin to adequately enforce the rules once the CB culture had become
> one of simply ignoring them.
>
> How do others see it?

I think the Citizen's Band was a good idea, but at the worst possible time. As you point out, the FCC took 11 meters away from hams because commercial equipment was still using vacuum tubes, and they wanted CB to have inexpensive radios.

In retrospect, the cynic in me wonders if the commissioners were preassured by an industry that could see the sunset coming for vacuum tubes, and which wanted to clear the shelves before it got stuck with millions of 12BY7's. No matter: whatever the reason for the decision, it worked surprisingly well for about ten years, and then went downhill quickly when invaded by yahoos of all types.

What started the decline is open to question, although the sunspots cycle certainly played a role (1): in the end the small businesses who employed the Citizen's Band as it was intended to be used, and the

people who used CB because they wanted to imitate hams, were both overwhelmed by foul-mouthed trailer-trash who sought out CB as a pipeline into a captive audience whom could be forced to listen to their delusions of grandeur. In the end we all learned anew that a few rotten apples really _do_ spoil the barrel.

Which brings us to the question of why the FCC got burned: a psychologist would say that it was compensation for Vietnam and the civil unrest of the 60's. The FCC was so roundly criticized for CB's decline because the government minions in other bureaus, who had found out the hard way that a million people really _can't_ be wrong, wasted no time blaming the FCC for not getting on the new bandwagon.

After all, the FCC was the most staid of federal bureaus, responsible for issuing licenses to, and assessing fines on, a public thoroughly cowed by the 50's Duck-and-cover drills and McCarthyism: between mild-mannered ham operators and cautious broadcasters and conservative business-band licensees, it simply wasn't in the commission's world-view to imagine radio users who wouldn't follow the rules.

When the Citizen's Band went from a well-intentioned "service" to an uncontrollable nightmare in less than two years, the commission had to take abuse from everyone else in and out of the government who were still smarting from _their_ earlier revelations that they could predict or control the actions neither of the ungrateful whelps who had picked up placards and told a nation of their elders to shove the American Dream, nor of the froggy little native boys who had picked up AK-47's and said "No, Daddy Warbucks, you *won't* do that here".

73, W1AC

(1) There were other factors, as well: the FCC never counted on "Smokey and the Bandit" and other films, which were rushed into theaters to take advantage of the CB craze, and in the process helped to spread it. The first "Bandit" was produced so quickly that the actors didn't even learn how to use two-way radios, with the result that Jackie Gleason was always talking into a CB microphone without pushing the PTT button: industry spin control quickly spread the word that the car was equipped with a "floor switch", and _that_ bit of B.S. resulted in third-party add-on floor switches being quickly rushed onto shelves for sale to Bufford T. Justice wannabees.

--
(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

457. Re: Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-09 15:35:11 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <9a-dnf7WTvVc87nVnZ2dnUVZ_ofinZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2928

N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>
> How could an amateur radio advocacy organization be more effective?
> Unlike the NRA, there's no radio-equivalent to the Second Amendment.

IANALB, I was told that the Supreme Court decided a long time ago that the Second Amendment does _not_ give citizens a right to bear arms unless they are part of a well-regulated militia. I presume the militia is the National Guard, but I'd like to hear from the attorneys who read this group.

73, W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

458. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-09 17:25:57 UTC
From: Cecil Moore <nospam@w5dxp.com>
Message-ID: <eO%Uj.14009$GE1.7415@nlpi061.nbdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2929

Bill Horne wrote:
> When the Citizen's Band went from a well-intentioned "service" to an
> uncontrollable nightmare in less than two years, the commission had to
> take abuse from everyone else in and out of the government who were
> still smarting from _their_ earlier revelations that they could predict
> or control the actions neither of the ungrateful whelps who had picked
> up placards and told a nation of their elders to shove the American
> Dream, nor of the froggy little native boys who had picked up AK-47's
> and said "No, Daddy Warbucks, you *won't* do that here".

I remember participating in the last 11m contest to
save the band for hams - don't remember the year.
Wonder what would happen if the FCC re-opened the 11m
band to amateur radio operators as a shared band under
conditions similar to 60m operation?
--
73, Cecil http://www.w5dxp.com

459. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-09 19:34:56 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <1_SdnZuKXJADCLnVnZ2dnUVZ_uudnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2930

Cecil Moore wrote:

> I remember participating in the last 11m contest to
> save the band for hams - don't remember the year.
> Wonder what would happen if the FCC re-opened the 11m
> band to amateur radio operators as a shared band under
> conditions similar to 60m operation?

I'd welcome the chance to find out: I think it would influence a lot of CB operators to copy the practices used not only by hams, but also by "outband" CB'ers, who run SSB above 27.455 MHz, use "Q" signals, and sound more like the ideal ham than many hams.

Outband is a place where a newcomer who is used to a "Children's Band" mode of operation is quickly told to "Lose the echo", "Back off the power", and "Wait your turn". Some of the outbanders are more courteous operators than hams, and allowing amateurs operators to interact with them would be a good way to influence CBers' choices and encourage them to join the amateur ranks.

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

460. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 18 (Friday, May 9, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-09 20:32:43 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080509203007.0DEBF31710@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2931
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

****
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 18
May 9, 2008
****

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Leaving on a Jet Plane to Dayton Hamvention
* + Look for the June Issue of QST in Your Mailbox
* + FCC Denies Two Amateur Radio Petitions for Rulemaking
* + Veteran Wireless Operators Association Honors Two Hams
* + New NASA Tool Allows Exploration of Ionosphere from Inside
* + Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test to Be Conducted May 10
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ No ARRL Audio News on May 16
+ ARRL to Blog from Dayton Hamvention
+ Jim Oberhofer, KN6PE, Wins April QST Cover Plaque Award
History Channel Show to Feature Nikola Tesla
Colorado Group Receives D-STAR Equipment

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========

==> LEAVING ON A JET PLANE TO DAYTON HAMVENTION

"As the song says, 'All our bags are packed and we're ready to go' --
well, almost," said ARRL Hamvention Coordinator Katie Breen, W1KRB. "The
ARRL EXPO area <http://www.arrl.org/expo> is packed up into seven
shipping skids and they are in a truck on their way to Dayton. We here
at headquarters are not only breathing a huge sigh of relief, but many
of us are still wrapping up our individual final details." The Dayton
Hamvention will run from May 16-18 at Hara Arena, just outside Dayton,
Ohio <http://www.hamvention.org>.

Breen said that all around the Newington offices, ARRL staffers are putting the last-minute touches on their Dayton preparations: "Frankie Perez, KB1NQR, is finishing up his schedule for checking cards at the DXCC area. By late Saturday afternoon at Hamvention, there will be an area set up by the card checking just for DX Talk. We've named it the DXCC Discussion Zone."

Also new this year is the "Doctor Is IN" booth. This area, Breen said, is all about and just for technology enthusiasts: "QEX Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, has been putting his creative genius to work and coming up with some great plans for that booth! ARRL Circulation Manager Amy Hurtado, KB1NXO, is finalizing details on what will be available in the bookstore and membership area. And me? Well, since this is my first year of coordinating the EXPO, I think I'm just worrying about everyone else at this point!"

Breen said that one thing she is really excited about with this year's EXPO is that the ARRL will host a larger number of volunteers from around the country: "Some of our newer Section Managers, some as far away as Northern California and Florida will be there. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, will be attending forums, meeting and greeting members and generally sharing the good stories of all that is happening here at the League. We're also going to have an international presence with the IARU; we are pleased to welcome IARU President Larry Price, W4RA, and IARU Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH."

"Amateur Radio is all about the people," Breen remarked. "Without people on the air in various modes, what would Amateur Radio be? Without hams invested in Public Service, what would Amateur Radio be? Without people in their communities volunteering their time, what would Amateur Radio be? I think the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) hit the nail on the head with this year's theme of 'People + Radio = Fellowship.' When it all comes down to it, we are communicating with each other, regardless of the mode being used. What better opportunity to come together and communicate than at Hamvention, the country's largest gathering of radio enthusiasts?"

==> LOOK FOR THE JUNE ISSUE OF QST IN YOUR MAILBOX

The June issue of QST, our annual Field Day issue, is jam-packed with all sorts of things today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments to contesting, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

Ride the waves this Field Day with the ARRL Field Day Cookbook, an eight page insert located near the center of the magazine. Learn how to succeed in Field Day by really, really trying. Did you know that bonus points are available when you conduct an educational activity at your Field Day site? Learn how to collect these bonus points and have fun at the same time. Once again, we have some delectable recipes to tempt your palate as you're making those contacts. Along with some tips to make your Field Day a memorable one, we have included a chart of the US Amateur Radio bands. The 2008 ARRL Field Day is June 28-29.

John Stanley, K4ERO, discusses how looking at signals can improve our ability to listen to them in the first of his two-part article "The Beauty of Spectrum Analysis -- Part 1." Kirk Kleinschmidt, NT0Z, takes a look at modern, portable power generators. Rick Littlefield, K1BQT, takes a practical approach for achieving excellent multi-band performance in his article "A No Compromise Off-Center Fed Dipole for Four Bands." And don't forget Kids Day on June 21.

June is a great month for radiosport, with both the ARRL June VHF QSO Party and Field Day. While Field Day is more of an operating event than a contest, it is modeled after a contest in that points are earned for making contacts. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, takes a look at these two events and gives his hints and helps for working this VHF contest that runs the weekend of June 14-15. The results of the 2007 ARRL 160 Meter Contest and the 2007 ARRL November Phone Sweepstakes are in. Did you top your score from last year? How did your closest rival do? Also, find out about upcoming contests in Contest Corral.

QST Product Review Editor Mark Wilson, K1RO, reviews Tokyo Hy-Power's HL-1.2KFX linear amplifier. According to Wilson, "This amplifier is a compact, easy-to-use 750 W solid state power amplifier for 160 through 10 meters. Its size, weight and flexible ac power requirements make it a good candidate for portable, as well as home station operation." Check out the reviews on the M-Cubed Electronix digital LCRZ meter kit and LDG Electronics RCA-14 transceiver accessory port breakout box, also in the June issue.

Of course, there are the usual columns you know and love in the June QST: Hints & Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, How's DX, Old Radio, Hamspeak and more. This month also features Amateur Radio World, the Emergency Communications Course Honor Roll and the ARRL VEC Volunteer Examiner Honor Roll. Look for your June issue of QST in your mailbox. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> FCC DENIES TWO AMATEUR RADIO PETITIONS FOR RULEMAKING

On May 7, the FCC denied two separate Petitions for Rule Making (PRM) dealing with digital issues.

Mark Miller, N5RFX, of Arlington, Texas, sought to delete the FCC's 2006 addition to how it defines data, amend the rules to prohibit automatically controlled stations from transmitting on frequency segments other than those specified in Section 97.221(b), and replace the symbol rate limits in Section 97.307(f) with bandwidth limitations.

The FCC denied all three parts of Miller's PRM, saying he "did not set forth sufficient reasons for the Commission" to approve his petition and that "should future experience substantiate Miller's concerns, he may file a new, factually supported petition for rulemaking." The complete copy of the FCC's reply to Miller is on the FCC Web site

<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1082A1.pdf>.

Ken Chafin, W6CPA, of La Crescenta, California, and Leon Brown, KC6JAR, of Los Angeles, California, also filed a PRM concerning additional spectrum for more repeaters, including digital systems, requesting that the FCC "propose to expand the frequencies on which an amateur station operating as a repeater (repeater station) may operate."

Chafin and Brown argued that additional spectrum is needed for repeater stations because some amateur repeater stations have begun using digital communications protocols" and "digital voice operation is incompatible with existing analog operations [because d]igital voice users are unable to determine if the desired frequency is in use by analog users and can inadvertently cause harmful interference to those users." The men pointed out that coordinating groups have been unable to separate analog and digital voice repeater operations to avoid harmful interference because the available repeater spectrum in the 2 meter band is "fully occupied by existing analog users in most metropolitan areas."

The FCC, after considering Chafin and Brown's PRM, concluded that the PRM did not present grounds for the Commission to amend its rules: "Repeater stations are authorized to transmit on any frequency in the 2 meter band except the 144.0-144.5 MHz and 145.5-146.0 MHz frequency segments. These two segments were excluded to minimize the possibility of harmful interference to other amateur service stations and operating activities, including 'weak signal' operations. Allocating an additional three hundred kilohertz of the 2 meter band to repeater operation would not be consistent with that concern. Rather, it would likely result in increased interference to non-repeater stations." The complete copy of the FCC's reply to Chafin and Brown is on the FCC Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1083A1.pdf>.

==> VETERAN WIRELESS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION HONORS TWO HAMS

At their annual awards banquet on April 26 in New York City, the Veteran Wireless Operators Association (VWOA) <http://www.vwoa.org> honored two Amateur Radio operators with two of the association's top awards: Fritz Raab, W1FR, and John "Jack" Curtis, K6KU. Raab gave the keynote address at the banquet. "The dinner speech was a wonderful presentation of the Amateur Radio Experiment domestically and that which is happening internationally. He explored what may happen, if things go well for the museum stations on 500 kHz and for radio amateurs," said VWOA Chairman Francis Cassidy. "Ever since the emergence of the Global Marine Distress and Safety System, professional radio officers have discussed the prior use of 500 kHz. They know the attributes in the oceans of the world where ground wave transmissions on the oceans provided their primary informational experience of these transmissions."

Fritz Raab, W1FR, of Burlington, Vermont, received the VWOA's De Forest Audion Gold Medal, honoring his "technical achievements in 35 years of radio engineering." Raab serves as the experimental project manager for The 500 KC Experimental Group for Amateur Radio <http://www.500kc.com>.

The ARRL 500 kHz experimental license, WD2XSH, was issued in September 2006 and has 20 active stations.

"I'm kind of excited to see how we can apply modern technology to a 'classic part' of the radio spectrum," Raab told ARRL in 2006 when the experimental license was issued. He pointed out that 500 kHz -- the traditional maritime emergency frequency -- is roughly geometrically halfway between the 136 kHz experimental band and the 160 meter amateur allocation. "In contrast to 160 meters, 500 kHz is low enough to offer good ground wave propagation," Raab said, "but in contrast to 137 kHz, it is high enough to allow us to engage in real communication with realistic equipment."

Raab said he would eventually like to see at least a secondary 600 meter amateur allocation from 495 to 510 kHz. "Besides the opportunities for experimenting at low frequencies, that frequency is well suited to regional groundwave communication," Raab said. He said he envisions the eventual use of the spectrum to provide Amateur Radio emergency communication via groundwave, without having to deal with the vagaries of the ionosphere or causing interference to any other services.

Additional information on the 500 KC Experimental Group for Amateur Radio can be found at the experiment's Web site and also in the July/August 2007 issue of QEX <http://www.arrl.org/qex/2007/07/raab.pdf>.

Raab said that it was "a real honor for me to receive an award named after one of the most important inventions in radio, and given by an organization whose members have included a number of the legends in the field. As a newcomer to 500 kHz through our experimental license, it is especially nice to be recognized by a group of people who have actually used 500 kHz for communication."

Raab is chief engineer and owner of Green Mountain Radio Research, a consulting firm that he founded in 1980. He received his BS, MS and PhD in electrical engineering from Iowa State University. Raab is co-author of "Solid State Radio Engineering" and author of more than 100 technical papers; he has been issued 12 patents. Raab's professional activities include RF power amplifiers, radio transmitters and radio-communication/navigation systems. He is a fellow of IEEE and a member of ARRL, Sigma Xi, Association of Old Crows, Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association and the Radio Club of America.

Jack Curtis, K6KU, of Granite Bay, California, received the VWOA's Marconi Memorial Award Plaque "for his lifetime efforts of perfecting electronic circuits to generate Morse code as exemplified by the development of the Curtis Keyers."

In an article Brad Mitchell, N8YG, wrote for the ARRL Web site in 2002 <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2002/02/042/>, he said, "Modern transceivers incorporate many features that not long ago were considered

accessories: CW keyers and SWR meters come to mind. John Curtis, K6KU, created an electronic iambic-keyer circuit and subsequently offered an IC chip to do the job. He revolutionized keying, as we know it."

Mitchell wrote that Curtis, when studying for his Amateur Extra ticket, "decided to get a feel for the requirements of the Extra Class test by undertaking a circuit design project. John built a keyer circuit and learned about digital electronics." This keyer worked so well that Curtis's ham friends told him he should market it. Curtis followed the advice, and in 1969, he placed an ad in "Ham Radio Magazine" announcing the Curtis Electronic Devices EK-38. The -38 and its follow-up, the -39, became so successful that Curtis quit his day job and formed Curtis Electro Devices.

Curtis had established a lot of contacts while working at a semiconductor manufacturing company in the 1960s. These paid off for him when he decided that a keyer circuit could be implemented on a chip. He started with two designs: The 8043 and the 8044. "The 8043 was designed as a completely custom integrated circuit in CMOS," Mitchell wrote. "At the same time, International Microcircuits was looking for a chip in which to test their gate array technology. The first chip down the line was the 8044, produced for Curtis. The 8043 worked first try. It was limited to dit memory, and sold for $7.95 in quantities of 50 or more in 1973. The 8044 also worked right off the bat. It offered dah memory in addition and sold for $24.95 in 1975. The 8044M was introduced in 1980. M stood for meter. A meter could be hooked up to a pin of the 8044M to indicate sending speed."

In 1981 Curtis added mode B keying characteristics to his keyers. Mode B simply added an extra dit or dah when the operator stopped sending, depending on which was sent last. If a dit was sent last, an extra dah would be sent. If a dah were sent last, a dit followed. Curtis added this feature to his 8044B. He introduced several keyers incorporating his new full-featured ICs. The first was the EK430 incorporating the 8043 chip. Curtis also introduced a fully integrated keyboard chip called the 8045. In June 1982, Curtis Electro Devices produced its last keyer, the Lil' Bugger. Offered as the K5 or K5B, it incorporated the 8044 or the 8044B chip, respectively. Both models sold for $39.95 and were quite popular.

In spring of 1986, Curtis introduced the 8044ABM chip. It incorporated selectable A or B modes and the speed meter, becoming an industry standard. In the 1980s, however, microcontrollers were making serious headway and Curtis chips were no longer in demand. MFJ took over part of the line and Curtis Electro Devices ceased operations in April 2000.

The Veteran Wireless Operators Association was founded in 1925 to foster fellowship among wireless operators aboard ship, in the military, and in the shore stations. Through the years, the ranks of the VWOA have included most of the executives and innovators of the broadcasting and communication industry, as well as thousands of radio operators.

Today, in its 83rd year, the VWOA serves as both a link to the history or radio, as well as a bridge to the future. Its members have been, and continue to be, on the front lines of the development of radio and television broadcasting, satellite communications, and the entire digital revolution. Current membership is approximately 300 men and women. Members are concentrated along both US coasts, but members also reside in almost every state as well as Canada and several other countries. For more information on the VWOA, please visit the VWOA Web site <http://www.vwoa.org>.

==> NEW NASA TOOL ALLOWS EXPLORATION OF IONOSPHERE FROM INSIDE

Last week at the Space Weather Workshop in Boulder, Colorado, NASA released a 4D live model of the Earth's ionosphere <http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/30apr_4dionosphere.htm?list212589>. Without leaving home, anyone can fly through the layer of ionized gas that encircles Earth at the edge of space itself. All that is required is an Internet connection and a free copy of Google Earth <http://earth.google.com/>. NASA calls the ionosphere the "last wisp of Earth's atmosphere that astronauts leave behind when they enter space. The realm of the ionosphere stretches from 50 to 500 miles above Earth's surface where the atmosphere thins to near-vacuum and exposes itself to the fury of the sun. Solar ultraviolet radiation breaks apart molecules and atoms creating a globe-straddling haze of electrons and ions."

Using a Google Earth interface, users can fly above, around and through these regions getting a true 4D view of the situation. "The fourth dimension is time. This is a real-time system updated every 10 minutes," said W. Kent Tobiska, president of Space Environment Technologies and chief scientist of its Space Weather Division. The proper name of the system is CAPS, short for Communication Alert and Prediction System. Earth-orbiting satellites feed the system up-to-the-minute information on solar activity; the measurements are then converted to electron densities by physics-based computer codes. It is important to note, Tobiska said on the NASA Web site, that CAPS reveals the ionosphere not only as it is now, but also as it is going to be the near future.

According to propagation specialist Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, this model "can provide Amateur Radio operators a broad view of what the ionosphere is doing 'now.' This broad view is due to the fact that the resolution in the color coding schemes only gives coarse estimates of the six parameters available." Luetzelschwab, former editor of "National Contest Journal" (NCJ) <http://www.arrl.org/ncj/>, writes a propagation column in NCJ and other publications.

"This is an exciting development," said NASA solar physicist Lika Guhathakurta on the NASA Web site. "The ionosphere is important to pilots, ham radio operators, earth scientists and even soldiers. Using this new 4D tool, they can monitor and study the ionosphere as if they're actually inside it." Guhathakurta made his comments on the NASA Web site.

NASA understands that "[h]am radio operators know the ionosphere well. They can communicate over the horizon by bouncing their signals off of the ionosphere -- or communicate not at all when a solar flare blasts the ionosphere with X-rays and triggers a radio blackout." As radio amateurs, we use -- and depend on -- the ionosphere to make contacts.

Tobiska agrees: "For ham radio operators, this is a great application because it enables them to figure out what frequencies that are going to be available for communicating with any part of the world they want to communicate with at that moment in time. So ham radio operators who are in South Carolina want to talk to someone in Europe or Africa, they can know exactly what frequencies to turn to on their dial."

Luetzelschwab said he personally believes that "The importance of this new product is the fact that this is likely the first physical model of the ionosphere available to the widespread Amateur Radio community. This is in contrast to the model in our current propagation predictions -- such as VOACAP, W6ELProp and the like -- that is based on years of measured ionospheric data correlated to a proxy for the true solar ionizing radiation (the proxies being sunspots and 10.7 cm solar flux)."

NASA explained that it appears that this new physical model takes satellite measurements of solar radiation at extreme ultraviolet (EUV) wavelengths (the true ionizing radiation) and inputs this data, along with a geomagnetic field activity index, into a model of the atmosphere to determine electron densities. Luetzelschwab said "Yes, it only offers a broad view now -- but I think it is a sign of things to come."

More information on this tool for radio amateurs can be found on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/05/06/10081/>.

==> ANNUAL ARMED FORCES DAY CROSSBAND TEST TO BE CONDUCTED MAY 10

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual Military/Amateur Radio Crossband Communications Test in celebration of the 58th anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD). Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May -- May 17 in 2008 -- the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted on May 10 to prevent conflict with the Dayton Hamvention(r), scheduled for May 16-18.

The annual celebration features traditional military to amateur crossband communications SSB voice tests and copying the Secretary of Defense message via digital modes. These tests give Amateur Radio operators and short wave listeners an opportunity to demonstrate their individual technical skills and to receive recognition from the Secretary of Defense and/or the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations. Special commemorative certificates will be awarded to anyone who receives and copies the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense.

Military-to-Amateur crossband operations will take place on the dates and time in UTC on the frequencies listed for each station on the Army

MARS Web site. Voice contacts will include operations in single sideband voice (SSB). Some stations, depending on propagation and manning, may not operate the entire period. Participating military stations will transmit on selected Military MARS frequencies and listen for Amateur Radio stations in the Amateur bands. The military station operator will announce the specific amateur band frequency being monitored. Duration of each voice contact should be limited to 1-2 minutes.

The newly updated list of schedules and frequencies <http://www.netcom.army.mil/MARS/docs/ARMEDFORCESDAYFinal.pdf> of participating military stations is published on the Army MARS Web site <http://www.netcom.army.mil/MARS/>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Ne'er shall the Sun arise on such another" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Again this week, we saw a new, but brief sunspot, sunspot 993. Judging from the polarity of the spot, it looks to be from new Solar Cycle 24; this spot was south of the solar equator, so it has the same polarity as any Cycle 23 spot that was north of the equator. After two days it was gone, not from drifting over the edge of the visible solar disk -- it just disappeared. Geomagnetic indices were mostly quiet this week, except for some only slightly unsettled planetary A index numbers for May 2-3. The next active geomagnetic period is expected May 20, with a planetary A index of 25. For May 9-15, the predicted planetary A index is 8, 5, 5, 5, 12, 8 and 5. Sunspot numbers for May 1-7 were 0, 0, 0, 13, 15, 0 and 0 with a mean of 4. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.5, 68.1, 67.3, 68.3, 67.6, 67.2 and 66.5 with a mean of 67.6. Estimated planetary A indices were 9, 12, 12, 8, 11, 10 and 4 with a mean of 9.4. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 6, 7, 9, 6, 8, 9 and 5, with a mean of 7.1. For May 9-15, Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions May 9, quiet to unsettled May 10, unsettled May 11-13, quiet to unsettled May 14 and quiet again on May 15. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, the NCCC Sprint Ladder is May 9 and the Nevada Mustang Roundup is May 9-10. The VK/Trans-Tasman 80 Meter Contest (Phone) and the FISTS Spring Sprint are both on May 10. Be sure to check out the SBMS 2 GHz and Up WW Club Contest, the EUCW Fraternizing CW QSO Party, the CQ-M International DX Contest, the VOLTA WW RTTY Contest and the 50 MHz Spring Sprint on May 10-11. The SKCC Weekend Sprintathon is on May 11 and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (Data) is on May 14. Next weekend, look for another running of the NCCC Sprint Ladder on May 16. The Feld Hell Sprint is May 17. On May 17-18, be sure to make room in your schedule for the EU PSK DX Contest, His

Majesty King of Spain Contest (CW), the Manchester Mineira All America CW Contest and the Baltic Contest. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is on May 19 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is on May 22. All dates listed are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, May 25, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, June 6, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010), Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001), Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006), Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009), Analog Electronics (EC-012) and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* No ARRL Audio News on May 16: There will be no ARRL Audio News on Friday, May 16. The ARRL Letter will be released on that day. ARRL Audio News will return on Friday, May 23.

* ARRL to Blog from Dayton Hamvention: As in previous years, the ARRL will be blogging live <http://www.arrl.org/blog/Dayton%20and%20ARRL%20Expo> from Hara Arena, site of the Dayton Hamvention <http://www.hamvention.org>. In addition to keeping everyone up with the latest and greatest at Dayton, this year's blog will feature video clips. QST Editor -- and Hamvention blogger extraordinaire -- Steve Ford, WB8IMY, said, "The video clips were such a big hit with last year's blog that we decided to do even more of them for this year!" Ford says he plans on featuring new products that are debuting at the Hamvention, as well as all the "fun stuff" that pops up: "Both I and the staff have a lot of fun with this, and we hope those who read the blog do, too." Look for the blog to go "live" Thursday, May 15 and continue throughout the Hamvention.

* Jim Oberhofer, KN6PE, Wins April QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for April is Jim Oberhofer, KN6PE, for his article "Outpost: Packet Radio for Emergency Messaging."

Congratulations, Jim! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qstvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the May issue by Saturday, May 31.

* History Channel Show to Feature Nikola Tesla: Modern Marvels, a series on The History Channel, will feature electricity pioneer Nikola Tesla in an episode scheduled to air May 14 <http://www.history.com/shows.do?action=detail&episodeId=295798>. Helping out with the program was Bob "Loby" Lobenstein, WA2AXZ; Lobenstein is General Superintendent, Power Operations for New York City's subway system. "We did 8 hours of taping interviews at my 1904 power substation," Lobenstein said. "In addition to the action scenes of me throwing the 100 year old switches and demonstrating the use of power, I did a 'Mr Wizard' talk, showing the various things that 'Mr T' envisioned and invented. Of course, radio had a part and I just had to put the D-104 mic with our club's K2IRT shield into view!" According to The History Channel, Tesla's "...bizarre vision of the future brought him failure, but his genius electrified the world. Travel to Niagara Falls, where in 1893, Tesla installed his new system of Alternating Electrical Current known as AC -- the same power we use today. Uncover the forgotten ruins of Tesla's dream experiment -- a huge tower on Long Island Sound he hoped would wirelessly power the world. Radar, death rays, invisibility devices and earthquake machines: Tesla claimed to have created them all. More than 100 years ago Tesla foresaw the need for alternative energies like geothermal and solar." Check the The History Channel Web site for show times <http://www.history.com/>.

* Colorado Group Receives D-STAR Equipment: The Colorado Council of Amateur Radio Clubs (CCARC) recently teamed up with Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) in Denver to donate a 2 meter, 70 cm and 23 cm D-STAR system stack. According to ARRL Colorado Section Manager and CCARC Board Member Jeff Ryan, K0RM, the two groups hit upon the idea of issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to Colorado radio amateurs. "We received three excellent proposals," Ryan said, "and on March 21, CCARC and HRO awarded the D-STAR system to the Colorado D-STAR Association, a consortium of Denver area individuals, clubs and ARES groups." Ryan explained that the goal of the CCARC, which also serves as Colorado's frequency coordination body, was "to spur the interest and use of digital Amateur Radio technology. This is the first D-STAR system that will go on the air in Colorado. The hope is that it is the first of many such systems, ultimately linking the entire Amateur Radio community throughout Colorado and beyond." The 3-band D-STAR system, serving the Denver Metro area and the Front Range of Colorado from Ft Collins to Castle Rock and points east, will be installed this summer at a mountaintop site. The system will have a coverage area of more than 5400 square miles, nearly the size of Connecticut. Ryan said that the RFP placed "special emphasis" on the D-STAR systems being available to ARES groups in the served area, "and also requires the host group to link to any other requesting D-STAR system that comes on the air in Colorado."

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call 860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL

cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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461. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-09 22:04:35 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <5g59245o47hqss6f96kbk2k3uui1i87v0u@4ax.com>
Source record: 2932

On Fri, 9 May 2008 00:35:21 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>So in 1958, FCC created 27 MHz CB, with the idea that the
>equipment would be simpler and less expensive, while still giving
>adequate performance for the intended uses. And it worked - for a
>while.
>
>But what FCC never counted on was that large numbers of people would
>buy CB sets and simply ignore the regulations for CB. FCC could not
>begin to adequately enforce the rules once the CB culture had become
>one of simply ignoring them.

>How do others see it?

That's a decent Readers' Digest version of what happened. Part of the problem was a turf war between two Bureaus - the one that issued the licenses and levied the penalties, and the one (that I was in) that did the grunt work of finding and citing the offenders. Throw into that mix the one-and-only attorney in the latter bureau, someone who didn't believe in doing anything that took work (I had many run-ins with her), and a Congress that was short-changing the agency in the number of field personnel authorized because "we weren't supposed to be in the surveillance business" according to a specific congressional committee chair echoing the "man behind the curtain", one JEdgar Hoover, who was dead set against anyone doing law enforcement investigative work except his hand-picked crew at the FBI that he could control with an iron hand.

The ham community fared a little better, because many if not most of the managers who had any responsibility for the ARS and even some of the Bureau Chiefs at the agency were well-known and well-respected (feared ?) hams and they tried really hard to get the ARS to keep its skirts clean. Eventually, though, these fine folks retired or died and the nickel-nursers and "bright young folks" who succeeded them fell into the pattern exemplified by one of my favorite phrases from the biblical Book of Exodus "There arose in Egypt a new Pharaoh who knew not Joseph...." I can count the number of active and experienced hams who are decision-makers about the ARS on the fingers of one hand now.

My personal opinion.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

462. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-10 01:29:23 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <6e6dnWgOJtH8Z7nVnZ2dnUVZ_uLinZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2933

"Bill Horne" wrote

> No matter: whatever the reason for the decision, it
worked surprisingly well for about ten years, and then went downhill
quickly when invaded by yahoos of all types.

Sounds just like most internet newsgroups!

N7SO

463. NASA Predicts Solar Storm

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-10 13:07:41 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <997b533a-fcf3-4f27-b914-12a69a936c21@b64g2000hsa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2934

Says the coming solar maximum will be the most intense in 50+ years,
and may exceed the legendary maximum of the late 1950s:

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/10mar_stormwarning.htm?friend

73 de Jim, N2EY

464. Re: Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-10 13:27:08 UTC
From: "David G. Nagel" <nagel.david@sbcglobal.net>
Message-ID: <sO_Uj.9347$iK6.406@nlpi069.nbdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2935

Bill Horne wrote:
> N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>
>>
>> How could an amateur radio advocacy organization be more effective?
>> Unlike the NRA, there's no radio-equivalent to the Second Amendment.
>
> IANALB, I was told that the Supreme Court decided a long time ago that
> the Second Amendment does _not_ give citizens a right to bear arms
> unless they are part of a well-regulated militia. I presume the militia
> is the National Guard, but I'd like to hear from the attorneys who read
> this group.
>
> 73, W1AC
>
>
Bill;

The only SCOTUS ruling on the 2nd amendment concerned the possession of a sawed off shotgun. It is currently considering the Washington DC law on possession of hand guns by non law enforcement individuals.

Also the Constitution of the United States provides for the militia in the first part of the text. Look it up....

The term CITIZEN is mentioned four (4) times in the Bill of Rights. In three cases the liberal interpretations means you and me. The fourth mention is in the 2nd amendment. Here liberals want it to mean the government. What is your opinion?

Dave WD9BDZ

465. Re: Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-10 13:29:29 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-CCAA76.12231309052008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 2936

Paul W. Schleck <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>" wrote:

> The narrative does seem to fall flat when a so-called "compliant and
> obsequious lapdog" sues its master in Federal Court and scores at least
> a partial win.

That's rather naive. Think: 'good cop, bad cop.' To the general public, filing a lawsuit is a really big deal. To a government agency, as much government business is dictated by court decisions as by routine administrative work. There are a number of actions that a government agency can take to delay a court case and to run up the expenses of a plaintiff. It would be very telling if it turned out that the FCC attempted none of those maneuvers and allowed the case to go right to court.

> Furthermore, there's other significant differences between the ARRL and
> the NRA that need to be considered when making suggestions about how to
> increase the League's effectiveness.
>
[...] IRS minutia snipped
>
> So, to be as effective as the NRA in your mind, the ARRL would probably
> have to form a 501(c)4 organization, in addition to the existing 501(c)3
> organization. The NRA does actually have both, with a 501(c)3 called
> the "NRA Foundation" which does charitable work consistent with the
> rules for that type of organization, and can benefit from tax-exempt
> donations and Federal grants, in exchange for separating off the
> lobbying and campaigning activities into the 501(c)4.

I know the 501(c)* series well, having been involved in numerous non-profit groups and having been the treasurer of several. A non-profit organization can easily become a "group" of non-profit organizations by filing some forms and opening some extra checking accounts. The marginal cost of adding another type of organization is vanishingly small. I've been there, I've done that and it's not an issue.

> The NRA has over 4 million members. Even if the League was able to
> enjoy 100% membership among hams in the U.S., that would only be about
> 650,000. So for similar dues amounts (about $35 annual, $1,000 life),
> the NRA is able to raise far more money. Do you feel that the
> trade-offs in forming a 501(c)4 organization for lobbying and
> campaigning would be worthwhile despite the required increases in
> expenses, from loss of tax exemption and access to Federal grants, that
> would have to be spread out over a much smaller membership base? Could
> there even be a risk to the effectiveness of the League in the eyes of
> elected officials if they did form a 501(c)4 organization, and thus

> become "yet another" lobbying/campaigning group?

The NRA spends a great deal on advertising and communications. I would expect a group of hams to be able to keep in touch for much less, mainly via the Internet (I doubt that an expensive, glossy magazine would be necessary and the NRA has TWO of them).
The NRA lobbies the Federal government, all fifty state governments and any municipalities that can or might pass gun-related ordinances. A ham radio lobby would only need to lobby the Federal government. Only one office would be needed.
Elected officials cannot pick and choose who will lobby them. They must deal with whatever groups we the people choose to fund and send to Washington. "Credibility" comes from votes and money, not from sucking up to Beltway insiders.

--
Klystron

466. Re: Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-10 16:51:22 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <OLiVj.53551$kl6.21299@fe103.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2937

Klystron wrote:

> The NRA spends a great deal on advertising and communications. I
> would expect a group of hams to be able to keep in touch for much less,
> mainly via the Internet (I doubt that an expensive, glossy magazine
> would be necessary and the NRA has TWO of them).
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> and any municipalities that can or might pass gun-related ordinances. A
> ham radio lobby would only need to lobby the Federal government. Only
> one office would be needed.
> Elected officials cannot pick and choose who will lobby them. They
> must deal with whatever groups we the people choose to fund and send to
> Washington. "Credibility" comes from votes and money, not from sucking
> up to Beltway insiders.

Then there'll be only little credibility. Even if all of the roughly
700,000 radio amateurs in the U.S. belong to such an organization, that
number--spread over our fifty states and territories--means very few
votes and very little money.

I don't see it your way. The ARRL has nowhere near 700,000 members but
it is very effective in lobbying government. It does so with few votes
and little money to spread about. It wasn't long ago that some folks
outside amateur radio wrote about wishing they were as good at lobbying
as radio amateurs.

The point to all this is that it is quite easy to sit on the sidelines
and snipe at the ARRL and to put forth unsubstantiated charges against
it from behind the cloak of anonymity. It is quite another to put
together an alternative to the ARRL. If you desire to do so, nothing is
stopping you.

Dave K8MN

467. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-11 01:17:56 UTC
From: Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
Message-ID: <fast-C654E9.14150910052008@netnews.worldnet.att.net>
Source record: 2938

In article <5g59245o47hqss6f96kbk2k3uui1i87v0u@4ax.com>,
Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:

> >How do others see it?
>
> That's a decent Readers' Digest version of what happened. Part of the
> problem was a turf war between two Bureaus - the one that issued the
> licenses and levied the penalties, and the one (that I was in) that
> did the grunt work of finding and citing the offenders. Throw into
> that mix the one-and-only attorney in the latter bureau, someone who
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> be in the surveillance business" according to a specific congressional
> committee chair echoing the "man behind the curtain", one JEdgar
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> investigative work except his hand-picked crew at the FBI that he
> could control with an iron hand.
>
> The ham community fared a little better, because many if not most of
> the managers who had any responsibility for the ARS and even some of
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> (feared ?) hams and they tried really hard to get the ARS to keep its
> skirts clean. Eventually, though, these fine folks retired or died
> and the nickel-nursers and "bright young folks" who succeeded them
> fell into the pattern exemplified by one of my favorite phrases from
> the biblical Book of Exodus "There arose in Egypt a new Pharaoh who
> knew not Joseph...." I can count the number of active and experienced
> hams who are decision-makers about the ARS on the fingers of one hand
> now.
>
> My personal opinion.
> --
>
> 73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

Being one of those, who got RIFF'ed, in the Clinton/Gore
Gutting/Bloodletting of the Field Operations Bureau back
in the Day.... I agree with Phil, 100%. the public got
the FCC that they deserved, by allowing the Politicos
to politicize the Commission. It used to be run by Engineers,
now it is run by Political Wonks. Life is tough, and then you
DIE....

--
Bruce in alaska
add <path> after <fast> to reply

468. Free HF Rig!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-11 05:36:03 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <fJ-dnVI49YkFyLvVnZ2dnUVZ_s_inZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2939

Well, OK, it's a "virtual" HF rig, and you can only use it FREE for 90 days and then it costs $32.00 user fee per year.

Kind of an interesting concept, sort of "Ham Radio VOIP", Phone or CW mode, and restricted to licensed hams.

Certainly not a replacement for "real radio", but when the bands are dead.......... Could also serve as a neat CW training environment.

Detail at http://qsonet.com

73, de Hans, K0HB
Just a boy and his radio
--
Homepage:
http://www.home.earthlink.net/~k0hb
Member:
ARRL http://www.arrl.org
SOC http://www.qsl.net/soc
VWOA http://www.vwoa.org
A-1 Operator Club http://www.arrl.org/awards/a1-op/
TCDXA http://www.tcdxa.org
MWA http://www.w0aa.org
TCFMC http://www.tcfmc.org
LVDXA http://www.lvdxa.org

469. Re: NASA Predicts Solar Storm

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-11 05:36:15 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <O-OdnY1WZdoUxLvVnZ2dnUVZ_o_inZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2940

That prediction is dated over 2 years ago, and it ain't lookin' so good to be fulfilled!

73, de Hans, K0HB
Just a boy and his radio

470. Re: NASA Predicts Solar Storm

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-11 07:27:23 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.05.11.07.20.48.147345@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2941

On Sun, 11 May 2008 01:36:15 -0400, Kï¿½HB wrote:
> That prediction is dated over 2 years ago, and it ain't lookin' so good
to be
> fulfilled!

Isn't it WAY too early to be writing off this cycle?

471. Re: Does Echolink still require a statis IP address?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-11 12:20:24 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <ofWdnRGaFebqebvVnZ2dnUVZ_oDinZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2942

Rick wrote:
> On Thu, 08 May 2008 00:34:22 -0700, Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com> wrote:
>> I looked over the www.echolink.org web site tonight, and I could not find a
>> mention of static IP addresses. Has Echolink found a way to work with dynamic
>> IP address allocation?
>
> AFAIK, Echolink has always worked well with dynamic IPs. I've been
> using it with a dynamic IP address for years and have never encountered
> any problems.
>
> I don't think you'll run into any problems either. Good luck.

I agree with Rick; I've used Echolink for years with a dynamic IP address.

However, let me pass along my experience. I took a working Echolink setup and moved it from one ISP to another, and it refused to work. I could "listen" fine, but I couldn't establish a connection to another node. This was resolved by obtaining a static IP address from the new ISP.

It's not that Echolink needs a static IP address to work . . . it's that my new ISP handles security differently for customers with static IP addresses than for "normal" customers. They do not allow "normal" customers to accept a request for an IP connection from another node; this is a part of their firewall setup. It does make sense; there is vanishingly little legitimate reason for this and they're effectively protecting their customer base from a segment of malicious software. However, Echolink does require this ability; when you connect to a node that action triggers a request from the other node for an IP connection.

So in my case, even though Echolink doesn't need a static IP address, obtaining a static IP address was what allowed it to work. I suspect that this situation isn't unique to my ISP, which is why I'm relating the story.

73, Steve KB9X

472. amateur website URL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-11 16:14:06 UTC
From: Dan Yemiola AI8O <Dan@Yemiola.Net>
Message-ID: <g06sfp$t70$1@news04.infoave.net>
Source record: 2943

I have had a senior moment and forgotten the URL for an amateur website.
On the homepage the website has brownish orange backgrounds and blue title
bars.
Total brain fibrillation on my part I can't remember the URL.
TIA
Dan
AI8O

473. Re: amateur website URL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-11 17:23:51 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <68ol17F2u3dfcU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2944

On Sunday, May 11, 2008 5:14 PM [GMT+1=CET],
Dan Yemiola AI8O <Dan@Yemiola.Net> wrote:

: I have had a senior moment and forgotten the URL for an amateur
: website. On the homepage the website has brownish orange backgrounds
: and blue title bars.
: Total brain fibrillation on my part I can't remember the URL.
: TIA
: Dan
: AI8O

Give us a clue ;-)

There are thousands of amateur sites out there, probably tens of
thousands..! Any idea of the content..? Was it a personal site, a
commercial/business one, DX info, club/society site or what..?

73 Ivor G6URP

474. Re: amateur website URL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-11 22:37:01 UTC
From: Dan Yemiola AI8O <Dan@Yemiola.Net>
Message-ID: <g07ov0$pt9$1@news04.infoave.net>
Source record: 2945

It finally came to me about 3 hours after Wrote the message.
The website I was looking for was HTTP://www.eham.net
Dan
AI8O
"Ivor Jones" <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote in message
news:68ol17F2u3dfcU1@mid.individual.net...
> On Sunday, May 11, 2008 5:14 PM [GMT+1=CET],
> Dan Yemiola AI8O <Dan@Yemiola.Net> wrote:
>
> : I have had a senior moment and forgotten the URL for an amateur
> : website. On the homepage the website has brownish orange backgrounds
> : and blue title bars.
> : Total brain fibrillation on my part I can't remember the URL.
> : TIA
> : Dan
> : AI8O
>
> Give us a clue ;-)
>
> There are thousands of amateur sites out there, probably tens of
> thousands..! Any idea of the content..? Was it a personal site, a
> commercial/business one, DX info, club/society site or what..?
>
>
> 73 Ivor G6URP
>

475. Re: NASA Predicts Solar Storm

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-12 05:57:26 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <utWdnZUc__3KX7rVnZ2dnUVZ_tLinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2946

"Doug Smith W9WI" <w9wi@invalid.nospam> wrote

> Isn't it WAY too early to be writing off this cycle?

Oh, I'm not "writing it off", Doug.

But it isn't looking good for the "most active cycle in 50 years" predicted in that article.

It's alarming to note that the words "Maunder Minimum" are being heard more and more in polite society. Five years ago that phrase would have people rushing to their Funk and Wagnalls, now we just shake our heads up and down and say "Could be, yes, it could be."

73, de Hans, K0HB
Just a boy and his radio

476. Re: NASA Predicts Solar Storm

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-12 10:54:36 UTC
From: kc5fm <lloyd.colston@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <2d2beab2-f042-40d5-a12d-4bb2ff8ff761@l64g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2947

On May 10, 8:07 am, N...@aol.com wrote:
> Says the coming solar maximum will be the most intense in 50+ years,
> and may exceed the legendary maximum of the late 1950s:
>
> http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2006/10mar_stormwarning.htm?friend
>
> 73 de Jim, N2EY

For those who realize the impact the sun has on our communications,
http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/SWN/index.html is a good site to monitor.

Space Weather Warnings and Alerts from our friends at the National
Weather Service are also available.

73

--

Lloyd Colston Altus Emergency Management
Altus, OK http://www.cityofaltus.org/

477. Re: NASA Predicts Solar Storm

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-12 18:22:49 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <vt_Vj.18298$pl4.11884@fe101.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2948

Kï¿½HB wrote:
> "Doug Smith W9WI" <w9wi@invalid.nospam> wrote
>
>> Isn't it WAY too early to be writing off this cycle?
>
> Oh, I'm not "writing it off", Doug.
>
> But it isn't looking good for the "most active cycle in 50 years" predi
cted in
> that article.
>
> It's alarming to note that the words "Maunder Minimum" are being heard
more and
> more in polite society. Five years ago that phrase would have people r
ushing to
> their Funk and Wagnalls, now we just shake our heads up and down and sa
y "Could
> be, yes, it could be."

Yet those who are in tune with the Palos Verdes Sundancers and who read the weekly epistles from Cass, have no fear of what is to come. Those who recall the words of Red-eyed Louie, the Little Pistol and the Old Timer at the top of the hill realize that DXing is a moveable feast.

Dave K8MN

========== MODERATOR'S COMMENT:
Getting a little obscure, aren't we?

478. Re: NASA Predicts Solar Storm

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-13 04:33:46 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <rd6dneo1P_QABbXVnZ2dnUVZ_jidnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2949

> ============= MODERATOR'S COMMENT: Getting a little obscure, aren't we?

Not at all obscure if you're one of The Deserving.

Dave's comments are about the characters who inhabit the writings of Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD (SK) , the editor of the West Coast DX Bulletin from 1968 until 1979.

This is classic Amateur Radio lore, written by someone who "got it".

His depiction of the mentoring between "The Oldtimer on the Hill" and "The QRP'er" are classic Amateur Radio lore, written by someone who "got it".

Now then, does anyone have an eMail address for East Coast Bob?

73, de Hans, K0HB
Just a boy and his radio

479. Re: NASA Predicts Solar Storm

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-13 04:35:46 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <Hl3Wj.3449$nM.1503@fe111.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2950

Dave Heil and an anonymous moderator wrote:

> Yet those who are in tune with the Palos Verdes Sundancers and who read
> the weekly epistles from Cass, have no fear of what is to come. Those
> who recall the words of Red-eyed Louie, the Little Pistol and the Old
> Timer at the top of the hill realize that DXing is a moveable feast.
>
> Dave K8MN
>
>
> ==================================== MODERATOR'S COMMENT: Getting a
> little obscure, aren't we?

Not for anyone who ever read The West Coast DX Bulletin. Here's a
sample of the output from the typewrite of WA6AUD:

"WEST COAST DX BULLETIN Published every week by the Marin County DX
Group. One of our local QRPers came by last week, troubled and anxious.
"It's that I figure I'm over the hill", this QRPer explained. "I'm
around the bend for sure. I am sore and troubled and these wounds of
mine....these spiritual wounds....are grievous burdens. I suspect that
I have had it". We nodded in sympathy for we know those dark watches of
the night when a DXer must wrestle with his fears....that he will
miss one. "And just what is the problem?", we asked. "Have you turned
fifty? Or something like that?". The QRPer jumped to his feet and
glared at us. "I thought that you!..you of all people would
understand", he exclaimed. "That you would know
what it is to work your 300th country and there is little left for you.
You!!..", he said and away he went. We did not call after him for we
know the wounds of the spirit and that dreaded 300th country sticker has
felled more than one noble DXer. For one must watch...and $10.50 will
bring you a full year of DX Warning Signals... $12.00 flights the alerts
at you by airmail. Beware the 300th Sticker!! Worse than Normans Woe!!"

If you like it, you may go to the following url to read more:

http://www.geocities.com/k2cddx/wcdxbarch.html

I have about five entire years worth of the WCDXB with which I'll never
part. Where else can one find historic DX doings combined with
magnificent prose?

Dave K8MN

480. Re: Does Echolink still require a statis IP address?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-13 15:09:09 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <d692b090-778e-4362-a2ac-578b0237f80e@a1g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2851

On May 11, 7:20 am, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> Rick wrote:
> So in my case, even though Echolink doesn't need a static IP address,
> obtaining a static IP address was what allowed it to work. I suspect
> that this situation isn't unique to my ISP, which is why I'm relating
> the story.
>

Oh my!

Well that may explain why my echollink setup doesn't work on my laptop at all from home but works great from other locations just fine. It's really annoying because it passes all the built in tests with flying colors but it simply won't connect even to the test node from home. I know the software works because when I am at the in-laws house it works great. For now I'm stuck having to go though a proxy node, which are few and in demand.

I've been struggling with the idea that it's my router/firewall at home. I've tried both the port forwarding and port triggering approaches without any success and I was starting to think that the router was faulty. I was going to try and set up a different router and see if the problem went away, but it really doesn't make any sense that the router would be to blame.

I suppose my ISP could be filtering stuff, but they don't admit to any filtering when asked. I am restricted from running any "servers" on my dynamic IP, but I was under the impression that they really didn't enforce any firewall rules. (Not that I've tested this idea...)

-= bob =-

481. Re: Does Echolink still require a statis IP address?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-13 20:21:35 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <5064f5a7-7d14-453f-89ef-fabb34a6f1ed@y38g2000hsy.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2852

On May 13, 2:52 pm, Rick <w3...@spam.block> wrote:
> On Tue, 13 May 2008 11:09:09 EDT, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> > I suppose my ISP could be filtering stuff, but they don't admit to any
> > filtering when asked. I am restricted from running any "servers" on
> > my dynamic IP, but I was under the impression that they really didn't
> > enforce any firewall rules. (Not that I've tested this idea...)
>
> There are a few ISPs who hand out non-routable IP addresses (private
> network IP addresses) to their customers. Those are addresses in ranges
> such as 10.*.*.*, 172.16.*.*, and 192.168.*.* (where "*" is a wild card
> and can be any number).
>

Well, my IP address isn't a private address in any of the reserved address spaces. I've been known to run bit-torrent downloads with no issues with inbound connections. Of course bit-torrent uses TCP only and EchoLink uses UDP for the voice stream and TCP for the control stream. I suspect that my ISP may be blocking UDP traffic in an effort to keep people from using VOIP phone services as they are a phone company too.

The good news is that I have fiber optic to my house... Fiber doesn't conduct electricity and isn't effected by RF fields so I'm afforded a measure of lighting and RFI protection. Even if they won't allow EchoLink...

I guess I'll try and call their support line and see if I can talk to somebody who will understand what I mean when I say UDP Port 5198...

482. Re: Does Echolink still require a statis IP address?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-14 12:39:14 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <9cadndhITlz8QLfVnZ2dnUVZ_s_inZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2853

KC4UAI wrote:

> . . . For now I'm stuck having to go though a proxy node,
> which are few and in demand.
>
> I've been struggling with the idea that it's my router/firewall at
> home.

The fact that you can use EchoLink through a proxy server suggests that your router/firewall is correctly configured. It's possible that you could have a very obscure misconfiguration, but I doubt it. I, too, spent hours fiddling with router and firewall configurations trying to make things work here, so I feel your pain.

> I suppose my ISP could be filtering stuff, but they don't admit to any
> filtering when asked. I am restricted from running any "servers" on
> my dynamic IP, but I was under the impression that they really didn't
> enforce any firewall rules. (Not that I've tested this idea...)

In another article you mentioned using bittorrent; I don't know if it requires inbound TCP. But have you actually seen anyone establish a connection TO you? Maybe it operates like Echolink in the sense that much of the functionality works fine even if other nodes can't establish an inbound TCP connection to you.

Since this issue with inbound connections is pretty common, I'm a little surprised that the Echolink folks haven't come up with some kind of built-in test that would identify it. Have you considered putting something on your system that listens for inbound connections -- perhaps a web server -- and trying to connect to it from, say, your in-law's where Echolink is functioning? This would answer the question of whether your ISP is allowing inbound connection requests, at least on the port you use for the test.

Good luck on finding someone at your ISP who understands the term "inbound connection request." I'm thinking that if you ask using the term "filtering", they'll answer a different question than the one you really wanted to ask. I finally did find someone who understood my question and had enough technical knowledge to answer it, but it took a while.

73, Steve KB9X

483. a forward on ars in the sechuan earthquake

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-14 16:56:00 UTC
From: an old freind <konstans@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <43b01640-28f3-4b3f-b831-2cd469531af6@k37g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2854

in the event another post of this this has been moded trhough feel
free to delete/reject

""Strong earthquake hits China, all ham radio operators stand by
PLEASE HELP
TO SPREAD THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE

Strong earthquake hits China, all ham radio operators stand by A
Magnitude
7.8 earthquake hits Sichuan, China on Monday, May 12, 2008 at 06:28:04
UTC.
Casualties and loss unknown up to now. According to Chinese Radio
Sports
Association, 14.270Mhz, 7.050 and 7.060 Mhz are preserved for amateur
radio
emergency service in the rescue. Please spread this message as far as
you
can and keep the frequencies clean for emergency use. Thank you.

Yesterday, 05:57 PM
BG8AAS from Chengdu, Sichuan reported that local UHF repeater survived
in
the disaster. It keeps functioning from the 1st minute and more than
200
local radio hams are now on that repeater. A group of hams from
Chengdu has
headed for Wenchuan, the center of the quake, trying to setup
emergency
communication services there.

BA8AB, also from Chengdu, Sichuan, is active on the 40m emergency
frequency.
Up to now, no further information available from the center zone of
the
quake. There are a few radio amateurs there, but all of the
communications
have been cut out, including amateur radio.

Yesterday, 06:58 PM
Update

According to BG8AAS, local UHF repeater in Chengdu keeps busy running
after
the quake. It helps to direct social vehicles to transport the wounded
from

Dujiangyan, Beichuan, and other regions. Another UHF repeater also starts
its working in Mianyan, supported by generators.
However, they are going to face a shortage of gas.

Damage in Chengdu remains in the lowest level, but the situation is very
very bad in the counties around. A few towns are said to be destroyed
completely. More than 7000 died in the town of Beichuan. Casualties in
several other towns are still unknown and not counted in the published
numbers.

It is a long and sad day.

Today, 08:31 AM
Your attention please! 14.270Mhz is now reserved for ARES in 5.12 earth
quake in Sichuan, China. Please help to keep this frequency clear.

A group of radio amateurs is now transmitting from Wenchuan, the center of
quake. Its signal is reported to be very weak. They tried to keep
communication with BY8AA in Chengdu, seeking for all resources needed.
During a contact finished a few minutes ago, they were asking for raincoats,
water, tents, and outdoor living facilities.

PLEASE HELP TO FORWARD THIS MESSAGE TO ALL RELEVANT FORUMS, MAILING LISTS,
AND NEWS RESOURCES. MEANWHILE, KEEP THE ABOVE FREQUENCY CLEAN FOR EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATION.

Michael Chen, BD5RV/4""

484. Re: NASA Predicts Solar Storm

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-15 01:21:34 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net>
Message-ID: <Xns9A9ED981B312Dmcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136>
Source record: 2855

"K HB" <groupk0hb@earthlink.net> wrote in
news:utWdnZUc__3KX7rVnZ2dnUVZ_tLinZ2d@earthlink.com:

```
>
> "Doug Smith W9WI" <w9wi@invalid.nospam> wrote
>
>> Isn't it WAY too early to be writing off this cycle?
>
> Oh, I'm not "writing it off", Doug.
>
> But it isn't looking good for the "most active cycle in 50 years"
> predicted in that article.
>
> It's alarming to note that the words "Maunder Minimum" are being
> heard more and more in polite society. Five years ago that phrase
> would have people rushing to their Funk and Wagnalls, now we just
> shake our heads up and down and say "Could be, yes, it could be."
```

It's even more alarming that those polite folk are willing to suggest a Maunder minimum on the basis of a slow start to a cycle. They should have checked their Fun an Waganalls, or at leat Wikipedia. We'd pretty much have to miss a whole cycle to declare the possibility of entering a new minimum.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

485. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-15 06:00:03 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1210831200@panix.com>
Source record: 2856
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.4 2008/03/13 04:38:09
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
```

promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. Crossposts of regular discussion articles between rec.radio.amateur.moderated and other discussion newsgroups are not permitted.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/ announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers, and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header, containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the moderators if one is not already provided.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

---

2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns, are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true."

"That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html |

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

486. Newbie looking for advice ...

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-15 14:26:08 UTC
From: Speedmaster <meisenzahl@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <6f3f1cf9-9aa7-45dd-bc7b-b3ce05a0bb5e@c65g2000hsa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2857

A few years ago I thought about getting into it but was busy w/ school
work and dropped it.

The thought of something like this intrigues me.
http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/4286
http://www.universal-radio.com/CATALOG/ht/0060.html

What kinds of things would I be able to listen to with it? How far
could I talk/listen?

What license would I need? How tough to get? Pointers to info much
appreciated. Is there a good FAQ to read?

Thanks very much in advance!!! ;-)

Chris
http://amateureconblog.blogspot.com/

487. Re: Differences..!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-15 14:27:51 UTC
From: "David G. Nagel" <nagel.david@sbcglobal.net>
Message-ID: <BovTj.1031$ah4.559@flpi148.ffdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2858

I don't know for sure but it could be associated with the FM capture
effect. In other words the greater local FM repeater signal swamps the
PAVE PAWS radar return signal. Not knowing the sensitivity of the radar
or its ability to select out individual frequencies prevents me from
knowing if this is true or not.

Dave WD9BDZ

Bill Powell wrote:
> Anyone with some level of technical knowledge might wonder why a
> billion dollar (boondoggle) "radar system" can't discriminate between
> a fixed, known "target" (like a repeater)and one that is moving, comes
> from over the horizon which might be something nasty?
>
> Sounds like some real shoddy engineering took place at taxpayer
> expense. I can think of 3 or 4 ways to remove false targets w/o
> loosing any system level accuracy or sensitivity. In fact, didn't
> they perfect that during the cold war?
>
> Gee... Thinking about it some. All Abdulah (or Ivan or whoever)
> needs to do is buy a 440 rig, an amp and a yagi and go out as a
> "rover"; 3 or 4 kW ERP down the bear's craw for a while then move.
>
> Sigh....
>
>
> On Sat, 3 May 2008 23:16:09 EDT, Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:
>
>> Doug Smith W9WI wrote:
>>> If I recall properly we're secondary to the military in
>>> that [70cm] band as well. Indeed, 70cm repeater operators are learning that the
>>> hard way... as many repeaters are having to reduce power or even go QRT
>>> at the request of our military, to protect a radar system.
>>>
>>> But the motorsports folks have no regular authority in that band at all.
>>>
>>> I'm not sure I understand why they thought they needed amateur spectrum
>>> for that project.
>>>
>>>
>> The Pave/Paws system that is pushing some repeaters off 70cm predates
>> the complaints by several decades, and I take the military's new
>> attitude to be another nail in the coffin of ham radio's former
>> "favorite son" status at the Pentagon.
>>

>> It used to be that we hams were a corps of operators who could be
>> pressed into service quickly during a war or other crisis. Now, with
>> Morse as deeply buried as its creators and military electronics too
>> secret to be entrusted to soldiers and sailors who haven't been vetted
>> for security clearances, we're yesterday's news in the E ring.
>>
>> We'll have to find another reason to justify the allocations we enjoy.
>> It's going to be hard work, and not nearly as easy as learning Morse
>> (not that that would help now). We're going to have to get better - in
>> fact, much better - at public relations: the Red Cross and other
>> disaster relief agencies have known the importance of image all along,
>> but now hams have got to get in the game and advertise ourselves as an
>> anlternative to traditional communications during hurricanes, floods,
>> earthquakes, etc.
>>
>> Of course we've had this debate before. Older hams such as I feel that
>> we followed the program and did what was expected of us, and now I
>> resend being pushed aside in favor of a Federal Emergency Management
>> Agency which is, to my jaundiced eye, proficient only at promising what
>> others will have to deliver and claiming credit for what others have
>> done. It's a cold, cruel world, and we must get better at telling the
>> public and the their elected officials how much we do.
>>
>> Bill
>

488. Re: Newbie looking for advice ...

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-15 20:19:28 UTC
From: xpyttl <xpyttl_NOSPAM@earthling.net>
Message-ID: <4eZWj.9$o51.4@newsfe02.lga>
Source record: 2859

Chris

That radio is VHF/UHF, so normally, it is approximately line of sight.
There are repeaters all over that significantly extend "line of sight", but
just how much depends on where you are, the phase of the moone, etc.

The licensing depends on where you are. In the U.S., you need a Technician
class license which requires you to take a test mostly about regulations.
It isn't too tough. There is a fee to take the test on the order of $20 or
so but it keeps changing. The license is good for 10 years, and renewals
are (currently) free. In other countries there are different rules.

..

"Speedmaster" <meisenzahl@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:6f3f1cf9-9aa7-45dd-bc7b-b3ce05a0bb5e@c65g2000hsa.googlegroups.com...
>A few years ago I thought about getting into it but was busy w/ school
> work and dropped it.
>
> The thought of something like this intrigues me.
> http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/4286
> http://www.universal-radio.com/CATALOG/ht/0060.html
>
> What kinds of things would I be able to listen to with it? How far
> could I talk/listen?
>
> What license would I need? How tough to get? Pointers to info much
> appreciated. Is there a good FAQ to read?
>
> Thanks very much in advance!!! ;-)
>
> Chris
> http://amateureconblog.blogspot.com/
>

489. Re: Does Echolink still require a statis IP address?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-15 20:20:03 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <1774085d-b19b-4583-9ef8-3957d0645c83@26g2000hsk.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2860

On May 14, 7:39 am, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> KC4UAI wrote:
> > . . . For now I'm stuck having to go though a proxy node,
> > which are few and in demand.
>
> > I've been struggling with the idea that it's my router/firewall at
> > home.
>
> In another article you mentioned using bittorrent; I don't know if it
> requires inbound TCP. But have you actually seen anyone establish a
> connection TO you? Maybe it operates like Echolink in the sense that
> much of the functionality works fine even if other nodes can't establish
> an inbound TCP connection to you.

Bittorrent doesn't *require* inbound connections, but you end up with
more links and it works better if they are allowed. The client I'm
using for bittorrent does the automatic router configuration thing
(Universal Plug and Play I think) and I see inbound TCP connections to
the client so inbound connections don't seem to be the issue (at least
for TCP ports that bittorrent uses.)

It's already been fun talking to tech support and I have yet managed
to get anybody on the phone who knows the difference between TCP and
UDP.

I wonder if it would be worth the effort to ask the EchoLink
developers if they can put in the Universal Plug and Play feature in?
Then all this router configuration difficulty will go away (or at
least most of it will.)

-= Bob =-

490. Please avoid earthquake emergency frequencies

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-16 14:07:36 UTC
From: "battles1550@mailinator.com" <battles@mailinator.com>
Message-ID: <50bdcf42-e0e0-4da3-9a22-4156c5535eb5@z72g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2861

```
This message was sent to ARRL members on _2008-05-15:

Please avoid the use of 14.270, 7.050 and 7.060 MHz during the
earthquake emergency in China. These frequencies are being used for
amateur radio emergency service by Asian hams.
------------------------------------------------------------------
This message is being sent to you via the ARRL Members Only Web site.
...
-- webmaster@arrl.org
```

491. Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-16 20:09:24 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <o4CdnSoQedjzdLDVnZ2dnUVZ_qHinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2862

Quoting from an ARRL news release

.. On Saturday, May 17 at the Dayton Hamvention, ARRL President
.. Joel Harrison, W5NZ, plans to announce that the League will expand
.. its identity program to include greater emphasis on technology.
.. Harrison explained that "Ham radio operators, and particularly
.. ARRL members, closely identify with current and emerging radio
.. technology. Today, we are naming 'technology' as ARRL's new
.. fifth pillar."

If ARRL will put enough weight into this idea that it can gain traction, I feel this may be the key to a renewed health for our hobby.

What can we do to help?
--
73, de Hans, K0HB
--
Homepage:
http://www.home.earthlink.net/~k0hb
Member:
ARRL http://www.arrl.org
SOC http://www.qsl.net/soc
VWOA http://www.vwoa.org
A-1 Operator Club http://www.arrl.org/awards/a1-op/
TCDXA http://www.tcdxa.org
MWA http://www.w0aa.org
TCFMC http://www.tcfmc.org
FISTS http://www.fists.org
LVDXA http://www.upstel.net/borken/lvdxa.htm

492. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 19 (May 16, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-16 20:56:08 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080516205507.6438030DEC@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2863
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

```
***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 19
May 16, 2008
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* ARRL Introduces "Fifth Pillar" at Dayton Hamvention
* Hams Called to Action in Aftermath of China Quake
* Tornadoes Sweep Across Midwest, Southeast US
* Dayton Update
* "The Doctor Is IN" the ARRL Letter
* Ronald A. Parise, WA4SIR (SK)
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
No ARRL Audio News on Friday, May 16
W1HQ Snake Gets Name, Call Sign
2008 ARRL Photo Contest Deadline Approaching
NWS Establishes Web Site to Report outages of NOAA Weather Radio
All Hazards Transmitters

============================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> ARRL INTRODUCES "FIFTH PILLAR" AT DAYTON HAMVENTION

On Saturday, May 17 at the Dayton Hamvention, ARRL President Joel
Harrison, W5ZN, plans to announce that the League will expand its
identity program to include greater emphasis on technology. Harrison
explained that "Ham radio operators, and particularly ARRL members,
closely identify with current and emerging radio technology. Today, we
are naming 'technology' as ARRL's new fifth pillar." ARRL's other four
pillars, the underpinnings of the organization, are Public Service,
Advocacy, Education and Membership. "For hams, expanding the four
pillars to include technology will reinforce one of the organization's
guiding principles -- that ham radio is state-of-the-art, innovative and
relevant," he said.
```

"Radio amateurs have entered a new era. More than a dozen Amateur Radio satellites are presently in orbit with more to come. Software is expanding the capabilities of their radio hardware and communication by digital voice and data is expanding rapidly among hams," Harrison said.

In addition to the new fifth pillar, the ARRL has launched a year-long ham radio recruitment campaign emphasizing the Amateur Radio Service as a scientific national resource. The campaign invites newcomers to discover ham radio in the 21st Century -- where hams are using science, technology and experimentation to explore the radio spectrum. "For more than 90 years, the ARRL has been at the forefront of technology, encouraging experimentation and education through its license training resources, publications and periodicals. ARRL provides its members with top-notch technical information services, trusted product reviews and radio spectrum advocacy," Harrison said. "The ARRL Laboratory is a centerpiece of ham radio technology, contributing to radio electronics experimentation, spectrum development and advocacy, and radio frequency engineering."

Harrison also noted that many hams attribute their affinity to "Amateur" Radio as launching their professional careers in radio engineering, satellite communications, computer science and wireless communications.

"This is less about defining a new course for Amateur Radio, but simply recognizing a course that has always been a precept of radio amateurs and the ARRL," he said. Referring to the federal rules and regulations for Amateur Radio, Harrison explained that one of the defining principles of the Service's very creation by the government is the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art. Harrison remarked, "Today's technology is nothing new to ham radio!"

==> HAMS CALLED TO ACTION IN AFTERMATH OF CHINA QUAKE

On Monday, May 12 at 0628 UTC, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit Sichuan, China. According to the Chinese Radio Sports Association <http://www.crsa.org.cn/english.php>, the Chinese IARU Member-Society, has designated the following frequencies for emergency services involved in the rescue: 14.270, 7.050 and 7.060 MHz. The ARRL encourages US amateurs to be aware of the emergency operations on those three frequencies.

The CRSA Web site reports the following:

"On the afternoon of May 12, 2008, Wenchuan Area of China's Sichuan province was struck by an earthquake. Communications in some of the surrounding areas are currently cut off, and communications in some other areas are experiencing network congestion because of drastically increased traffic.

"Chinese Radio Sports Association therefore calls on its members to take actions to ensure their amateur radio stations to operate properly, and to the extent possible stand by on often used short-wave frequencies. If any radio signal is heard from the disaster area, please do your best to

understand what is most needed by people in that area and report it to the local government authority. If people in the surrounding areas need to pass messages to their loved ones over the radio, please help them to get in touch and get the messages across as soon as possible.

"Amateur radio stations in the disaster area and surrounding areas if in working conditions should be used unconditionally to assist the local earthquake disaster relief authorities, and subject to permission by the said authorities, to provide communications services to them. For emergency communications purposes, amateur radio stations may also be used to pass messages for local residents on a temporary basis until local telecommunications services resume. Amateur radio stations of all regions should give way to and stand by for emergency communications."

At 1757 UTC on Monday, May 12, Liu Hu, BG8AAS, of Chengdu, a town in the province of Sichuan, reported that a local UHF repeater survived the disaster. "It keeps functioning from the first minute and more than 200 local radio hams are now on that repeater. A group of hams from Chengdu has headed for Wenchuan, the center of the quake, trying to set up emergency communication services there," he said.

Michael Chen, BD5RV/4, said that Yue Shu, BA8AB, also from Chengdu, Sichuan, was reported to be active on the 40 meter emergency frequency on Monday. "Up to now, there has been no further information available from the center zone of the quake. There are a few radio amateurs there, but all of the communications have been cut out, including Amateur Radio," Chen said.

At 1858 UTC, Liu reported that the local UHF repeater in Chengdu "keeps busy running after the quake. It helps to direct social vehicles to transport the wounded from Dujiangyan, Beichuan and other regions. Another UHF repeater also started working in Mianyan, supported by generators, but they are going to face a shortage of gas." Chen said that damage in Chengdu remains in the lowest level, but the situation is "very very bad in the counties around. A few towns are said to be destroyed completely. More than 7000 died in the town of Beichuan. Casualties in several other towns are still unknown and not counted in the published numbers. It is a long and sad day."

At 0831 UTC on Tuesday, May 13, Chen said that a group of radio amateurs is now transmitting from Wenchuan, the center of quake: "Its signal is reported to be very weak. They tried to keep communication with BY8AA, the Sichuan Radio Orienteering Association in Chengdu, seeking for all resources needed. During a contact finished a few minutes ago, they were asking for raincoats, water, tents and outdoor living facilities." -- Information provided by Michael Ye, BD4AAQ, and Michael Chen, BD5RV/4

==> TORNADOES SWEEP ACROSS MIDWEST, SOUTHEAST US

On May 9 and 10, a series of tornadoes swept across the Midwest and Southeast United States. Throughout the storms, Amateur Radio operators who had received the call for assistance responded promptly. An EF2

tornado blew through Stafford County, Virginia on May 9, causing damage to more than 140 homes. On May 10, Picher, a town in the upper northeast corner of Oklahoma, received the brunt of another storm system: an EF4 tornado zoomed through the town, killing six Picher residents. National Weather Service (NWS) officials said the Picher tornado was 1 mile wide at its widest point with wind speeds of 165 to 175 miles per hour. The damage from the Picher storm system extended into Missouri and Georgia, and 22 fatalities are blamed on that storm, 15 in Missouri alone; the Picher storm spawned five twisters in Oklahoma and two in neighboring Arkansas.

An EF2 tornado cut a 4-mile swath through Stafford County on Thursday, May 8. According to Stafford County Emergency Coordinator Curt "Bart" Bartholomew, N3GQ, ARES members handled more than 100 traffic messages during the surge. The American Red Cross, the Stafford Sheriff's Office, the Stafford Sheriff's Office 911 Center and the Stafford Emergency Management Division all received communications support from ARES, and ARES members set up a SKYWARN net 9 PM, May 8 to 1 AM, May 9.

Spotsylvania County Emergency Coordinator Tom Lauzon, KI4AFE, reported that the Rappahannock Area Chapter of the American Red Cross requested ARES support for communications between their headquarters in Massaponax (in the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania area) and nearby Gayle Middle School in South Stafford County. "The radio room at the Red Cross, K4TS, was staffed from 7:30 AM-6 PM on Friday, May 9," Lauzon said.

At least 160 houses were damaged in a Stafford County neighborhood, said County Administrator Anthony Romanello, including 30 that have been declared a total loss. Stafford County Fire Chief Bob Brown estimated the damage at more than $15 million. Residents said the tornado blasted in at about 10:30 PM Thursday amid a "lurid red-and-green sky laced with lightning that sent many rushing into their basements, " Romanello said.

The Stafford County tornado was one of two that struck Virginia as thunderstorms rolled northeast across the state Thursday night and Friday morning. The NWS confirmed that a smaller tornado, producing 86 to 110 MPH winds, struck Henry and Franklin Counties south of Roanoke about 8 PM Thursday. In addition, straight winds of about 100 MPH damaged several buildings along a mile-long path in Spotsylvania County and Fredericksburg, the weather service said. In central Virginia, the storms flooded some roads and toppled trees. The storms dropped an estimated 1 to 5 inches of rain in central Virginia, and possibly more in places.

In Oklahoma, ARRL Oklahoma Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator Mark Conklin, N7XYO, said served agencies were contacted and ARES groups in the area were placed on standby status: "Amateur Radio SKYWARN spotters were very busy and were of great help to the National Weather Service office in Tulsa during the storm events."

Ottawa County Emergency Management said that homes, businesses and vehicles were destroyed in a 20-square-block area at the south end of

Picher. In some cases, only a home's concrete slab remains. The storm also downed power lines, utility poles and trees. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reports about 6300 homes and businesses are without electric service due to the storms. The American Red Cross opened a shelter at the First Christian Church in Miami.

Once a boom town of about 20,000, Picher's population had dwindled to about 800 after waste from lead and zinc mines turned the area into an environmental disaster and Superfund site. Oklahoma Emergency Management Director Albert Ashwood said the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is unlikely to grant assistance to homeowners to rebuild in the town. Jeff Reeves, 43, who has followed his grandfather and father as Picher's fire chief, has lived in Picher all his life and has watched it slowly decline. He told reporters, "With everything else that's going on here, I'm not sure there is a recovery."

==> DAYTON UPDATE

Crowds have been enthusiastic on this, the opening day of the Dayton Hamvention. Thursday evening featured the ARRL Donor Recognition Reception that honored those who have made a significant financial contribution to the ARRL. If you didn't make it to Dayton this year (or even if you did), you can follow the action on the ARRL blog <http://www.arrl.org/blog/Dayton%20and%20ARRL%20Expo>. An update will also be posted to the ARRL Web site during the weekend, and a comprehensive article will appear in the July issue of QST.

==> "THE DOCTOR IS IN" THE ARRL LETTER

This week, ARRL Letter readers are in luck! The ARRL's very own Doctor, author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is IN," answers a question from his mailbag:

Question -- Mel, Snyder, K8MIW, of West Olive, Michigan, asks: I have a question about feeding a folded dipole, spaced about 5 inches between wires. What would be the difference between feeding it with the usual 300 ohm twin lead and using the popular 450 ohm window line as a feed line? I operate mostly on 75 meters. Years ago I used a folded dipole and found it to be an effective and wide band antenna. I have heavy duty window line on hand, but would have to buy the twin lead and the only line I can find is light duty line. Would the mismatch with the 450 ohm line cause any problems?

The Doctor answers -- The most significant difference would be the level of mismatch at the transmitter end. If you are using an antenna tuner, I doubt that you will notice any difference at all.

There will actually be slightly less loss with the 450 ohm (usually closer to 400 ohm in my experience) line. Let's see, if the antenna is about a quarter-wavelength high, the actual feed impedance will be closer to 200 ohms than to the free space value of 300 ohms. With 300 ohm line that results a 1.5:1 SWR at resonance, or 2:1 with 400 ohm line.

I would go ahead and use the window line. It should be less bothered by rain and will probably last longer. If your tuner has a problem at any frequency you operate at, try changing the feed line length by 20 feet or so and see what happens -- you are likely to find a length that works across the band. Just don't roll up any excess. In my cellar shack, I usually put any excess window line between the overhead floor joists, away from other wires and secured with TV standoff insulators.

That should be a great antenna! You may even be able to tune it on other bands, if you have a wide range tuner -- especially 30 meters. On that band, the window line will make even more of an improvement.

==> RONALD A. PARISE, WA4SIR (SK)

Dr Ronald A. Parise, PhD, WA4SIR, passed away Friday May 9, 2008 after a very long and courageous battle with cancer. He was 57. Parise flew as a payload specialist on two space shuttle missions: STS-35 on Columbia in December 1990 and STS-67 on the Endeavour in March 1995. These two missions, ASTRO-1 and ASTRO-2, respectively, carried out ultraviolet and x-ray astronomical observations, logging more than 614 hours and 10.6 million miles in space. Parise was one of the first astronomers to operate a telescope from space, making hundreds of observations during the mission. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Chairman Frank H. Bauer, KA3HDO, said Parise's personal contributions to these two missions provided scientists with "an unprecedented view of our universe, expanding our understanding of the birth, life and death of stars and galaxies." Information on ARISS can be found on the ARISS Web site <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm>.

First licensed when he was 11, Parise kept Amateur Radio at the forefront of everything he did, including his operations from space. During his two shuttle flights, he spoke with hundreds of hams on the ground. He was instrumental in guiding the development of a simple ham radio system that could be used in multiple configurations on the space shuttle; as a result, his first flight on Columbia ushered in what Bauer called the "frequent flyer era" of the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) payload <http://www.arrl.org/ARISS/sarex-past.html>. He was the first ham in space to operate packet radio. "His flight pioneered the telebridge ground station concept to enable more schools to talk to shuttle crew members despite time and orbit constraints," Bauer said. "In his two shuttle flights, he inspired countless students to seek technical careers and he created memories at the schools and communities that will never be forgotten. Ron was also the ultimate ham radio operator -- in space and on the ground."

Bauer said that Parise's love for Amateur Radio and his love of inspiring students continued well beyond his two shuttle flights: "During the formation of the ARISS program, Ron was a tremendous resource to the newly forming international team. I know of many instances where Ron's wisdom and sage advice was instrumental in helping our international team resolve issues when we reached critical technical or political roadblocks. He was a key volunteer in the development of the ham radio hardware systems that are now on-board ISS. The ARISS team

is deeply indebted to WA4SIR for his leadership, technical advice and tremendous vision."

Parise worked hand-in-hand with the students at the US Naval Academy and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University on the development of their student satellites. He helped develop Radio Jove, a student educational project to listen to the radio signals emanating from Jupiter <http://radiojove.gsfc.nasa.gov/>. Parise spoke at numerous schools over the years, inspiring students to pursue careers in science, math and technology.

"Ron Parise was--and continues to be--an inspiration to countless students, ham radio operators, and friends the world over. His accomplishments were many, including space explorer, pioneer, astrophysicist, pilot, ham radio operator, avionics and software expert, inspirational speaker and motivator, student satellite mentor, husband, father and friend. While he certainly did some truly extraordinary things in his lifetime, Ron Parise is best known and cherished for keeping family and friends first, and for this, we will miss him most," Bauer said.

In an effort to continue Parise's work to inspire the next generation, his family has set up a scholarship fund in Parise's honor for students pursuing technical degrees at Youngstown State University, Parise's alma mater. In lieu of flowers, those interested are welcome to send donations to the Dr Ronald A. Parise Scholarship Fund, Youngstown State University, One University Plaza, Youngstown, OH 44555. -- Information provided by Goddard Amateur Radio Club, WA3NAN

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Bright as ever shines the Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: We've had another week with no sunspots. Our reporting week for this bulletin runs from Thursday through Wednesday, and this is the fifth bulletin of the year reporting zero sunspots for the week.

Geomagnetic indices were quiet. But next Tuesday, May 20 should be quite active. Predicted planetary A index for May 16-22 is 5, 5, 5, 12, 30, 15 and 8. Geophysical Institute Prague expects quiet conditions May 16-18, quiet to unsettled May 19, active geomagnetic conditions May 20, unsettled May 21, and quiet to unsettled May 22.

Sunspot numbers for May 8 through 14 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0 with a mean of 0. 10.7 cm flux was 66.4, 67.3, 67.4, 68, 68, 68.3, and 69 with a mean of 67.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 3, 5, 3, 4, 4 and 3 with a mean of 3.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 3, 4, 3, 3, 3 and 1, with a mean of 2.9.

For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, look for another running of the NCCC Sprint Ladder on May 16. The Feld Hell Sprint is May 17. On May 17-18, be sure to make room in your schedule for the EU PSK DX Contest, His Majesty King of Spain Contest (CW), the Manchester Mineira All America CW Contest and the Baltic Contest. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is on May 19. The RSGB 80m Club Championship (CW) and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is on May 22. Next weekend is VK/Trans-Tasman 80m Contest (CW) on May 24. The CQ WW WPX Contest (CW) is May 24-25. The MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint is May 27. The MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint is May 26-27. The ARCI Hootowl Sprint is May 27 (local time) and the SKCC Sprint is May 28. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, May 25, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, June 6, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010), Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001), Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006), Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009), Analog Electronics (EC-012) and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* No ARRL Audio News on Friday, May 16: There will be no ARRL Audio News on Friday, May 16. ARRL Audio News will return on Friday, May 23.

* W1HQ Snake Gets Name, Call Sign: With more than 400 votes tallied, the W1HQ snake finally has a name <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/02/21/100/>. Sean Kutzko, KX9X, president of The Laird Campbell Memorial HQ Operators Club W1HQ, announced that the snake not only has a name, but a call sign, as well: "Members of the club met over lunch to discuss and vote on all the names that were sent in. The winning entry came from Charlie Liberto, W4MEC, of Hendersonville, North Carolina. He, along with former ARRL staffer R. Dean Straw, N6BV, submitted the name Hamaconda. Paul Trotter, AA4ZZ, of

Charlotte, North Carolina, submitted H1SS as a name. We liked the idea of the snake having a call sign, so the club decided, out of all the great names and call signs sent in, that Charlie's and Paul's submissions fit our mascot perfectly." Both Liberto and Trotter will receive a copy of "The ARRL Antenna Book." Kutzko, the ARRL Contest Branch Manager, was voted in as president of the HQ club at the meeting. ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, was selected as vice-president. ARRL Lab Manager and W1HQ Trustee Ed Hare, W1RFI, was selected as the club's technical officer, and ARRL MVP Associate/Production Assistant Carol Michaud, KB1QAW, was selected as club secretary.

* 2008 ARRL Photo Contest Deadline Approaching: Photos submitted for the 2008 ARRL Photo Contest will be accepted through Saturday, May 31. Send your photo (one per entrant) as an e-mail attachment to qst@arrl.org with the subject line "2008 ARRL Photo Contest." Digital photos should be high-resolution. Prints can be mailed to 2008 ARRL Photo Contest, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

* The National Weather Service has announced a Web page for hams and others to report outages of the NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Transmitters (NWR). The Web page <http://www.weather.gov/nwr/outages.html> explains how to report a transmitter that may be off air in a listener's area. -- Joe Lachacz

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!): letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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493. Re: NASA Predicts Solar Storm

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-16 21:42:51 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <yfKdnUnh8qXNYbDVnZ2dnUVZ_rrinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2864

"Mike Coslo" <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net> wrote in message
news:Xns9A9ED981B312Dmcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136...

> It's even more alarming that those polite folk are willing to suggest a
> Maunder minimum on the basis of a slow start to a cycle. They should have
> checked their Fun an Waganalls, or at leat Wikipedia. We'd pretty much have
> to miss a whole cycle to declare the possibility of entering a new minimum.
>
> - 73 de Mike N3LI -
>

[shaking head up and down] Could be, yes, it could be."

73, de Hans, K0HB
Just a boy and his radio

494. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1605 - May 16, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-17 16:35:34 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <200805171635.m4HGZQw28290@panix2.panix.com>
Source record: 2865
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1605 - May 16, 2008

CLOSED CIRCUIT FINANCIAL REPORT

The following is a closed circuit announcement. Ladies and gentlemen, a few words from the Amateur Radio Newsline support fund administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

--

Yep, its me. A.J. And if I'm here you likely suspect that once again the Amateur Radio Newsline is in desperate need of your financial support. And you would be right.

We know you prefer to hear the news rather than having to listen to these announcements and we agree. But over the past few months almost all donations have ceased so here we our with our annual spring pitch.

As we have said so many times before, it takes money to gather the news. It takes money to assemble a newscast and it takes money to bring it to you. And as the price of goods and services continue to increase so do our operating costs. The cost of telephone service. The cost of web access. The costs related to hosting our website and providing you with download F-T-P of the newscast. The coat of equipment repair and upgrade. In essence, all of the costs involved in bringing you 52 newscasts a year as we have done for almost 31 years.

We do our very best to keep operating expenses to a minimum. Everyone involved in the Amateur Radio Newsline is a volunteer. There is no paid staff.

More important, all of the monies you donate go only toward operating expenses and in supporting the Young Ham of the Year Award. And for you, your donation is tax deductible.

We even make it very easy to donate. If you have web access all you need to do is take your web browser to www.arnewsline.org. Then click on the words "Make A donation" and use your Pay-Pal account or credit card to transfer into ours.

Or you can use the good old method of writing a check and sending it to Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937, Arcadia California, 91066.

Either way, we thank you for your kindness. For your support and for your trust.

For the support fund, I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

--

Thank you Andy.

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1605 with a release date of
Friday, May 16th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The Seeds ham radio cubesat sends its first
SSTV back to Earth, a big rescue radio conference is planned for
Canada and Hamvention 2008 opens in Dayton. Find out what's happening
this year on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1605 coming your way
right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: FIRST SSTV FROM NEW SEEDS HAM RADIO CUBESAT

The first Slow Scan Television pictures have been received from the
Seeds cubesat satellite which was one of 7 successfully launched
launched on April 28th. JN1GKZ reports that he was one of the first to
successfully copy and record an SSTV image from Seeds and has put it on
his website. PA3GUO adds that he too has received a Seeds SSTV
transmission along with that of the satellites digi-talker. Heres what
it sounded like at his QTH:

--

Actual Sound here

--

The Seeds cubesat transmits on a frequency of 437.485 MHz using either
CW running 110 milliwatts or FM at 450 milliwatts output. It sends
only one stored SSTV picture about every two minutes when the satellite
is in digi-talker mode.

More about Seeds is on-line http://cubesat.aero.cst.nihon-
u.ac.jp/english/blog.html (ANS)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC TURNS AWAY PETITION TO LIMIT HF DIGITAL MESSAGING

The FCC has turned away a rule making request from Mark Miller, N5RFX,
of Arlington, Texas. In his petition Miller has asked the Commission
to delete the 2006 addition as to how it defines data. He also wanted
to amend the rules to prohibit automatically controlled stations from
transmitting in band segments other than those specified in Section
97.221(b), and replace the symbol rate limits in Section 97.307(f) with
bandwidth limitations.

In denying all three aspects of the N5RFX request, the FCC said that
Miller had not set forth sufficient reasons for the agency to approve

his petition. It did however note that if future actual on the air operational experience substantiate his concerns, that he may file a new, factually supported petition for rulemaking.

Miller's petition was endorsed mainly by hams who oppose unattended wider bandwidth digital messaging systems on the High Frequency bands. It was opposed by the proponents of unattended automated digital messaging who saw its adoption as an impediment to establishing emerging modes.

The opposition mounted a rigorous campaign that included using a website with sign and send opposition letters. In its finding the FCC took note of the cookie cutter responses that come from websites where people can go to submit canned responses and indicated that it discounts their importance in the overall decision making process.

Even so, it appears that Miller did not provide the FCC with enough factual material to make his case and the rules as now written will remain. (FCC)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: PA CLUB PRAISED FOR IS MARATHON COMMS

Radio communication was not behind the scenes at Pennsylvania's Run for the Red Marathon on May 5th. According to the Poccono Record, it was right in the middle of the event as a primary communications conduit.

According to the newspaper, members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Association are every two miles along the marathon route. From running out of cups at stop No. 7 to reporting twisted ankles and pulled muscles, the 30 member ham radio group is totally focused on communicating the needs of the event.

Jerry Truax, N3SEI, of Bartonsville is the county emergency coordinator for amateur radio. He says the group volunteers during emergencies as well as at special events. The Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Association's next public service event is communications for the Black Bear triathlon June 1st.
(Poccono Record)

**.

RESCUE RADIO: EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING CONFERENCE IN TORONTO IN JUNE

The Emergency E-Mail and Wireless Network will partner in the sponsorship of the 18th World Conference on Disaster Management that slated for June 15th to the 18th in Toronto, Canada. This conference is considered to be one of the most intense information exchange gatherings you can attend with over 85 workshops, plenary and breakout sessions. Some 120 organizations will be there showcasing products to help mitigate prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters. Its also an opportunity to network with Disaster Management

professionals worldwide. More about the gathering is on-line at www.emergencyemail.org (emergencyemail.org)

**

RADIO ADVENTURE: DESPITE STORM VA7MLW WILL CONTINUE VOYAGE AROUND THE WORLD

A Canadian Radio Amateur aboard a damaged sailboat is nursing concussion after being rolled over in the turbulent South Atlantic Ocean. But Glenn Wakefield VA7MLW of Victoria British Columbia says he has no intention of giving up an unusual solo voyage around the world.

Wakefield reported via ham radio from his 12-metre sailboat off the Falkland Islands that the May storm he was inn was expected to subside within 3 days after which he would head toward Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands. That was back on May 6th U-T-C time. Wakefield added that until the weather cleared he would just have to endure whatever Mother Nature sent his way.

A carpenter with two grown daughters, Wakefield sailed from Victoria on September 23rd of 2007. His intention was to become the first North American to circumnavigate the world westbound into prevailing winds that whirl around the bottom of the planet, rather than with the wind as is conventionally done.

VA7MLW is sailing a Phil Rhodes designed Offshore 40 foot sloop called the Kim Chow. It was built by Cheoy Lee in Hong Kong in 1969. For more than 4 years, Wakefield has been making extensive modifications to Kim Chow, preparing the vessel for the rigors of sailing offshore for approximately 10 months. More about Wakefield's journey is on-line at www.kimchowaroundtheworld.com (BC News OnLine)

**

HAMVENTION 2008: THE DOORS OPEN

As we go to air, the doors are opening at the HARA arena in Dayton, Ohio for the 2008 Hamvention. And according to the events Assistant General Chairman Michael Kalter, W8CI, this years Hamvention has a very simple theme:

--

Kalter: "This year the theme is amateur Radio plus people equals fellowship"

--

Kalter goes on to explain that Hamvention has always been dedicated to bringing people together, so why not make this the years centerpiece:

--

Kalter: "Most all of us involved in Amateur Radio have made friends in Amateur Radio. We enjoy the hobby together and we enjoy doing things together. It may be a special event or a critical situation and we have learned how to work together. That's fellowship.

Hamvention is a place where we see people. Sometimes it's the only time for a whole year. And we have clubs come. We have people from all over the world. People that you might keep skeds with in other parts of the world or other parts of the country. Here you get to see them face to face, eyeball to eyeball. And that's what Amateur Radio is and its what the amateur community does. It's a service and by doing that kind of a service it takes people and that's what creates the fellowship. That's how we see it."

--

**

HAMVENTION 2008: THE ARRL AND ARRL EXPO

So what can a visitor expect this year? Lets start with the American Radio Relay League. As it previously announced, the ARRL is at Hamvention along with its annual ARRL EXPO. That's over in the Ballarena Hall area.

The Leagues Membership Manager and ARRL EXPO Coordinator is Katie Breen, W1KRB. She days that the League will have many new publications and apparel items that it is proud to introduce.

And no ARRL booth at Hamvention would be complete without the annual release of the ARRL Repeater Directory. New for the 2008/2009 edition are the handy indexing tabs on the cover so you can quickly find the listings you're looking for. The Directory has new easier-to-read listings because the pocket-sized edition is actually one-half inch bigger."

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Hamvention repeater, W8BI, serving Dayton Ohio

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAMVENTION 2008: THE DOCTOR IS IN

A new area within the ARRL EXPO this year is the interactive "Doctor Is IN" booth. Its based on the QST column of the same name and everyone always wants to know who is behind the costume. This year attendees with have a chance to stop by the booth, ask question and have some one-on-one time with ARRL's Technical Experts. You might even be able to submit a stumper and get it published in QST.

This year's Docs On Call will be QST Contributing Editor Ward Silver, N0AX; QEX Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B; ARRL Senior Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR; QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and ARRL RF Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG.

**

HAMVENTION 2008: SOMETHING OR THE YOUNG

Hams in their early years are not being left out. Again, Hamvention Assistant General Chairman Michael Kalter, W8CI:

--

Kalter: "The Dayton Amateur Radio Association along with the ARRL is sponsoring a dinner for youth that will be held at the Dayton Amateur Radio Association clubhouse which is a very nice place to come and visit. That will be occurring on Saturday evening.

"On Friday evening we will be holding a general 'open house' to the general public from 6 to 9 PM. Its not to far from the Hara Arena and will be another exciting thing occurring this year."

--

Kalter says that he hopes as many folks as possible attend these two events. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

HAMVENTION 2008: THE ARRL MOVIE ROOM

Back at the Hara Arena, the ARRL will also sponsor a new Movie Room. This, as a new feature of this year's ARRL EXPO. Planned so far is a presentation on "60 Years of the Worked All Europe Contest." It will be presented by DJ3HW, and DL7RBI, of the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club. That's the German equivalent of ARRL.

The movie room will also screen a variety of DXpedition videos. The highlight will be with Bob Allphin, K4UEE. He will host an interactive session along with the showing of the video of the Peter One DXpedition to the Antarctic. (ARRL)

**

HAMVENTION 2008: ICOM PRESENTS D-STAR THE MOVIE

And speaking about video presentations, word of a new A new D-STAR promotional video is available on the ICOM Global website just in time for Hamvention 2008. There are two versions of the video are available to download. One is targeted at Europe, with the the other aimed at North America and the rest of the world. The video provides an introduction to D-STAR and explains the features available. Look for it at the Icom booth. If you cant make it to this years Hamvention you can download one or both at from http://www.icom.co.jp/world/products/video/d-starmovie/ (Icom)

**

HAMVENTION 2008: HEIL SOUND INTRODUCES TWO NEW MICS

Bob Heil, K9EID and Chip Margelli, K7JA, of Heil Sound, Ltd. are here. They and the bunch at the Heil Sound booth will be introducing the new microphones at this years Dayton Hamvention. First up is the PR 35 which features a large 1.5" diameter diaphragm in a dynamic microphone that outperforms condenser microphones.

The PR 35 was actually a product that songstress Joan Baez asked Bob Heil to build for her. This, after hearing the large diaphragm PR 30. It has a two stage bass roll off switch that allows you to tailor the low end response right at the microphone. The large element is in a very special internal shock mount and comes in an aluminum travel case.

Also being released at Dayton is the PR 781. Its based on the PR 780 that was designed for the Icom 7800 introduction project, the PR 781 is not rig specific. With the right accessories, it works well into any transmitter from a 1956 Harvey Wells to a brand new transceiver like the Yaesu FT 9000, Kenwood TS-2000 or what have you.

The new PR 35 and PR 781, along with the rest of the Heil microphone line will be on display in Audio Alley. To find it consult the Hamvention Program guide or simply follow the Hamvention crowds. More on what's new in ham radio products at Dayton in next weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (Heil Sound)

**

HAMVENTION 2008: SOFTWARE DEFINED RADIO FORUM

Turning to this years forums, one we think will receive a lot of attention is on the phenomenal paradigm shift toward Software Defined Radio. One that continues with a significant number of "off the shelf' as well as amateur radio designed hardware offerings.

What's interesting is that its computer programmers are fueling this fire and at the Software Defined Radio Forum attendees will get to hear some of the leaders in this movement describe the vast potential of this rapidly advancing technology.

This forum will also give an overview of some Software Defined Radio projects and show those attending how to get started. Topics will include Basic Software Defined Radio architecture, S-D-R Software and Software Defined Radio computer hardware requirements

Moderated by Eric Ellison, AA4SW, the Software Defined Radio Forum is on Saturday May 17th at 9 a.m. in Meeting Room 1 (Hamvention)

**

HAMVENTION 2008: NFCC WILL UPDATE FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT

If you are a repeater owner or even a concerned user, you won't want to miss the he National Frequency Coordinators' Council open meeting

slated for Friday at 9:15 in meeting room 5. The NFCC as its better known was founded a decade ago as the outcome of a meeting between repeater coordinators, the FCC and the ARRL. It has as its members the majority of frequency coordination bodies in the United States. Moderated by NFCC Chairman Jay Maynard, K5ZC, this forum will update those interested in frequency coordination on the current status of the organization and spectrum management activities in the Amateur Radio service. (NFCC)

**

HAMVENTION 2008 - NEWSLINE BRINGS A TRIP BACK IN TIME

Amateur Radio Newsline will once again host this years Hamvention Town Meeting on Saturday, the 17th. This year with a look back in time.

As ham radio flings itself headlong into the so-called "digital revolution of the 21st century we will pause for a moment to take a look at the hobby over the past half-century to see where it was in the latter 1950's through the mid 1990's.

Our keynote speaker will be Dave Bell, W6AQ, who will host a screening of his 1969 award-winning 28 minute film "The Hams Wide World." This will be the first public showing of the movie in over a quarter of a century and something nobody will want to miss.

As to the rest of the session, its based on the generally accepted fact that most of the change that lead ham radio to the hobby we know today began in the 1960's and continued through to the end of the 20th century. The speakers you will hear all were "kid hams" or "teen hams" in the 1950's. Most got licensed in that era and lived though tubes giving way to solid state; SSB coming into its own H-F; F-M and repeaters on 2 meters replacing point to point A-M on 6 meters and early home-built computers replacing mechanical RTTY systems.

They and many of you were also observers as the long traditional equipment names like Hallicrafters, Hammerlund, Heathkit, and even Collins Radio peaked and then gave ground to newcomers from across the Pacific. Those bearing company names Inoue Communications, Trio and Yaesu. Companies now known a Icom, Kenwood and Yaesu.

In this session you will find out what it was like to study for and take your exam when it was still given at a local FCC field office. What it was like to assemble your first station and in some cases building some or all of it. And you will get a trip down memory lane to when kits were king and find out how being a kid ham back then affected our panel's lives and careers.

We sincerely hope that you will enjoy this trip back through time brought to you by the 2008 Dayton Hamvention and the Amateur Radio Newsline in Meeting Room 3 beginning at 11:30 a,m. We hope to see many of you here.

A full report on Hamvention 2008, in next weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: HAMSPHERE - THE VIRTUAL TRANSCEIVER

Something new on the World Wide Web of interest to ham radio is HamSphere. If you haven't of HamSphere it is best described as an artificial shortwave radio based on the natural laws of radio propagation. One that lets members talk around the world with both ham operators and unlicensed users using a virtual transceiver. You can find about this project on line at www.hamsphere.com. (Southgate)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: ORGANIC BASED CARBON MOLECULES

University of Pittsburgh scientists have discovered that certain organic molecules exhibit the properties of atoms under certain circumstances and, in turn, conduct electricity as well as metal.

The research group found that the hollow, soccer-ball-shaped carbon molecules known as fullerenes can hold and transfer an electrical charge much like the most highly conductive atoms. When an electron was introduced into a fullerene molecule, the shape of the electron distribution mimicked that of a hydrogen atom or an atom from the alkali metal group, which includes lithium, sodium, and potassium. Moreover, when two fullerenes were placed next to each other on a copper surface, they showed the electron distribution of their chemical bond and appeared as H2, a hydrogen molecule. The assembly exhibited metal-like conductivity when the team extended it to a wire 1-molecule-wide.

Detailed in the April 18th edition of the magazine Science, the finding is a breakthrough in developing nano-technology. One that provides a new method for designing electronic materials, including inexpensive and multifunctional organic conductors that have long been considered the key to smaller, cheaper, and faster technologies. (Science OnLine)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: UPDATE ON HD RADIO ROLLOUT

The number of big-market stations turning on High Definition Radio in the past year fell off, while the number of stations in markets 51 to 100 held more steady.

According to an analysis from BIA Financial Network prepared for the Radio World HD Radio Scoreboard, 26 stations in the top 10 markets added HD Radio through mid-December 2007. This, compared to 76 the year before and 117 the year before that.

By contrast, there were 118 stations in markets 51 to 100 turning on HD Radio last year. That, compared to 124 the prior year and 111 in 2006.

One likely reason for the disparity is that proponents of HD Radio started with the bigger markets when they launched their rollout, though by no means are all big-market stations now converted. (RW)

**

ON THE AIR: THE PORTUGAL LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVITY

Members of the Portugal's Algarve DX Group will activate 7 lighthouses simultaneously between May 31st and June 1st. Operations will take place on 40, 30, 20 and 17 meters. There may be some operations on 80 and 15 meters and plans seem definite to include at least one 6 meter operational from the lighthouse at Santa Maria. The modes used will be CW, SSB and RTTY. A free award will be issued to any who contacts all 7 special lighthouse callsigns during activity operations. QSL via CT1GFK, by the Bureau or direct. (Southgate)

**

ON THE AIR: HONG KONG CLUB GETS OLYMPIC CALL

Members of the Hong Kong Amateur Radio DX Association have received official permission from the Office Of The Telecommunications Authority authorizing them to use the special event callsign VR2008O for the period between July 15th and August 31st. This, to celebrate the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Operations will be primarily on 40 through 10 meters and VHF on 6 meters. The modes used will mainly be SSB, RTTY and P-S-K 31. QSL direct only to VR2XMT: Charlie Ho, PO Box 900, Fanling Post Office, Hong Kong.

There will be no e-QSL or Logbook to the Word electronic cards accepted. Preliminary information and QSL card design have been put on line at www.qrz.com/vr2008o (HKARDXA)

**

ON THE AIR: JARL YOSAKOI KOCHI EVENT

The Japan Amateur Radio League, Inc. will be holding their 50th annual Yosakoi Kochi meeting on May 25th. Look for special event station 8-J-50-J-A-R-L to be active now through May 25th to celebrate this gathering . Activity will be on all bands from 160 meters through 1200

MHz, using CW, SSB, FM and AM. QSL via the JARL QSL Bureau. (OPDX)

**

DX

In Dayton Related D-X news, word that the ARRL's DXCC staff and some additional volunteers will be checking cards at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention during all hours of operation on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, said, "Many hams travel from all over the world to attend Hamvention, so card checkers are especially busy." Card checkers will be checking cards for DXCC, Worked All States, the VHF/UHF Century Club and Worked All Continents awards.

In other DX news, word that K9ZO and his XYL will be on holiday from Bermuda during July. He expects to be active as K9ZO portable VP9 and also plans to operate the IARU Contest. He will also monitor 30, 17, 12 and 6 meters. QSL as directed on the air.

Further up in frequency the W3HZU Beacons located in Grid FM-19 on 2.4GHZ and 1.2GHZ have been temporarily taken off the air. This, in preparation to add a third beacon on 5.76GHZ. A message on the amsat-bb will advise when the beacons are back in operation.

Last but by no means least, 5Z4DX, will be active from Shanzu Beach through June 11th. Activity will be on all bands and modes. He also plans to possibly activate Wasini Island from May 25th to the 26th and Lamu Island folowing that. QSL direct to Frank Steffen Gast, Eskifirdi, 735 Eskifjoedur, Iceland.

Above from various DX News Sources

**

HAMVENTION 2008: W5KUB TO PROVIDE LIVE STREAMING VIDEO MAY 14 - 18

And finally this week, if you can't make it to this years Dayton Hamvention, Tom Medlin, W5KUB, has the next best thing. From May 15th to the 18th Tom will being many of this years Hamvention highlights right to your home computer screen via broadband video streaming.

Web transmissions from the Hamvention were slated to begin on Thursday May 15th at Fleamarket spaces 3350 and 3351. Once the show opens on Friday, Tom plans nonstop coverage until closing on Sunday afternoon. Then he invites you to vicariously drive back to his home in Memphis with him. This, as he passes through some of the prettiest countryside that this nation has to offer.

So if you can't be there in person, take your web browser to http://w5kub.com and let Tom Medlin bring the magic of Hamvention 2008 directly to your home computer screen

Again, the U-R-L is http://W5KUB.com. There is also a direct link to Tom's streaming video site from the Dayton Hamvention website at

www.hamvention.org. (W5KUB)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award ends at midnight on May 30th. Nominations postmarked after that time or received electronically after that time will not be considered. A nominating form as a dot p-d-f file is available at our special Young Ham of the Year website at www dot yhoty dot org. Download it, fill it out and send it to us by U-S mail or electronically.

With special thanks to Hap Holly, KC9RP, for the audio with Michael Kaltee, W8CI and with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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495. PL problem on Icom 27A

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-17 20:37:51 UTC
From: Dan Yemiola AI8O <Dan@Yemiola.Net>
Message-ID: <g0ne4k$q00$1@news04.infoave.net>
Source record: 2866

Can anybody give me an idea of what is causing this problem with my IC27A?
(I know its 25 years old,but don't laugh, it's paid for).

I am trying to use the radio through several repeaters that require a CTCSS
(PL) tone to access the repeater.
I do not have this problem with repeaters that do not require a PL.

When I am far away from the repeater I use high power (25W) and the PL.
As I get closer to the machine using Hi power, I get to a point where I
cannot access the repeater using PL and Hi power.
If I cut back to low power (<5w) and PL the radio will access the rptr.
If I move farther away from the repeater at some point I can again access
the rptr on high power.

Dan
AI8O

496. Re: PL problem on Icom 27A

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-17 21:08:21 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <iut3g5-jcn.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 2867

In article <g0ne4k$q00$1@news04.infoave.net>,
Dan Yemiola AI8O <Dan@Yemiola.Net> wrote:

>Can anybody give me an idea of what is causing this problem with my IC27A?
>(I know its 25 years old,but don't laugh, it's paid for).
>
>I am trying to use the radio through several repeaters that require a CTCSS
>(PL) tone to access the repeater.
>I do not have this problem with repeaters that do not require a PL.
>
>When I am far away from the repeater I use high power (25W) and the PL.
>As I get closer to the machine using Hi power, I get to a point where I
>cannot access the repeater using PL and Hi power.
> If I cut back to low power (<5w) and PL the radio will access the rptr.
> If I move farther away from the repeater at some point I can again access
>the rptr on high power.

I think the fastest way to diagnose the actual cause of the problem will be to use a service monitor and/or spectrum analyzer, to look at several aspects of the rig's transmitted signal: RF frequency accuracy, signal deviation level (with PL only, and with PL plus voice), and the cleanliness and frequency accuracy of the PL signal.

I'd tend to suspect one of several problems:

- PL tone is off-frequency, or it's being injected at too high or too low a level (typically, around 700 Hz of carrier deviation is considered optimal).

- PL waveform is distorted.

- RF feedback or some other sort of audio-level stability problem (e.g. parasitic oscillation) is injecting an unwanted audio signal into the modulator, and is swamping out the PL tone.

- RF carrier is off-frequency, causing your signal to fall partway outside the passband of the repeater's receiver, and the resulting noise and distortion is causing the PL detector to drop out.

I'm not sure why your signal problems are worse when the repeater's receiver gets a strong signal - the receiver squelch behavior may change with strong signals (I've seen some which behave this way).

Your rig may need nothing more than a recalibration, or it may have components going bad (e.g. electrolytic filter caps drying out with age, and losing capacity).

In any case, finding somebody who has an accurately-calibrated service monitor is probably the first best thing for you to do.

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will
boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

497. Re: Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-18 18:57:28 UTC
From: "Alun L. Palmer" <elektros@yahoo.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9AA28E59456B1elektrosmdonet@85.214.54.150>
Source record: 2868

Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote in
news:m6q424lq3q2fqgont6pe4jn75qrlv63e32@4ax.com:

> On Wed, 7 May 2008 18:37:43 EDT, Bill Powell <whp@att.net> wrote:
>
>>Public notice posted yesterday - proposal to use 430-448 MHz for
>>remotely-controlled surveillance robot:
>>
>>http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1077A1.pdf
>>
>>Sigh...
>
> Pikers! Why didn't they apply for 20 kW and REALLY cause
> interference?? <g> It almost sounds like they are using something
> "off the shelf" that is being used elsewhere where the ham band ends
> at 430 MHz. I've seen this stuff before.
>
> My gut feeling is that with the present "leadership" at the FCC
> (despite the fact that several good friends are in the Homeland
> Security and Public Safety Bureau and wouldn't support it but for
> pressure from above) it will be granted on a secondary priority behind
> all the other secondary priority users. I hope that I am wrong and it
> is denied.
>
> Another reason to support the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund.
> --
>
> 73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
>
>>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
> Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon
>
> e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net
>
>

There isn't anywhere that has an upper edge at 430, Phil. There are
countries that only have the middle third of the ham band (430-440) or
lesser portions of that part, but none that have only 420-430. However,
there are many where hams are secondary users.

73 de Alun, N3KIP, G8VUK

PS: Can't stand modded groups to save my life, but the old one has nothing
left in it except obscene ramblings

498. Re: NASA Predicts Solar Storm

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-19 01:13:10 UTC
From: HansK0HB@gmail.com
Message-ID: <43a4ea30-81d7-44e0-bc27-28d8cafa5540@z72g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2869

Hey Doug,

Congrats on your win at Dayton! I knew skimmer wouldn't have a prayer
against a real radioman.

73, de Hans, K0HB
Just a boy and his radio

499. Re: Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-19 03:06:34 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <WNedneW8pafaSK3VnZ2dnUVZ_tXinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2870

440 is a shared band already, and this device strikes me as an ideal candidate for sharing. It would have at worst a sporadic impact on our use, at low power, and would be a direct contributor to public safety while reducing risk of life and limb to our firefighters and police. This is one ARRL should support.

73, de Hans, K0HB
Just a boy and his radio

500. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-19 19:13:26 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g0sia7$138k$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2871

Kï¿½HB wrote:
> Quoting from an ARRL news release
>
> .. On Saturday, May 17 at the Dayton Hamvention, ARRL President
> .. Joel Harrison, W5NZ, plans to announce that the League will expand
> .. its identity program to include greater emphasis on technology.
> .. Harrison explained that "Ham radio operators, and particularly
> .. ARRL members, closely identify with current and emerging radio
> .. technology. Today, we are naming 'technology' as ARRL's new
> .. fifth pillar."
>
> If ARRL will put enough weight into this idea that it can gain traction, I feel
> this may be the key to a renewed health for our hobby.

I think this is a good idea. I'm not so sure that Amateur Radio is
unhealthy though.

> What can we do to help?

I'm all about technology. I do want it to be relevant, not just
technology for it's own sake.

Good technology:

Getting more people on narrow digital modes.

I still want a PSK31 HT. Young people like to text. Having an HT that
can display text that costs nothing beyond the initial cost of the HT,
and the cost of charging batteries.

Oh yeah, while we're at it, I don't know if that HT with the camera is
still being produced

As much as I prefer regular transceivers, SDR radio would be a pretty
interesting way to go. Big hint to the mfgr's: Sell something usable
that isn't a kilobuck+. I saw the ones out at Dayton, and a better price
point is advised.

Keep on moving with the computer enhanced stuff.

Technology that is so-so.

I've seen a lot about the new Digital voice and data modes such as
D-Star. Lots of investment needed there, and although the transmission
of data is kinda cool, I have concerns about multipath. Isn't as much of
a problem for old school FM. Also while I like the idea of sending data,
I think that digital voice is kind of underwhelming, unless we
subscribe to the view that "it's digital - It's better".

D-Star might need a big kick start, such as emergency groups purchasing repeaters, and maybe some initial users getting some help. Otherwise people who want to put up a digital repeater (note, not a digipeater) might be going to a lot of expense to talk to one or two friends.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

501. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-20 04:16:22 UTC
From: an old friend <kb9rqz@yahoo.com>
Message-ID: <213597c4-3cdd-485e-b5bd-e20aa5eb92b2@p25g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2872

On May 19, 3:13 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
> Kï¿½HB wrote:
> > Quoting from an ARRL news release

snip.
>
> I still want a PSK31 HT. Young people like to text. Having an HT that
> can display text that costs nothing beyond the initial cost of the HT,
> and the cost of charging batteries.

id love one too
>
> Oh yeah, while we're at it, I don't know if that HT with the camera is
> still being produced
>
if you mean the kenwood vc-h1 it was more of a speaker mike but no it
is not in in production

if you mean another unti i don't know

502. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-20 08:31:23 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <4Pydne8OwMvEka_VnZ2dnUVZ_vednZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2873

On May 19, 7:13 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:

>
> I'm all about technology. I do want it to be relevant, not just
> technology for it's own sake.
>

"Relevant" is a moving target, Mike. I think we >>should<< encourage technology "just for it's own sake".

Some percentage (invariably a LARGE percentage) mosly likely will end up no more than a technical curiousity (for the moment, anyhow). But if ARRL can light a technological campfire for us to gather round, even small percentages of PBI's maturing will justify the effort.

> Good technology:
>
> Getting more people on narrow digital modes.
>
> I still want a PSK31 HT. Young people like to text. Having an HT that
> can display text that costs nothing beyond the initial cost of the HT,
> and the cost of charging batteries.
>
> Oh yeah, while we're at it, I don't know if that HT with the camera is
> still being produced
>

None of that is new technology, Mike, just "more of the same old stuff in a different sack". "Texting" and "cameras in an HT" are mass marketed by the millions and already owned by every bubble-gummer in the country who has access to a cheap cell phone!

> As much as I prefer regular transceivers, SDR radio would be a pretty
> interesting way to go. Big hint to the mfgr's: Sell something usable
> that isn't a kilobuck+. I saw the ones out at Dayton, and a better price
> point is advised.

Hopefully this new "pillar" isn't about hints to >>manufacturers<< defining their product offerings, but about fostering an amateur radio environment which breeds a spirit of experimentation and tinkering among >>amateur licensees<<.

I want to see more pages of ham-authored articles in QEX, not more commercial advertising in QST.

Hopefully this new "pillar" is about petitions to FCC to loosen up our spectrum to new modes and techniques. Back when ARRL/FCC were haggling about how to refarm the so-called "Novice bands", I suggested that they be set up as

experimental reservations where forward looking amateurs would be encouraged to try new or unconventional technologies. Instead, FCC copped out and just shuffled some mode-boundaries around.

What an opportunity lost!

Perhaps it's time to send a new copy of my remarks to FCC. See below.

73, de Hans, K0HB
Grand Exhalted Liberator of the Fumes of Solder

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of)
)
Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's) RM-10413
Amateur Service Rules Governing)
Operating Privileges)
)

PERSONAL COMMENTS OF HANS BRAKOB, K0HB

OVERVIEW

These comments are in response to the ARRL proposal for "refarming" the existing HF "Novice sub-bands".

I. Discussion:

The ARRL petition does not address the implementation of new technologies as repeatedly requested by the Commission in WT Docket 98-143. It simply proposes to eliminate the Novice segments and reshuffle that spectrum among existing legacy modes. Rather than gain consensus, the ARRL polling method produced a popularity poll among several non-responsive (to 98-143) choices.

Rather than just "more of the same old stuff", I propose that the Commission take this opportunity to provide the Amateur Radio service with a new incentive to concentrate on paragraph 97.1(b) of the Commission's Rules.

97.1(b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

While I agree that the declining Novice license population no longer justifies several significant chunks of spectrum as a "reservation" for improving their Morse skills, and that these "reservations" have outlived their regulatory purpose, I propose that we retain these 50-year old "reservations" and

convert them to a new purpose which will ensure the future Amateur Radio service continues our "proven ability to contribute to the advancement".

II Proposal:

A. To "de-populate" the current Novice segments, I propose that all Novice (and Technician with code credit) licensees be authorized to use Morse code in the same band segments now authorized for General class licensees.

B. I propose that the current Novice sub-bands be set aside as a new "Experimental Reservation" for non-traditional and experimental modes such as digitized voice, digitized image, and other "forward looking" communications methods.

C. I propose that the current power output level of 200W be retained for those segments, and additionally propose that transmitters in those segments must be equipped with auto-adaptive circuitry to reduce output to the lowest level consistent with reliable communications.

D. I recommend that the Commission grant broad discretion to amateurs operating in this "experimental reservation" as to innovative modulation schemes and non-traditional technologies.

Respectfully,

H. Hans Brakob, K0HB

503. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-20 15:06:26 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g0unu7$1jps$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2874

Kï¿½HB wrote:
> On May 19, 7:13 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>> I'm all about technology. I do want it to be relevant, not just
>> technology for it's own sake.
>>
>
> "Relevant" is a moving target, Mike. I think we >>should<< encourage technology
> "just for it's own sake".

Keeping in mind that some technology is a dead end.

> Some percentage (invariably a LARGE percentage) mosly likely will end up no more
> than a technical curiousity (for the moment, anyhow). But if ARRL can light a
> technological campfire for us to gather round, even small percentages of PBI's
> maturing will justify the effort.
>
>> Good technology:
>>
>> Getting more people on narrow digital modes.
>>
>> I still want a PSK31 HT. Young people like to text. Having an HT that
>> can display text that costs nothing beyond the initial cost of the HT,
>> and the cost of charging batteries.
>>
>> Oh yeah, while we're at it, I don't know if that HT with the camera is
>> still being produced
>>
>
> None of that is new technology, Mike, just "more of the same old stuff in a
> different sack". "Texting" and "cameras in an HT" are mass marketed by the
> millions and already owned by every bubble-gummer in the country who has access
> to a cheap cell phone!

So much of what we use is not terribly new. Certainly SSB was around a
long time before Amateurs adopted it in large numbers. Technology is not
just about what is cutting edge, but is often about can be done
efficiently and at a good cost. While PSK has been around for a while,
availability of computers/soundcards/software to allow Hams to
experiment with it was critical to having many adopt it.

>
>> As much as I prefer regular transceivers, SDR radio would be a pretty
>> interesting way to go. Big hint to the mfgr's: Sell something usable
>> that isn't a kilobuck+. I saw the ones out at Dayton, and a better price

>> point is advised.
>
> Hopefully this new "pillar" isn't about hints to >>manufacturers<< defining
> their product offerings, but about fostering an amateur radio environment which
> breeds a spirit of experimentation and tinkering among >>amateur licensees<<.
>
> I want to see more pages of ham-authored articles in QEX, not more commercial
> advertising in QST.

The RF world is fairly mature at this point. (please no comparisons to
that physicist who said "everything is known") The earth shaking
developments tend to come a little further apart these days. I would
guess that most new innovations will be incremental, though it would be
cool to be proven incorrect on that.

I just don't know how many fundamental breakthroughs will be made by
some Ham working in his or her garage.

More to the point in my mature technology outlook is that when something
gets to that point, much of the research and innovation needs a fair
amount of money put into it to get very far.

> Hopefully this new "pillar" is about petitions to FCC to loosen up our spectrum
> to new modes and techniques. Back when ARRL/FCC were haggling about how to
> refarm the so-called "Novice bands", I suggested that they be set up as
> experimental reservations where forward looking amateurs would be encouraged to
> try new or unconventional technologies. Instead, FCC copped out and just
> shuffled some mode-boundaries around.

I wouldn't argue about your idea. I think it is pretty sensible. There
would probably be a lot of hand wringing about it by some folk, I suspect.

- 73 d eMike N3LI -

504. Integrating Echolink into an SSB net

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-20 17:56:41 UTC
From: Buck <usenet01@lumpuckeroo.com>
Message-ID: <kor534968i5jqqhnkmch89q5u92i61bttj@4ax.com>
Source record: 2875

In the June Issue of QST Magazine, there is an article mentioned in HamSpeak on page 105 called "Integrating Echolink into a Single Sideband Net.

I have looked thru the magazine several times but cannot find the article. Am I overlooking it or is it not there?

Buck
N4PGW

505. What a great Dayton!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-21 18:21:57 UTC
From: David Lesher <wb8foz@panix.com>
Message-ID: <g11p7nnmi1@reader2.panix.com>
Source record: 2876

Yes, there were bumps, such as the Flea Market ticket mess, but so what?
We got our spot issues cleared up at 8:15 Thursday, got the tents up and
the booth set up by noon.

The weather was the best I've seen in YEARS. Sun or high clouds for all
4 days. Cool enough but not cold. It poured rain Saturday night but
waited until nightfall to start and stopped well before dawn.

Predicted traffic hassles were not, at least for us...

I bought all kinds of goodies, none big, many small, saw old friends
and had a great time. The only downer was the Hotels.Com booking;
do not go to the Econolodge on Edwin Moses drive, folks..

--
A host is a host from coast to coast.................wb8foz@nrk.com
& no one will talk to a host that's close........[v].(301) 56-LINUX
Unless the host (that isn't close).........................pob 1433
is busy, hung or dead....................................20915-1433

506. Re: Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-21 20:09:47 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g11p2f$8ot$1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2877

In article <WNedneW8pafaSK3VnZ2dnUVZ_tXinZ2d@earthlink.com>,
K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net> wrote:
>440 is a shared band already, and this device strikes me as an ideal candidate
>for sharing. It would have at worst a sporadic impact on our use, at
>low power,
>and would be a direct contributor to public safety while reducing risk of life
>and limb to our firefighters and police. This is one ARRL should support.

There is no technical reason that the frequencies should come from the middle of an already populated amateur band, and I disagree strongly with your assessment that it would have "at worst a sporadic impact". A few repeaters over a wide geographic area should have ZERO impact on a well-designed classified military radar system (designed and built AFTER the repeaters were on the air), but we all know that wasn't true.

This manufacturer has been using non-certified equipment hoping that his squatting in the amateur bands will be forgiven by getting a large number of technically ignorant police departments to cry that they'll be saving lives -- but not cry why they ought to be using spectrum that is already used.

Read the waiver. The claim that this will be strictly for emergency use is disproven by the statements from police departments who want to use this for warrant service and air-duct inspections.

507. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-21 20:11:35 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g11pr0auv1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2878

In article <g0sia7$138k$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>,
Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>I still want a PSK31 HT.

My God, why? APRS has a texting mode. The technology is in place and well-defined. A two-second burst of 1200 baud packet, even assuming a 500 ms TXDELAY, has more text than a standard SMS. That's more than 50 seconds at PSK31. Who's going to install the PSK31 digipeaters? Who is going to develop the technology to determine that a PSK31 signal that is 100Hz off the correct frequency should be digipeated while one that is 50Hz off should not? (1kHz error in an FM HT is common. 1kHz error in PSK31 is a completely different QSO.)

>Oh yeah, while we're at it, I don't know if that HT with the camera is
>still being produced

Ever try sending an image at 1200 baud?

>As much as I prefer regular transceivers, SDR radio would be a pretty
>interesting way to go. Big hint to the mfgr's: Sell something usable
>that isn't a kilobuck+. I saw the ones out at Dayton, and a better price
>point is advised.

Volume means low price. High price means no volume. Yeah, a $100 SDR HT would be great. It also has more than $100 of parts in it. That $0.10 diode detector is replaced by a $30 DSP chip.

>I've seen a lot about the new Digital voice and data modes such as
>D-Star. Lots of investment needed there, and although the transmission
>of data is kinda cool, I have concerns about multipath.

But you're the guy who wants texting via PSK31? D-STAR texting, bad. PSK31 texting, good?

>D-Star might need a big kick start, such as emergency groups purchasing
>repeaters,

Sorry, but at $10,000 starting, our emergency group isn't going to be buying one. The fact we have no open repeater space, and the cost of a D-STAR radio, makes it certain that D-STAR is a non-starter here.

>people who want to put up a digital repeater (note, not a digipeater)
>might be going to a lot of expense to talk to one or two friends.

I thought I'd like to buy an ID-1 when it came out. At $3000 (one for me, one for someone to talk to) I said "no thanks".

508. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1605 - May 16, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-21 21:10:07 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080521140942.020341e0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2879
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1605 - May 16, 2008

CLOSED CIRCUIT FINANCIAL REPORT

The following is a closed circuit announcement. Ladies and gentlemen, a few words from the Amateur Radio Newsline support fund administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

--

Yep, its me. A.J. And if I'm here you likely suspect that once again the Amateur Radio Newsline is in desperate need of your financial support. And you would be right.

We know you prefer to hear the news rather than having to listen to these announcements and we agree. But over the past few months almost all donations have ceased so here we our with our annual spring pitch.

As we have said so many times before, it takes money to gather the news. It takes money to assemble a newscast and it takes money to bring it to you. And as the price of goods and services continue to increase so do our operating costs. The cost of telephone service. The cost of web access. The costs related to hosting our website and providing you with download F-T-P of the newscast. The coat of equipment repair and upgrade. In essence, all of the costs involved in bringing you 52 newscasts a year as we have done for almost 31 years.

We do our very best to keep operating expenses to a minimum. Everyone involved in the Amateur Radio Newsline is a volunteer. There is no paid staff.

More important, all of the monies you donate go only toward operating expenses and in supporting the Young Ham of the Year Award. And for you, your donation is tax deductible.

We even make it very easy to donate. If you have web access all you need to do is take your web browser to www.arnewsline.org. Then click on the words "Make A donation" and use your Pay-Pal account or credit card to transfer into ours.

Or you can use the good old method of writing a check and sending it to Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937, Arcadia California, 91066.

Either way, we thank you for your kindness. For your support and for your trust.

For the support fund, I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

--

Thank you Andy.

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1605 with a release date of Friday, May 16th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The Seeds ham radio cubesat sends its first SSTV back to Earth, a big rescue radio conference is planned for Canada and Hamvention 2008 opens in Dayton. Find out whats happening this year on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1605 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: FIRST SSTV FROM NEW SEEDS HAM RADIO CUBESAT

The first Slow Scan Television pictures have been received from the Seeds cubesat satellite which was one of 7 successfully launched launched on April 28th. JN1GKZ reports that he was one of the first to successfully copy and record an SSTV inage from Seeds and has put it on his website. PA3GUO adds that he too has received a Seeds SSTV transmission along with that of the satellites digi-talker. Heres what it sounded like at his QTH:

--

Actual Sound here

--

The Seeds cubesat transmits on a frequency of 437.485 MHz using either CW running 110 milliwatts or FM at 450 milliwatts output. It sends only one stored SSTV picture about every two minutes when the satellite is in digi-talker mode.

More about Seeds is on-line
http://cubesat.aero.cst.nihon-u.ac.jp/english/blog.html (ANS)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC TURNS AWAY PETITION TO LIMIT HF DIGITAL MESSAGING

The FCC has turned away a rule making request from Mark Miller, N5RFX, of Arlington, Texas. In his petition Miller has asked the Commission to delete the 2006 addition as to how it defines data. He also wanted to amend the rules to prohibit automatically controlled stations from transmitting in band segments other than those specified in Section 97.221(b), and replace the symbol rate limits in Section 97.307(f) with bandwidth limitations.

In denying all three aspects of the N5RFX request, the FCC said that Miller had not set forth sufficient reasons for the agency to approve his petition. It did however note that if future actual on the air operational experience substantiate his concerns, that he may file a new, factually

supported petition for rulemaking.

Miller's petition was endorsed mainly by hams who oppose unattended wider bandwidth digital messaging systems on the High Frequency bands. It was opposed by the proponents of unattended automated digital messaging who saw its adoption as an impediment to establishing emerging modes.

The opposition mounted a rigorous campaign that included using a website with sign and send opposition letters. In its finding the FCC took note of the cookie cutter responses that come from websites where people can go to submit canned responses and indicated that it discounts their importance in the overall decision making process.

Even so, it appears that Miller did not provide the FCC with enough factual material to make his case and the rules as now written will remain. (FCC)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: PA CLUB PRAISED FOR IS MARATHON COMMS

Radio communication was not behind the scenes at Pennsylvania's Run for the Red Marathon on May 5th. According to the Pcccono Record, it was right in the middle of the event as a primary communications conduit.

According to the newspaper, members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Association are every two miles along the marathon route. From running out of cups at stop No. 7 to reporting twisted ankles and pulled muscles, the 30 member ham radio group is totally focused on communicating the needs of the event.

Jerry Truax, N3SEI, of Bartonsville is the county emergency coordinator for amateur radio. He says the group volunteers during emergencies as well as at special events. The Eastern Pennsylvania Amateur Radio Association's next public service event is communications for the Black Bear triathlon June 1st.
(Poccono Record)

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RESCUE RADIO: EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING CONFERENCE IN TORONTO IN JUNE

The Emergency E-Mail and Wireless Network will partner in the sponsorship of the 18th World Conference on Disaster Management that slated for June 15th to the 18th in Toronto, Canada. This conference is considered to be one of the most intense information exchange gatherings you can attend with over 85 workshops, plenary and breakout sessions. Some 120 organizations will be there showcasing products to help mitigate prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters. Its also an opportunity to network with Disaster Management professionals worldwide. More about the gathering is on-line at www.emergencyemail.org (emergencyemail.org)

**

RADIO ADVENTURE: DESPITE STORM VA7MLW WILL CONTINUE VOYAGE AROUND THE WORLD

A Canadian Radio Amateur aboard a damaged sailboat is nursing concussion after being rolled over in the turbulent South Atlantic Ocean. But Glenn Wakefield VA7MLW of Victoria British Coilumbia says he has no intention of giving up an unusual solo voyage around the world.

Wakefield reported via ham radio from his 12-metre sailboat off the Falkland Islands that the May storm he was inn was expected to subside within 3 days after which he would head toward Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands. That was back on May 6th U-T-C time. Wakefield added that until the weather cleared he would just have to endure whatever Mother Nature sent his way.

A carpenter with two grown daughters, Wakefield sailed from Victoria on September 23rd of 2007. His intention was to become the first North American to circumnavigate the world westbound into prevailing winds that whirl around the bottom of the planet, rather than with the wind as is conventionally done.

VA7MLW is saling a Phil Rhodes designed Offshore 40 foot sloop called the Kim Chow. It was built by Cheoy Lee in Hong Kong in 1969. For more than 4 years, Wakefield has been making extensive modifications to Kim Chow, preparing the vessel for the rigors of sailing offshore for approximately 10 months. More about Wakefield's journey is on-line at www.kimchowaroundtheworld.com (BC News OnLine)

**

HAMVENTION 2008: THE DOORS OPEN

As we go to air, the doors are opening at the HARA arena in Dayton, Ohio for the 2008 Hamvention. And according to the events Assistant General Chairman Michael Kalter, W8CI, this years Hamvention has a very simple theme:

--

Kalter: "This year the theme is amateur Radio plus people equals fellowship"

--

Kalter goes on to explain that Hamvention has always been dedicated to bringing people together, so why not make this the years centerpiece:

--

Kalter: "Most all of us involved in Amateur Radio have made friends in Amateur Radio. We enjoy the hobby together and we enjoy doing things together. It may be a special event or a critical situation and we have learned how to work together. That's fellowship.

Hamvention is a place where we see people. Sometimes it's the only time for a whole year. And we have clubs come. We have people from all over the world. People that you might keep skeds with in other parts of the world or other parts of the country. Here you get to see them face to

face, eyeball to eyeball. And that's what Amateur Radio is and its what the amateur community does. It's a service and by dong that kind of a service it takes people and that's what creates the fellowship. That's how
we see it."

--

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HAMVENTION 2008: THE ARRL AND ARRL EXPO

So what can a visitor expect this year? Lets start with the American Radio Relay League. As it previously announced, the ARRL is at Hamvention along with its annual ARRL EXPO. That's over in the Ballarena Hall area.

The Leagues Membership Manager and ARRL EXPO Coordinator is Katie Breen, W1KRB. She days that the League will have many new publications and apparel items that it is proud to introduce.

And no ARRL booth at Hamvention would be complete without the annual release of the ARRL Repeater Directory. New for the 2008/2009 edition are the handy indexing tabs on the cover so you can quickly find the listings you're looking for. The Directory has new easier-to-read listings because the pocket-sized edition is actually one-half inch bigger."

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Hamvention repeater, W8BI, serving Dayton Ohio

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAMVENTION 2008: THE DOCTOR IS IN

A new area within the ARRL EXPO this year is the interactive "Doctor Is IN" booth. Its baed on the QST column of the same name and everyone always wants to know who is behind the costume. This year attendees with have a chance to stop by the booth, ask question and have some one-on-one time with ARRL's Technical Experts. You might even be able to submit a stumper and get it published in QST.

This year's Docs On Call will be QST Contributing Editor Ward Silver, N0AX; QEX Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B; ARRL Senior Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR; QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and ARRL RF Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG.

**

HAMVENTION 2008: SOMETHING OR THE YOUNG

Hams in their early years are not being left out. Again, Hamvention Assistant General Chairman Michael Kalter, W8CI:

--

Kalter: "The Dayton Amateur Radio Association along with the ARRL is sponsoring a dinner for youth that will be held at the Dayton Amateur Radio Association clubhouse which is a very nice place to come and visit. That will be occurring on Saturday evening.

"On Friday evening we will be holding a general 'open house' to the general public from 6 to 9 PM. Its not to far from the Hara Arena and will be another exciting thing occurring this year."

--

Kalter says that he hopes as many folks as possible attend these two events. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

HAMVENTION 2008: THE ARRL MOVIE ROOM

Back at the Hara Arena, the ARRL will also sponsor a new Movie Room. This, as a new feature of this year's ARRL EXPO. Planned so far is a presentation on "60 Years of the Worked All Europe Contest." It will be presented by DJ3HW, and DL7RBI, of the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club. That's the German equivalent of ARRL.

The movie room will also screen a variety of DXpedition videos. The highlight will be with Bob Allphin, K4UEE. He will host an interactive session along with the showing of the video of the Peter One DXpedition to the Antarctic. (ARRL)

**

HAMVENTION 2008: ICOM PRESENTS D-STAR THE MOVIE

And speaking about video presentations, word of a new A new D-STAR promotional video is available on the ICOM Global website just in time for Hambvention 2008. There are two versions of the video are availabe to download. One is targeted at Europe, with the the other aimed at North America and the rest of the world. The video provides an introduction to D-STAR and explains the features available. Look for it at the Icom booth. If you cant make it to this years Hamvention you can download one or both at from http://www.icom.co.jp/world/products/video/d-starmovie/ (Icom)

**

HAMVENTION 2008: HEIL SOUND INTRODUCES TWO NEW MICS

Bob Heil, K9EID and Chip Margelli, K7JA, of Heil Sound, Ltd. are here. They and the bunch at the Heil Sound booth will be introducing the new microphones at this years Dayton Hamvention. First up is the PR 35 which features a large 1.5" diameter diaphragm in a dynamic microphone that

outperforms condenser microphones.

The PR 35 was actually a product that songstress Joan Baez asked Bob Heil to build for her. This, after hearing the large diaphragm PR 30. It has a two stage bass roll off switch that allows you to tailor the low end response right at the microphone. The large element is in a very special internal shock mount and comes in an aluminum travel case.

Also being released at Dayton is the PR 781. Its based on the PR 780 that was designed for the Icom 7800 introduction project, the PR 781 is not rig specific. With the right accessories, it works well into any transmitter from a 1956 Harvey Wells to a brand new transceiver like the Yaesu FT 9000, Kenwood TS-2000 or what have you.

The new PR 35 and PR 781, along with the rest of the Heil microphone line will be on display in Audio Alley. To find it consult the Hamvention Program guide or simply follow the Hamvention crowds. More on whats new in ham radio products at Dayton in next weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (Heil Sound)

**

HAMVENTION 2008: SOFTWARE DEFINED RADIO FORUM

Turning to this years forums, one we think will receive a lot of attention is on the phenomenal paradigm shift toward Software Defined Radio. One that continues with a significant number of "off the shelf' as well as amateur radio designed hardware offerings.

What's interesting is that its computer programmers are fueling this fire and at the Software Defined Radio Forum attendees will get to hear some of the leaders in this movement describe the vast potential of this rapidly advancing technology.

This forum will also give an overview of some Software Defined Radio projects and show those attending how to get started. Topics will include Basic Software Defined Radio architecture, S-D-R Software and Software Defined Radio computer hardware requirements

Moderated by Eric Ellison, AA4SW, the Software Defined Radio Forum is on Saturday May 17th at 9 a.m. in Meeting Room 1 (Hamventionï¿½)

**

HAMVENTION 2008: NFCC WILL UPDATE FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT

If you are a repeater owner or even a concerned user, you won't want to miss the he National Frequency Coordinators' Council open meeting slated for Friday at 9:15 in meeting room 5. The NFCC as its better known was founded a decade ago as the outcome of a meeting between repeater coordinators, the FCC and the ARRL. It has as its members the majority of frequency coordination bodies in the United States. Moderated by NFCC Chairman Jay Maynard, K5ZC, this forum will update those interested in frequency coordination on the current status of the organization and

spectrum management activities in the Amateur Radio service. (NFCC)

**

HAMVENTION 2008 - NEWSLINE BRINGS A TRIP BACK IN TIME

Amateur Radio Newsline will once again host this years Hamvention Town Meeting on Saturday, the 17th. This year with a look back in time.

As ham radio flings itself headlong into the so-called "digital revolution of the 21st century we will pause for a moment to take a look at the hobby over the past half-century to see where it was in the latter 1950's through the mid 1990's.

Our keynote speaker will be Dave Bell, W6AQ, who will host a screening of his 1969 award-winning 28 minute film "The Hams Wide World." This will be the first public showing of the movie in over a quarter of a century and something nobody will want to miss.

As to the rest of the session, its based on the generally accepted fact that most of the change that lead ham radio to the hobby we know today began in the 1960's and continued through to the end of the 20th century. The speakers you will hear all were "kid hams" or "teen hams" in the 1950's. Most got licensed in that era and lived though tubes giving way to solid state; SSB coming into its own H-F; F-M and repeaters on 2 meters replacing point to point A-M on 6 meters and early home-built computers replacing mechanical RTTY systems.

They and many of you were also observers as the long traditional equipment names like Hallicrafters, Hammerlund, Heathkit, and even Collins Radio peaked and then gave ground to newcomers from across the Pacific. Those bearing company names Inoue Communications, Trio and Yaesu. Companies now known a Icom, Kenwood and Yaesu.

In this session you will find out what it was like to study for and take your exam when it was still given at a local FCC field office. What it was like to assemble your first station and in some cases building some or all of it. And you will get a trip down memory lane to when kits were king and find out how being a kid ham back then affected our panel's lives and careers.

We sincerely hope that you will enjoy this trip back through time brought to you by the 2008 Dayton Hamvention and the Amateur Radio Newsline in Meeting Room 3 beginning at 11:30 a,m. We hope to see many of you here.

A full report on Hamvention 2008, in next weeks Amateur Radio Newsline rreport. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: HAMSPHERE - THE VIRTUAL TRANSCEIVER

Something new on the World Wide Web of interest to ham radio is HamSphere. If you haven't of HamSphere it is best described as an

artificial shortwave radio based on the natural laws of radio propagation. One that lets members talk around the world with both ham operators and unlicensed users using a virtual transceiver. You can find about this project on line at www.hamsphere.com. (Southgate)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: ASTRONAUT / HAM RON PARISE, WA4SIR - S.K.

Some things are not easy and this is one of those times. I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, with the sad news that Astronaut and ham radio operator Ron Parise, WA4SIR, passed away on Friday May 9th. This, following a long battle with cancer.

Ron Parise flew as a payload specialist on two Space Shuttle missions. He first went on-orbit in December 1990 on STS-35 on the Space Shuttle Columbia. He next flew on STS-67 on the Space Shuttle Endeavour in March 1995. These two missions, called ASTRO-1 and ASTRO-2 respectively, carried out Ultraviolet and X-ray astronomy observations. And during those flights, WA4SIR logged over 614 hours and 10.6 million miles in space.

According to ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, Ron Parise was got his license at age 11, From that point on he kept the amateur radio at the forefront of everything he did. This included his operations from space.

During his two Space Shuttle flights WA4SIR talked to hundreds of hams on the ground, giving new meaning to the phrase the "ultimate DX-pedition". He
was also instrumental in guiding the development of a simple ham radio system that could be used in multiple configurations on board the Space Shuttle.

This reporter first got to know Ron Parise back in 1989 when with the late Roy Neal, K6DUE, we produced two video's that WA4SIR appeared in. These were "SAREX 90" and later "Ham Radio In Space." What nicer tribute can I give him but to say he was a joy to work with and a truly nice person to know.

In an effort to continue Ron's tireless work to inspire the next generation, the Parise family has set up a scholarship fund in Ron's honor.
The scholarship is for students pursuing technical degrees at Youngtown

State University, where Ron received his Bachelors of Science degree. In lieu of flowers, those interested are welcome to send donations to the Dr. Ronald A. Parise Scholarship Fund, Youngstown State University, One University Plaza, Youngstown, Ohio 44555. (KA3HDO, N6BIS)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: ORGANIC BASED CARBON MOLICULES

University of Pittsburgh scientists have discovered that certain organic molecules exhibit the properties of atoms under certain circumstances and, in turn, conduct electricity as well as metal.

The research group found that the hollow, soccer-ball-shaped carbon molecules known as fullerenes can hold and transfer an electrical charge much like the most highly conductive atoms. When an electron was introduced into a fullerene molecule, the shape of the electron distribution mimicked that of a hydrogen atom or an atom from the alkali metal group, which includes lithium, sodium, and potassium. Moreover, when two fullerenes were placed next to each other on a copper surface, they showed the electron distribution of their chemical bond and appeared as H2, a hydrogen molecule. The assembly exhibited metal-like conductivity when the team extended it to a wire 1-molecule-wide.

Detailed in the April 18th edition of the magazine Science, the finding is a breakthrough in developing nano-technology. One that provides a new method for designing electronic materials, including inexpensive and multifunctional organic conductors that have long been considered the key to smaller, cheaper, and faster technologies. (Science OnLine)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: UPDATE ON HD RADIO ROLLOUT

The number of big-market stations turning on High Definition Radio in the past year fell off, while the number of stations in markets 51 to 100 held more steady.

According to an analysis from BIA Financial Network prepared for the Radio World HD Radio Scoreboard, 26 stations in the top 10 markets added HD Radio through mid-December 2007. This, compared to 76 the year before and 117 the year before that.

By contrast, there were 118 stations in markets 51 to 100 turning on HD Radio last year. That, compared to 124 the prior year and 111 in 2006.

One likely reason for the disparity is that proponents of HD Radio started with the bigger markets when they launched their rollout, though by no means are all big-market stations now converted. (RW)

**

ON THE AIR: THE PORTUGAL LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVITY

Members of the Portugal's Algarve DX Group will activate 7 lighthouses simultaneously between May 31st and June 1st. Operations will take place on 40, 30, 20 and 17 meters. There may be some operations on 80 and 15 meters and plans seem definate to include at least one 6 meter operational from the lighthouse at Santa Maria. The modes used will be CW, SSB and RTTY. A free award will be issued to any who contacts all 7 special lighthouse callsigns during activity operations. QSL via CT1GFK, by the Bureau or direct. (Southgate)

**

ON THE AIR: HONG KONG CLUB GETS OLYMPIC CALL

Members of the Hong Kong Amateur Radio DX Association have received official permission from the Office Of The Telecommunications Authority authorizing them to use the special event callsign VR2008O for the period between July 15th and August 31st. This, to celebrate the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Operations will be primarily on 40 through 10 meters and VHF on 6 meters. The modes used will mainly be SSB, RTTY and P-S-K 31. QSL direct only to VR2XMT: Charlie Ho, PO Box 900, Fanling Post Office, Hong Kong.

There will be no e-QSL or Logbook to the Word electronic cards accepted. Preliminary information and QSL card design have been put on line at www.qrz.com/vr2008o (HKARDXA)

**

ON THE AIR: JARL YOSAKOI KOCHI EVENT

The Japan Amateur Radio League, Inc. will be holding their 50th annual Yosakoi Kochi meeting on May 25th. Look for special event station 8-J-50-J-A-R-L to be active now through May 25th to celebrate this gathering . Activity will be on all bands from 160 meters through 1200 MHz, using CW, SSB, FM and AM. QSL via the JARL QSL Bureau. (OPDX)

**

DX

In Dayton Related D-X news, word that the ARRL's DXCC staff and some additional volunteers will be checking cards at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention ï¿½
during all hours of operation on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, said, "Many hams travel from all over the world to attend Hamvention, so card checkers are especially busy." Card checkers will be checking cards for DXCC, Worked All States, the VHF/UHF Century Club and Worked All Continents awards.

In other DX news, word that K9ZO and his XYL will be on holiday from Bermuda during July. He expects to be active as K9ZO portable VP9 and also plans to operate the IARU Contest. He will also monitor 30, 17, 12 and 6 meters. QSL as directed on the air.

Further up in frequency the W3HZU Beacons located in Grid FM-19 on 2.4GHZ and 1.2GHZ have been temporarily taken off the air. This, in preparation to add a third beacon on 5.76GHZ. A message on the amsat-bb will advise when the beacons are back onin operation.

Last but by no means least, 5Z4DX, will be active from Shanzu Beach thnrough June 11th. Activity will be on all bands and modes. He also plans to possibly activate Wasini Island from May 25th to the 26th and Lamu Island folowing that. QSL direct to Frank Steffen Gast, Eskifirdi, 735 Eskifjoedur, Iceland.

Above from various DX News Sorces

**

HAMVENTION 2008: W5KUB TO PROVIDE LIVE STREAMING VIDEO MAY 14 - 18

And finally this week, if you can't make it to this years Dayton Hamvention, Tom Medlin, W5KUB, has the next best thing. From May 15th to the 18th Tom will being many of this years Hamvention highlights right to your home computer screen via broadband video streaming.

Web transmissions from the Hamvention were slated to begin on Thursday May 15th at Fleamarket spaces 3350 and 3351. Once the show opens on Friday, Tom plans nonstop coverage until closing on Sunday afternoon. Then he invites you to vicariously drive back to his home in Memphis with him. This, as he passes through some of the prettiest countryside that this nation has to offer.

So if you can't be there in person, take your web browser to http://w5kub.com and let Tom Medlin bring the magic of Hamvention 2008 directly to your home computer screen

Again, the U-R-L is http://W5KUB.com. There is also a direct link to Tom's streaming video site from the Dayton Hamvention website at www.hamvention.org. (W5KUB)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award ends at midnight on May 30th. Nominations postmarked after that time or received electronically after that time will not be considered. A nominating form as a dot p-d-f file is available at

our special Young Ham of the Year website at www dot yhoty dot org. Download it, fill it out and send it to us by U-S mail or electronically.

With special thanks to Hap Holly, KC9RP, for the audio with Michael Kaltee, W8CI and with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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509. Re: Another threat to 440

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-22 00:25:40 UTC
From: Buck <usenet01@lumpuckeroo.com>
Message-ID: <cse934tgjk0m3ohguabt28rggcghnqvumk@4ax.com>
Source record: 2880

On Sun, 18 May 2008 23:06:34 EDT, "Kï¿½HB" <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
wrote:

>440 is a shared band already, and this device strikes me as an ideal can
didate
>for sharing. It would have at worst a sporadic impact on our use, at lo
w power,
>and would be a direct contributor to public safety while reducing risk o
f life
>and limb to our firefighters and police. This is one ARRL should suppor
t.
>
>73, de Hans, K0HB
>Just a boy and his radio
>
>

My thought is this.. would you want an 1 watt transmitter to be used
to save the lives of your loved ones when you know there could be 1500
watts of power in a nearby radio on the same frequency?

I think the FCC could allocate a frequency off the ham band, possibly
in the commercial market that will suffice, especially where not more
than a few watts are allowed. Such as the GMRS/FRS band?

510. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-22 04:34:07 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <e8t934tdtiafccooo3iva3sqb71slo647i@4ax.com>
Source record: 2881

On Mon, 19 May 2008 15:13:26 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

>D-Star might need a big kick start, such as emergency groups purchasing
>repeaters, and maybe some initial users getting some help. Otherwise
>people who want to put up a digital repeater (note, not a digipeater)
>might be going to a lot of expense to talk to one or two friends.

The State of Oregon is putting out six figures to provide for a D-Star EMCOMM network and a Pactor network. It's being pushed by several folks who got either ICOM or the State or both to subsidize their personal D-Star radios and/or are "blessed with resources" to get one on their own. Not counting my HF rig, I have five radios for voice comms: a VHF and a UHF in the home comm room, my mobile, my HT, and my "grab-and-go". Who is going to subsidize that? I surely can't.

Pactor is fine - my setup works at minimal cost- as long as it's Pactor I. The cost of the proprietary modem for Pactor II and III is in the high three figures if not four by now with the falling dollar.

My perennial "what hath technology wrought" rant....
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

511. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-22 06:00:16 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1211436001@panix.com>
Source record: 2882
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

512. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-22 06:05:03 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1211436301@panix.com>
Source record: 2883
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

513. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-22 13:11:53 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <ZIKdnanaTJeY7KjVnZ2dnUVZ_rPinZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2884

Phil Kane wrote:
> . . . Not counting my HF rig, I have five radios for voice
> comms: a VHF and a UHF in the home comm room, my mobile, my HT, and my
> "grab-and-go". Who is going to subsidize that? I surely can't.
>
> Pactor is fine - my setup works at minimal cost- as long as it's
> Pactor I. The cost of the proprietary modem for Pactor II and III is
> in the high three figures if not four by now with the falling dollar.
>
> My perennial "what hath technology wrought" rant....

My misgivings in this area are related more to the complexity of the technology, although the cost is certainly a consideration.

My experience in real disaster situations suggests that simple is better and that much of the reason to have amateur radio participation is tied to the simplicity of the gear that we use. The reason we're there in the first place is that the commercial infrastructure isn't functioning. Tying our operations to high-tech equipment puts us in the same realm as what we're there to replace.

My experience also suggests that it's more the human factor than the equipment factor that makes us valuable in a disaster operation. The training and experience that the human has is much more important than what kind of equipment is in use.

I suppose that the response to this is that the best of all worlds is a trained cadre of operators using the best state-of-the-art equipment available. In theory this is correct, but in the real world of an actual disaster operation things might be a lot different.

73, Steve KB9X

514. Re: What a great Dayton!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-22 13:59:06 UTC
From: Alan WA4SCA <ALANBIDDLE70@YAHOO.COM>
Message-ID: <otta349qn4f7fn2bvfv0d8tllju9o5ls5h@4ax.com>
Source record: 2885

Indeed, it went well, except as you say for the ticket issues. I talked with a DARA official at a banquet, and they are VERY aware of what happened, and that it must NEVER happen again.

At a banquet, he related that in 2000 DARA had $70 in the bank, and $190k in debts. This year, they gave the non-profit organization $5k as thanks for support of the Hamvention, for development work. Talk about a turn around!

--
Alan
WA4SCA

515. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-22 14:00:47 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g13tuo$11a8$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2886

Mark Kramer wrote:
> In article <g0sia7$138k$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>,
> Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>> I still want a PSK31 HT.
>
> My God, why? APRS has a texting mode. The technology is in place and
> well-defined.

APRS texting isn't terribly convenient, and you have to put up with the
rest of the squacking to get it.

A two-second burst of 1200 baud packet, even assuming a 500 ms
> TXDELAY, has more text than a standard SMS. That's more than 50 seconds at
> PSK31.

I'm not talking about sending data, or long messages, just ones similar
to what is sent in cell phone text messages.

This is about getting people interested and using Ham radio. It isn't
necessarily about getting something that you or even I would buy.
Younger folks, high school kids, would likely buy into something like that.

>Who's going to install the PSK31 digipeaters?

What I envision would be likely simplex. Although a repeater could come
into the picture somewhere, it wouldn't need to be a digipeater.

> Who is going to develop
> the technology to determine that a PSK31 signal that is 100Hz off the correct
> frequency should be digipeated while one that is 50Hz off should not? (1kHz
> error in an FM HT is common. 1kHz error in PSK31 is a completely different
> QSO.)

These are all pretty minor technical problems. I imagine that a person
might be able to differentiate between signals in an old school manner,
by tuning them in.

>> Oh yeah, while we're at it, I don't know if that HT with the camera is
>> still being produced
>
> Ever try sending an image at 1200 baud?

I've sent SSTV images in a fairly short time. They aren't large images,
but along with the texting I speak of, make a fun little gadget for
people to play with. Might even be of some emergency use.

I have to say that I probably would never buy such a device. That
doesn't make it a dumb idea though. If there was one thing I would like

to counsel Hams on , it is the idea that whatever you or I are into at
the moment is not what everyone is into, and it shouldn't be either.
Some modes such as IRLP or Echolink, I don't even consider "radio", but
hey, a lot of people like them a lot, so I won't argue.

>> As much as I prefer regular transceivers, SDR radio would be a pretty
>> interesting way to go. Big hint to the mfgr's: Sell something usable
>> that isn't a kilobuck+. I saw the ones out at Dayton, and a better price
>> point is advised.
>
> Volume means low price. High price means no volume. Yeah, a $100 SDR HT
> would be great. It also has more than $100 of parts in it. That $0.10 diode
> detector is replaced by a $30 DSP chip.
>
>> I've seen a lot about the new Digital voice and data modes such as
>> D-Star. Lots of investment needed there, and although the transmission
>> of data is kinda cool, I have concerns about multipath.
>
> But you're the guy who wants texting via PSK31? D-STAR texting, bad. PSK31
> texting, good?

I don't declare D-Star Texting "bad", but I do declare the PSK31
texting pretty darn good. PSK31 has a huge advantage in that it is
pretty cheap, and not proprietary. D-Star is decidedly not cheap, and is
quite proprietary. Wanna use D-Star? Get out the plastic and go
without something else for a couple years.

>> D-Star might need a big kick start, such as emergency groups purchasing
>> repeaters,
>
> Sorry, but at $10,000 starting, our emergency group isn't going to be
> buying one. The fact we have no open repeater space, and the cost of a
> D-STAR radio, makes it certain that D-STAR is a non-starter here.

I think that what would be needed is for local governments to do the
actual purchasing, then hand it over to the Hams. The Hams are going to
have to have regular access to the D-Star repeater, or else they won't
buy-in.

My honest opinion however is that this is one of those technology
solutions that just add too much technology to the mix. One of the big
complaints from emergency responders is that they can't talk to each
other. This is due to the introduction of too much structure upon the
system. With D Star, we do the same thing with Hams.

>> people who want to put up a digital repeater (note, not a digipeater)
>> might be going to a lot of expense to talk to one or two friends.
>
> I thought I'd like to buy an ID-1 when it came out. At $3000 (one for me,
> one for someone to talk to) I said "no thanks".

Yup. And the big problem as far as Amateurs go is that they can't get into the system. Whereas you or I can build a CW, SSB, FM, or PSK31 radio for most any application we'd like, we can't do that with D-Star. So unless those prices come waaaay down, D-Star is going to be a very low volume mode, probably used only by emergency groups. Of course if that is the case, they shouldn't be operating it on the Amateur bands, because they can get more use out of it on their own frequencies, which won't have Amateur reestrictions.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

516. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-22 14:33:20 UTC
From: Buck <usenet01@lumpuckeroo.com>
Message-ID: <luua341oml61g3af6ig2eqfbb54tkfj1pk@4ax.com>
Source record: 2887

>My experience also suggests that it's more the human factor than the
>equipment factor that makes us valuable in a disaster operation. The
>training and experience that the human has is much more important than
>what kind of equipment is in use.
>
>I suppose that the response to this is that the best of all worlds is a
>trained cadre of operators using the best state-of-the-art equipment
>available. In theory this is correct, but in the real world of an
>actual disaster operation things might be a lot different.
>
>73, Steve KB9X

I know of a number of members of ARES and clubs wanting to be setup
with all kinds of high-tech communications in case of emergency. I
have also noticed that in most cases, while they receive lots of
verbal support and volunteers, they end up in the exercises with a
severe shortage of operators.

I volunteered in the aftermath of Hurricanes Hugo and Frances and many
very localized disasters. Locals aren't available in the aftermath of
area-wide disasters and in local emergencies, often comm needs require
multiple repeaters or very many HT communications.

In the early days of Amateur Radio, "High Tech" meant communicating
without wires and homing pigeons. The important thing is timely and
accurate communications. today's "High-tech" can help, but the
important thing is " any means necessary".

Buck
N4PGW

517. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-22 14:33:32 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g13vhp$u6s$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2888

Phil Kane wrote:

> The State of Oregon is putting out six figures to provide for a D-Star
> EMCOMM network and a Pactor network. It's being pushed by several
> folks who got either ICOM or the State or both to subsidize their
> personal D-Star radios and/or are "blessed with resources" to get one
> on their own. Not counting my HF rig, I have five radios for voice
> comms: a VHF and a UHF in the home comm room, my mobile, my HT, and my
> "grab-and-go". Who is going to subsidize that? I surely can't.

> My perennial "what hath technology wrought" rant....

Unfortunately, it's how they think. One of my old chestnuts is that the reason that Ham radio is often the only thing working when the wheels fall off is that:

1.Our organization is ad-hoc. Lots of people who know how to communicate, but are not within some strict hierarchy.

2.We have equipment that will talk to our equipment. Now sometimes that means that we're using old school SSB or FM or CW. That's bad? No that's good! The idea is to pass the message, not to sit in the seat and feel really great about the whiz-bang technology we're using.

3.We know how to get the messages across. There is something to be said about understanding propagation. Going to send a message on 20 meters to someone 100 miles away? 40 meters at night? How about 50 miles away on 440 simplex? A little bit of knowledge is pretty handy.

Now what I see is the folk who would have us help when disaster strikes have noted that we seem to pull rabbits out of our hat, and they like what they see. But as people who impress a hierarchy, organization, and levels of technology on everything they touch, now want to do the same to us. After Katrina, I was kind of shocked by all the "This is what you Amateurs Have To Do" articles and speeches. And each article had a common thread - we amateurs had to become more like the people who experienced failure. Just didn't make sense.

And yet they can't seem to figure out why their systems fail when it all falls apart. My guess is that we will be looking at more technology impressed on the system. And it will probably fail too.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

518. Re: What a great Dayton!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-22 15:53:47 UTC
From: David Lesher <wb8foz@panix.com>
Message-ID: <g144ttnu1@reader2.panix.com>
Source record: 2889

Alan WA4SCA <ALANBIDDLE70@YAHOO.COM> writes:

>At a banquet, he related that in 2000 DARA had $70 in the bank, and
>$190k in debts. This year, they gave the non-profit organization $5k
>as thanks for support of the Hamvention, for development work. Talk
>about a turn around!

I had heard rumors that they were in bad shape a few years ago,
but I had no idea it was THAT bad.

If anyone knows more, I'd be interested....

--
A host is a host from coast to coast.................wb8foz@nrk.com
& no one will talk to a host that's close........[v].(301) 56-LINUX
Unless the host (that isn't close).........................pob 1433
is busy, hung or dead....................................20915-1433

519. Re: What a great Dayton!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-22 16:51:35 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <OqydnX_dLZAfOajVnZ2dnUVZ_szinZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2890

Alan WA4SCA wrote:

> At a banquet, he related that in 2000 DARA had $70 in the bank, and
> $190k in debts. This year, they gave the non-profit organization $5k
> as thanks for support of the Hamvention, for development work. Talk
> about a turn around!

I'm glad things are working. I suspect that the turnaround required two things -- good management and an actual market for what they're selling. Maybe what we're going to see is less hamfests but bigger ones. A new hamfest comes to Rochester MN this summer (http://www.rarexpo.org/) so it will be instructive to see how they do.

73, Steve KB9X

520. Re: What a great Dayton!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-22 16:54:44 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g140g3vvi1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2891

Alan WA4SCA wrote:
> Indeed, it went well, except as you say for the ticket issues. I
> talked with a DARA official at a banquet, and they are VERY aware of
> what happened, and that it must NEVER happen again.
>
> At a banquet, he related that in 2000 DARA had $70 in the bank, and
> $190k in debts. This year, they gave the non-profit organization $5k
> as thanks for support of the Hamvention, for development work. Talk
> about a turn around!

In the end, I decided to go, and had a blast as usual. sold a couple items, my SB200 linear, and my trusty old IC-745. (gosh, I miss it already, my first HF rig)

With the proceeds and a little extra, I bought a Kenwood TS480SAT, which I'll put in the Vitara as soon as I get over this nasty cold.

On another note, I really think that it is time that DARA start looking at another venue for the Hamfest. Yes, there is a lot to be said for tradition, but in the 6 or so years I've been going, the Hara arena has deteriorated quite a bit. It wasn't in that great of shape when I first went either. Rusty exit doors, missing floor tiles. The parking lot is getting awfully pitted, and my guess is that it isn't ever going to be repaved. It's kind of sad, but these sort of things happen. I think the place is heading downward, and it's just a matter of time before they close. At that point DARA will have to find a new venue.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

521. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-22 23:22:55 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g14nnd$4jl$1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2892

In article <e8t934tdtiafccooo3iva3sqb71slo647i@4ax.com>,
Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
>The State of Oregon is putting out six figures to provide for a D-Star
>EMCOMM network and a Pactor network.

No, they are not. The ICOM radios can have the D-Star option added at
local expense. Neither the 2820 nor the 2200 have D-Star built in. There
certainly is no D-Star repeater support.

>Pactor is fine - my setup works at minimal cost- as long as it's
>Pactor I. The cost of the proprietary modem for Pactor II and III is
>in the high three figures if not four by now with the falling dollar.

The pactor is intended primarilly for county to state communication, not
user to user.

522. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-22 23:50:32 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g14m8mvem1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2893

In article <g13tuo$11a8$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>,
Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>Mark Kramer wrote:
>> In article <g0sia7$138k$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>,
>> Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>>> I still want a PSK31 HT.
>>
>> My God, why? APRS has a texting mode. The technology is in place and
>> well-defined.
>
>APRS texting isn't terribly convenient,

That's a user-interface issue, not a technology issue. I could write software tomorrow that hooks my D700 up and sends APRS text as easily as email, if someone hasn't already. I've seen aftermarket keyboards for the D700 to do this.

>and you have to put up with the rest of the squacking to get it.

I have no idea what you mean by this. You aren't going to listen to the PSK31 audio any more than you have to listen to the APRS audio when using it.

>> A two-second burst of 1200 baud packet, even assuming a 500 ms
>> TXDELAY, has more text than a standard SMS. That's more than 50 seconds at
>> PSK31.
>
>I'm not talking about sending data, or long messages, just ones similar
>to what is sent in cell phone text messages.

"Cell phone text messages" are "data". Two seconds of 1200 baud packet can send more "cell phone text" than more than 50 seconds of PSK31. If people had to wait a minute for their SMS text messages to be sent instead of the few seconds it does, they'd be less likely to use it.

>This is about getting people interested and using Ham radio.

We HAVE the technology in place that is better than that proposed as the salvation of amateur radio. No, a PSK31 HT isn't going to do anything to support the hobby or bring new people in that APRS HTs haven't already done. A PSK31 HT is an interesting concept; difficult product.

>It isn't
>necessarily about getting something that you or even I would buy.

If nobody buys it, then it won't ever be cheap. If WE, the existing amateur base doesn't support it, it ain't gonna happen. Voice HTs work

because there is an existing repeater infrastructure. APRS HTs work only
because there is an existing APRS network infrastructure. If there is no
VHF PSK31 infrastructure, it isn't going to be used.

>Younger folks, high school kids, would likely buy into something like that.

No "younger folks" are going to buy a new technology where there is no
infrastructure to support them.

>>Who's going to install the PSK31 digipeaters?
>
>What I envision would be likely simplex.

The range of a PSK31 HT would be very short. FRS distances, at best. It
would be extremely sensitive to antenna orientation. You couldn't load
a message and then put the HT back on your belt while it takes a minute
to send. Who is going to pay several hundred dollars for an HT that can
only communicate three blocks in a city?

>Although a repeater could come
>into the picture somewhere, it wouldn't need to be a digipeater.

PSK31 is a DIGITAL mode. Repeaters for digital data are ofen called
digipeaters. WHO is going to install these repeaters? You can't use
the existing ones -- PSK31 is narrowband FSK, existing repeaters are
relatively wideband FM. If you are going to use an entire FM voice channel
bandwidth, you might as well use standard 1200 baud packet and APRS.
Existing technology. Where are all the youngsters using APRS messaging?
Why do you believe they would flock to a slower, shorter range system?

> These are all pretty minor technical problems. I imagine that a person
>might be able to differentiate between signals in an old school manner,
>by tuning them in.

A PERSON might be able to, but a DIGIPEATER is not a person. And these
YOUNG PEOPLE you want to lure into the hobby with a PSK31 HT aren't going
to want to have to tune around hoping to be on the right frequency when
their friends send them messages. It's got to be channelized to make
it simple. An HT that's off channel by as little as 100Hz for PSK31 is
a different channel. That's REALLY tight technical standards for amateur
gear.

>> Ever try sending an image at 1200 baud?
>
>I've sent SSTV images in a fairly short time. They aren't large images,

They are also not PSK31 data. Entirely different mode.

>I have to say that I probably would never buy such a device. That
>doesn't make it a dumb idea though.

No, the technical issues do, and expecting it to bring lots of new people
into the hobby as something similar to SMS text messaging is silly. We have
better technology already in our hands; where are the people?

>> But you're the guy who wants texting via PSK31? D-STAR texting, bad. PSK31
>> texting, good?
>
> I don't declare D-Star Texting "bad", but I do declare the PSK31
>texting pretty darn good.

In it's place, perhaps. Sitting in a radio shack with a $1000 HF radio
and a computer to decode it, yes. In an HT, no.

>PSK31 has a huge advantage in that it is
>pretty cheap, and not proprietary. D-Star is decidedly not cheap, and is
> quite proprietary.

No, D-Star is not proprietary. It is an open standard.

>Wanna use D-Star? Get out the plastic and go
>without something else for a couple years.

Yes. Want a usable PSK31 HT? Go without something else for many years.

>I think that what would be needed is for local governments to do the
>actual purchasing, then hand it over to the Hams.

Wow.

>The Hams are going to
>have to have regular access to the D-Star repeater, or else they won't
>buy-in.

The hams are going to have to have a lot of MONEY to have regular access
to any D-Star repeater.

>My honest opinion however is that this is one of those technology
>solutions that just add too much technology to the mix. One of the big
>complaints from emergency responders is that they can't talk to each
>other. This is due to the introduction of too much structure upon the
>system.

This is due to licensing limitations that prevent LMR radios from being
fully and easily programmable in the field.

>With D Star, we do the same thing with Hams.

I know of no D-Star radio which is not fully field programmable.

>> I thought I'd like to buy an ID-1 when it came out. At $3000 (one for me,
>> one for someone to talk to) I said "no thanks".
>
>Yup. And the big problem as far as Amateurs go is that they can't get
>into the system.

I have no idea what you mean by this. What "system" can they not get into?

>Whereas you or I can build a CW, SSB, FM, or PSK31
>radio for most any application we'd like, we can't do that with D-Star.

So what? Most people cannot build even a CW transmitter, much less a PSK31 system. Have YOU built your own PC to run the PSK31 software yet? I doubt it.

>So unless those prices come waaaay down, D-Star is going to be a very
>low volume mode, probably used only by emergency groups. Of course if
>that is the case, they shouldn't be operating it on the Amateur bands,
>because they can get more use out of it on their own frequencies,

I'm sorry. Exactly what frequencies do ARES groups have that aren't part of the Amateur Radio Service? How do I legally put an amateur certificated repeater on to a public-service frequency?

>which won't have Amateur reestrictions.

Amateur restrictions are trivial compared to LMR. Nobody is demanding that we all cut our bandwidth and channel spacings in half by 2013, e.g.. Our licenses don't come with a list of specific frequencies we can use.

523. Re: What a great Dayton!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-23 00:33:18 UTC
From: David Lesher <wb8foz@panix.com>
Message-ID: <g153bujs2@reader2.panix.com>
Source record: 2894

Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> writes:

> On another note, I really think that it is time that DARA start looking
>at another venue for the Hamfest. Yes, there is a lot to be said for
>tradition, but in the 6 or so years I've been going, the Hara arena has
>deteriorated quite a bit.

Well, I have a few more years than you; and yes, Hara is getting
old, as we all are....

But there's nowhere anywhere nearby with the indoor+outdoor space
the Hamvention uses. If/when the Wampler family [ISTM that's their
name..] sells out to developers, the Hamvention may well be history...

--
A host is a host from coast to coast.................wb8foz@nrk.com
& no one will talk to a host that's close........[v].(301) 56-LINUX
Unless the host (that isn't close).........................pob 1433
is busy, hung or dead....................................20915-1433

524. Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1606 - May 23, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-23 12:05:24 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080523013031.03c6c6f0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2895
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1606 - May 23, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1606 with a release date of Friday, May 23rd, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The Red Cross says lifestyle checks will no longer be required of ARES volunteers, hams in China continue their post earthquake lifesaving communications, Hollingsworth says he will retire this summer and Dayton 2008 is a fun success. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline" report number 1606 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: THE RED CROSS SAYS NO MORE LIFESTYLE CHECKS ON HAM VOLUNTEERS

In a surprise move, the American Red Cross has acquiesced to the demands of the ham radio community and will no longer perform so-called lifestyle background checks on hams who want to provide communications to the relief agency. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, of the ARRL Letter says that the announcement came at a most apropos time and place:

--

Keane: "We had a big announcement yesterday in the ARES forum. The Red Cross has announced that it will no longer conduct as part of its background checks, mode of living checks or credit checks. And now, all that remains to be done is for the ARRL and the Red Cross to hammer out an MOU and get this thing going.

--

The MOU that K1SFA reefers to is the Memorandum of Understanding between the League and the Red Cross. A fancy term that really means an agreement where-in the ARRL and the American Red Cross agree to work together in those situations where volunteer ham radio communications are needed.

Such an agreement was in place for many years but the League was hesitant to renew it after members complained about background checks initiated back in 2006. Nobody minded criminal background checks but a lot of folks objected to the extent the Red Cross was going to. Its background checks included, among other things, a credit check and a mode of living check for its staff and volunteers. This included ARES volunteers providing services to the Red Cross during times of disasters.

The ARRL and a lot of hams not associated with the League considered the extent of the Red Cross background check as unneeded and inappropriate for communications volunteers. So in November 2007, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, wrote to the American Red Cross regarding concerns voiced by the nations ham radio community.

But until a few weeks ago the American Red Cross was hanging tough and refusing to use hams who refused to permit the full background check program. That all changed on May 8th when Armond Mascelli, who is American Red Cross Vice President for Disaster Response Services finally replied to W5ZN with word that his organization had reconsidered its position. Mascelli's letter stated that the portion of the background checks that the ARRL and seemingly all of ham radio objected to had been eliminated. At least eliminated for communications volunteers involved through the ARRL-sponsored ARES program.

According to Mascelli, a new background consent form will be used by all Red Cross chapters for ARRL members and other partner organizations. The form and related process is limited to the name and social security number verification of the individual, and a criminal background check. References and suggestions to other related investigative possibilities have been stricken from the form. (ARRL, ARNewsline")

**

RESCUE RADIO: 40 AND 20 METERS BEING USED IN CHINA QUAKE RESCUE

According to news reports, China is in mourning for the estimated 50,000 people killed in the earthquake on May 12th and radio amateurs in that nation are still asking that three frequencies be kept clear for emergency rescue and relief operations

According to the Chinese Radio Sports Association 7.050 and 7.060 and 14.270 MHz. have been designated for use only by hams involved in emergency services and post quake in the rescue. Michael Chen, BD5RV, reports that a group of radio amateurs is transmitting on 14.270 MHz from Wenchuan. That's not far from the epicenter of quake. During one contact with BY8AA in Chengdu, messages were sent asking for raincoats, water, tents, and outdoor living facilities. BY8AA has also been helping many others with communication and during one week had an operational log in excess of 300 pages.

Meantime the Chinese Radio Sports Association has reported that long distance telephone services have been congested in the Chengdu area. This, presumably due to a heavy demand and damage.

Because of this it was asked to set up and man a High Frequency station in Chengdu. That station is currently on the air using the call BT8RC and is the dedicated channel for the Chinese Red Cross Foundation in Beijing to Chengdu providing communications to enable the relief agency to more effectively carry out its work.

Other cities in the earthquake area have setup or restored VHF and UHF repeaters and amateur radio communication teams to assist with communication.

The quake hit at about 06:30 UTC on Monday, May 12th. It registered at a magnitude 7.8 earthquake and was centered near Sichuan. In addition to those known to have perished, more than 245,000 were injured and at least 2 million are homeless.

Again the Chinese Radio Sports Association continues to request that hams world wide stay clear of 7.050, 7.060 and 14.270 MHz so that they can be used for emergency communications that can and will save lives. (CQ, QRZ.com, Southgate, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: NO HAM RADIO IN MYANMAR TYPHOON

Meantime in Myanmar where tens of thousands of people were killed by a recent typhoon, CQ Public Service Editor Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, passes on a report from G4HPE of the International Radio Emergency Support Coalition that there currently is no amateur radio relief activity taking place there. The UN has finally been permitted to set up both HF and VHF communications based in the capital city of Yangon. This is for use by the entire humanitarian community, but none of the frequencies in use are in the Amateur bands. (CQ)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC SAYS NO TO DIGITAL OPERATIONS PETITION

Back at home the FCC has dismissed a petition for rulemaking filed by Mark Miller, N5RFX, requesting amendment of the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules. This, to revise the operating privileges for amateur radio service stations that transmit data emission types.

Specifically, the Petition requested that several Sections of the Amateur Service rules be amended to revise various definitions and frequency privileges. While Millers petition covered a number of issues regarding digital operations, the most controversial dealt with unattended digital operations on the High Frequency bands. And while Miller never named Winlink 2000 as the target of his petition, that's the way the FCC seemed to see it. And according to the FCC's Bill Cross, W3TN, speaking at last weeks Dayton Hamvention, there was an important reason for the denial of this portion of the Miller rules change request:

--

Cross: "Winlink as a communications system seems to have become the Brussels sprouts of ham radio: You either love it or you hate it. And trying to bury it under ketchup or hollandaise sauce hasn't changed the basic like or dislike for Winlink.

"Most of the controversy here seems to swirl around how certain licensees use it.

"Some use it for a radio e-mail system.

"Others use it for getting weather maps while they are on sailboats in places the brave dare not go.

"Others use it for their personal business activities, such as buying and selling stocks.

"These uses are really a Section 97.113, a 'prohibited communications' question, not a technology question. The rules apply to the Control Operator of the station transmitting the message, not the Winlink system.

"As we have said until we are blue in the face, in the Amateur Service we do not license or regulate systems. We license stations. And it is the station licensee that is responsible for the proper operation of the station.

"Its your callsign on the transmission. It is your responsibility."

--

In other words, whether a transmission is analog or digital really does not matter. What is important is that all hams obey the rules that the Commission has set out to guide the service. It also can be read as the FCC saying that it will not re-regulate a service that its worked very hard to free from burdensome regulations just to placate the needs, wants or claims of any one group of hams regarding another.

There more to be covered regarding the Miller petition and its being totally denied. Listen for it in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (ARNewsline - Dayton Hamvention FCC Forum)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WA3AOP repeater serving the great state of Pennsylvania

(5 sec pause here)

**

THE YHOTY AWARD: NOMINATIONS CLOSE MAY 30

As of the release of this weeks newscast we have not received any valid nominations for this years Young Ham of the Year Award. Well, the nominating period for this years award ends at midnight on Friday May 30th. Due to the mechanics of preparing for the award presentation ceremony it is impossible to extend beyond that date. Any nomination received electronically after midnight May 30th or postmarked after midnight on May 30th will be deemed ineligible. And if no valid nominations are received by that cutoff date and time the award program for 2008 will be cancelled.

And when we say valid nomination we mean one for a youngster age 18 or younger who has made a major contribution in some way to the betterment of Amateur Radio. This can be through public service, technical development,

contributions to the state of communications sciences, recruitment of new hams or whatever seems to be an accomplishment worth honoring.

What is not acceptable are nominations that say something like .. "my 7 year old just passed his tech test so give him a radio."

And if you think that we do not get our share of these, guess again. About one in three nomination form we have received over the years reads something like that because people do not read the rules and think that the Young Ham of the Year Award is some form of contest or prize drawing. Its neither. Its an award program now trying to enter its 22nd year and aimed specifically way honoring the accomplishments of the younger members of ham radio society. As recipient, the person selected is given a free trip to the Huntsville Hamfest in August along with a piece of Yaesu brand ham radio gear from corporate underwriter Vertex Standard Corporation. He or she also gets to spend a week at Spacecamp Huntsville courtesy of corporate underwriter CQ Magazine.

The Young Ham of the Year Award is open to any ham age 18 or younger living in the 50 United States, plus Puerto Rico and all Canadian Provinces. A full set of rules along with a downloadable nominating form is on line at www.yhoty.org Just slick on the tab marked 2008 nominations and follow the instructions that say "Download the nominating form as a PDF by clicking here. Then, fill it out, attach the required substantiating material and mail it to Amateur Radio Newsline - YHOTY, 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita, California, 91350. Again that address is Amateur Radio Newsline - YHOTY, 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita, California, 91350.

If for some reason you cannot retrieve the form from the website, e-mail us to newsline (at) arnewsline (dot)org. Include your return e-mail and we will return a form to you electronically.

Once again, the cutoff for nominations for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is midnight on Friday, May 30th 2008. If we do not receive any valid nominations by that date the award program for this year will be cancelled.

The bottom line is that whether a worthy young ham is honored this year, or not, is literally up to you. (ARNewsline / YHOTY)

**

HAMVENTION 2008: ITS ALL OVER FOR ANOTHER YEAR

The 2008 Dayton Hamvention is over, but its left a lot of good memories and thankfully only one that's was good one with some attendees. The ones who will remember the bad are those who arrived early to set up Flea Market spaces only to find that a computer glitch would have them waiting in line. In some cases for several hours. Ron Moorefield, W8ILC, has been associated with the Hamvention since the very beginning. He says that this will be one of the items taken under advisement when the committee holds its critique of Hamvention 2008 in a few weeks:

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Moorefield: "Well, we will have our critique early next month and from there we are going to hold a meeting every month and get this going. The word is that we are going to get a lot of things going way ahead of time in October."

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Moorefield says that moving things up a few months should insure enough time to cure problems early on so that they do not become last minute headaches.

The good news is that with this one exception it was a show that everyone seemed to really enjoy. This includes Ray Arndt, SM5LBR, who flew over from Sweden. Ray writes for several European amateur radio magazines. He says that those who showed up were ready to deal:

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Arndt: "I've talked to a couple of dealers here and (other) people. They are all very satisfied and they all say the same thing. (That is) the people who came here really bought. The people who normally came here and do not buy, they stayed at home this time. So, obviously it was very positive."

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Arndt did note that it was not a big year for the introduction of new high end gear. Definitely not like it was just a year ago:

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Arndt: "You know: Last year was absolutely exciting. There were so many new things that I couldn't actually cover everything. Every large company had something new out. This year you really have got to look around to find a few new things.

"This in the middle. A sort of in-between year because they cannot bring out expensive new radios. There were some new things out here but it was a more normal year, I would say."

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As to the size of the crowd? Some say it was about the same as last year. Others say it was definitely a smaller group and blamed the near $4 dollar a gallon for gasoline as the reason folks may have stayed away. Ron Moorefield tends to disagree:

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Moorefield: "I think that the weather was perfect. This brought people out who were feeling possibly with rain, they would not come.

"The gas prices as they were, really surprised me. Yet I believe that if people really want to come to the Dayton Hamvention, that they will be here

no matter what the economics are. We had a good weekend."

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Moorefield may be correct. According to Ray Arndt, gas prices in the United states are still a bargain as compared to what radio amateurs shell out to drive to a hamfest in Europe:

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Arndt: "We have now (in Europe) $7 to $8 a U.S. gallon. But that's a higher octane at 95.

"I recently saw an article in a newspaper in Sweden that Sweden is trying to go to the forefront of being environmental. It says that if we meet the constraints that Sweden has taken in the European Union, then in 2020 a gallon will be up at $20.

--

Bottom line, it's a lot more expensive to hit a hamfest there than it is here in the USA.

And no Dayton Hamvention would be complete without the views of a sales representative and DX'er who has attended a lot of them. Of coarse we are talking about Chip Margelli, K7JA, who now is with Heil Sound Limited. Chip says from behind the sales counter, this was truly a banner year:

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Margelli" "Boy, what a great Dayton. The weather turned out to be much better than we expected it to be. It was moderately cool with partly cloudy skies.

"Business was brisk. We had our best year ever at Heil Sound. It was a very up-beat crowd this year. We didn't know what to expect with sunspots down but the crowd was very up-beat and interested in getting new technology into their ham stations.

"We just think it was a great weekend in Dayton, Ohio."

--

Lots more happened at Hamvention 2008 and we will continue our coverage next week. (ARNewsline")

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH TO RETIRE IN JULY

According to ARRL, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, who is Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division plans to retire on July 3rd. Hollingsworth reportedly told the ARRL that his to head out in July, assuming the results of the second round of the PAVE PAWS 440 repeater monitoring in California present no complications.

Hollingsworth is quoted as saying that it has been a privilege to work with and for the Amateur Radio licensees and the land mobile frequency coordinators. He says that he was extremely fortunate to work for two wonderful groups of people referring to those at FCC headquarters in the Enforcement Bureau, and for those holding licensees in amateur radio.

As previously reported, Hollingsworth had planned to retire earlier this year, but changed his mind. At that time he said that there were several issues on the table that he wanted to continue to work through with the amateur community.

A full report on Hollingsworth's pending retirement can be found on the ARRL news pages at www.arrl.org. (ARRL, Handi Hams, others)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: K5ZD NAMED DIRECTOR OF CQ WPX CONTESTS

Contesting luminary Randy Thompson, K5ZD, has been named Director of the CQ World Wide WPX Contests, effective immediately. Thompson succeeds Steve Merchant, K6AW, who has been WPX Contest Director since 2002 and who needed to step aside due to business obligations.

Randy Thompson has been a contester for more than three decades and has multiple wins to his credit in the single-op, all-band categories of both the CQ World Wide DX Contest and the CQ WPX Contest, in both CW and SSB modes. He is also a past editor of the "National Contest Journal" and a co-founder of the eHam.net website. He is a longtime member of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club and an instructor at K3LR's Contest University. In the past year, Randy has been working with Steve Merchant behind the scenes on the WPX contests, so he is already familiar with the program from the administrative side. (CQ)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: CQ ANNOUNCES INDUCTEES TO ITS HALLS OF FAME

CQ magazine has announced its 2008 Hall of Fame inductees, welcoming 14 new members into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame, three new members of the CQ DX Hall of Fame and two new members of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame.

The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honors those individuals, whether licensed hams or not, who have made significant contributions to amateur radio. Also honored are those amateurs who have made significant contributions either to amateur radio, to their professional careers or to some other aspect of life on our planet.

For a complete list of this years inductees please visit the news pages at www.cq-amateur-radio.com. (CQ)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from

our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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ENFORCEMENT: SF CB-ER'S FINED FOR OUT OF BAND OPERATION

Turning to enforcement news, Citizen Radio operators Martha S. and Miguel G. Campos, San Jose, California have been fined $800. This, for operating a modified CB radio station on a frequency not authorized for this use. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the details:

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In a May 21st release the FCC says that back on April 7, 2006, the Enforcement Bureau's San Francisco Office received a complaint alleging intentional interference to CB radio communications on 27.055 MHz. The complaints alleged that the source of the interference was located at the residence of CB radio operators, Martha and Miguel Campos in San Jose.

On August 24, 2006, after subsequent complaints, the San Francisco Field Office issued a Warning Letter to Miguel Campos. The letter informed him that, pursuant to Section 95 of the Commission's Rules he must operate his CB station only on the 40 channels allocated to the CB service. Mr. Campos was also warned that if the transmissions continue, and if an investigation indicated that he had violated the Communications Act or any FCC Rules, he could be subject to severe penalties, including substantial monetary forfeitures. On August 31, 2006, Mr. Campos replied to the letter acknowledging that he was a CB operator and detailing the CB equipment that he used.

On September 29, 2006, in response to continued complaints, the San Francisco Office issued a similar Warning Letter to Martha S. Campos. On October 27, 2006, Martha and Miguel Campos came to the San Francisco Office to discuss the warning letters they had received. A San Francisco agent clarified some of the CB Rules to them and again warned them about the consequences of not following them. None-the-less, during the period of November 2, 2006, to February 2, 2007, the San Francisco Office continued to receive complaints alleging interference by the Campos. So on March 16, 2007, San Francisco agents, using mobile direction finding techniques, located the source of the alleged interfering signal on 27.675 MHz to the Campos' residence in San Jose,. The agents also conducted an inspection of the Campos' CB station. By conducting on/off tests, the agents confirmed that one of the transmitters had been modified to operate on frequency 27.675 MHz. This is a frequency that is not authorized for use by CB stations. The agents further determined that the transmitter set up in the Campos' residence was capable of operating in excess of the four-watt power limitations.

From April 10, 2007, to September 10, 2007, the San Francisco Office continued to receive complaints alleging interference by the Campos. On

October 31, 2007, the San Francisco Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability or NAL in the amount of $10,000 to the Campos. It charged that they had apparently willfully violated Section 301 of the Communications Act by operating a modified CB radio station on a frequency not authorized for Citizens Band radio use.

On January 16, 2008, the Campos filed a response claiming that they did not have the ability to pay the forfeiture. They also argued that did not comprehend the severity of the situation, in part because they were not able to read English. However, from the earlier meeting with the FCC it was obvious to the Commission that Miguel Campos was able to understand English in spoken form. Because of this, that part of the Campos defense was disallowed.

However, to support this claim that they could not afford to pay the $10,000 the FCC was trying to assess, Mr. And Mrs. Campos supplied tax returns for the three years prior to the N-A-L being issued. In analyzing this financial hardship claim, the FCC reviewed the data supplied by the Campos. In the end the FCC concluded the claim to be valid and that reduction of the forfeiture from $10,000 to $800 is warranted.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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The Campos' were given the customary 30 days to pay the fine or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

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D-STAR NEWS: WY1U SAYS TO NOT USE CLONED D-STAR INFO SITE

Tim Mik, WY1U, says over the D-Star re-mailer that the D-Star Search Page that he created and updates daily has been copied. This, without his approval by another group or individual in the United Kingdom who has placed it on the World-Wide-Web using its own URL.

Tim says that the U-K site was not given permission to copy his page. He says that he has asked the owners to place a link to the original page instead, but they have ignored his request to do so. So Tim is instead asking all D-Star user to ignore the U-K based clone and come directly to his website for the latest D-Star operational information. It's a simple URL at www.dstarsearch.org. (D-Star Reflector)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: A POSSIBLE ROBOTIC THREAT TO 70 CM

Howard Gordon, W3CQH, reports over the VHF Reflector on a Public notice posted by the FCC. This, on a proposal to use 430 to 448 MHz for remotely-controlled surveillance robots for emergency use.

Gordon says that for the power proposed and the limited use, Ithat he does not believe the device will cause any significant interference to the

amateur radio service. But he says that the real issue for the manufacture is how to stop the hams from interfering with the surveillance device.

W3CQH says that the possible threat to ham radio may be that once the manufacturer has its foot in the door on 440mhz, it could conceivably start petitioning the FCC for channelization to be done and assigned to it citing interference problems that have occurred in some future alleged emergency situations.

You can read the full FCC release on this robot device at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1077A1.pdf (W3CQH via VHF Reflector)

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PROPAGATION REPORT: SOLAR CYCLE DELAYED A YEAR

The next 11-year cycle of solar storms will most likely start next March and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012. That's up to a year later than expected according to a forecast issued today by NOAA's Space Environment Center in coordination with an international panel of solar experts. (NOAA, QRZ.COM)

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DX

In D-X, word that DF1LON is going to spend his holidays on Jersey Island. He will be there through May 28th but his main activity will be as MJZ0LON in the upcoming WPX CW Contest. He will work both CW and SSB before and after the WPX. QSLs via DF1LON, direct or via the bureau.

And listen out for LA5LJA, and LA7FJA, will be on from Svalbard using CW, SSB and some digital modes on all the H-F bands. They will be signing the calls JW5LJA and JW7FJA from May 25th to June 1st. QSLs to their home calls via the bureau.

Lastly, JA1XGI has announced he will operate from East Kribati as T32XG from May 27th through June 3rd. He plans to use CW, SSB and some digital modes on 40 through 15 meters. QSL his operation to his home call, either direct or via the bureau.

(Above from various DX news sources.)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: WELCOME TO A NEW EXTRA

And finally this week we return to the Dayton Hamvention for an important moment of a young ham. Meet Tiffini Ravitch, KC2TFO, of New Jersey. She had come to Hamvention in the hope of going home with a General class license. Instead she went home with the top of the line as an Extra. Here's her story as she told it to our Producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF and ham radio educator Gordon West, WB6NOA:

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Audio only: Please download the mp3 audio version of this newscast at www.arnewsline.org

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And from all of us at the Amateur Radio Newsline congratulations we also say congratulations to Tiffini Ravitch, KC2TFO, on getting her Extra to take home as a lasting momento of Hamvention 2008. Needless to say we could use a lot more like her in the hobby.

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline". Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's" only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline", P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go, another reminder that the nominating period for the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award ends at midnight on May 30th. Nominations postmarked after that time or received electronically after that time will not be considered. A nominating form as a dot pdf file is available at our special Young Ham of the Year website at www.yhoty.org. Download it, fill it out and send it to us by US mail or electronically.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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525. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-23 16:11:51 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g16p8doqq1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2896

Mark Kramer wrote:

> Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

>> PSK31 has a huge advantage in that it is
>> pretty cheap, and not proprietary. D-Star is decidedly not cheap, and is
>> quite proprietary.
>
> No, D-Star is not proprietary. It is an open standard.

I respectfully disagree:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/D-STAR

to quote the relevant part:

"D-STAR has been criticized for its use of a patented, closed-source proprietary voice codec (AMBE). [4] Hams do not have access to the detailed specification of this codec or the rights to implement it on their own without buying a licensed product. Hams have a long tradition of building, improving upon and experimenting with their own radio designs. The modern digital age equivalent of this would be designing and/or implementing codecs in software. Critics say the proprietary nature of AMBE and its availability only in hardware form (as ICs) discourages innovation."

end quote

> Wow.

Understood. I'll skip most of the post because I'm not looking for a sentence by sentence rebuke here. Let's just take it that you don't like my ideas, and we'll move on.

My thoughts are that having some sort of device that young people can use to communicate with each other, in a manner such are they are used to, such as texting, might just be a good thing. Add a couple more friends, and you have a VHF chat room. No need for repeaters, no need to intrude on other people's BW. The idea isn't to forge some new technology. Too many people get caught up in that. It is an application of available technology in a way that some folk might not see as useful, but others might.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

526. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 20 (Friday, May 23, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-23 16:41:52 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080523163912.CB402314B4@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2897
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 20
May 23, 2008
****

IN THIS EDITION:

* + American Red Cross Responds to ARRL Concerns Regarding Background Checks
* + FCC's Bill Cross, W3TN, Calls Ham Radio "Below the Radar"
* + New Section Managers to Take Office July 1
* + CQ Announces 2008 Hall of Fame Inductees
* + FCC's Hollingsworth Set to Retire in July
* + FCC Posts Amateur Radio Enforcement Correspondence
* Solar Update
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This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ Chinese Olympic Special Event Stations Are On-the-Air
+ New Amateur Radio Satellite Receives OSCAR Designation
Young Ham of the Year Nominations Due May 30
Notes from the ARRL Contest Desk
Notes from the DXCC Desk

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========

==> AMERICAN RED CROSS RESPONDS TO ARRL CONCERNS REGARDING BACKGROUND CHECKS

At the ARRL ARES forum at the Dayton Hamvention, ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, announced that the American Red Cross (ARC) has finally moved to the issue of background checks for ARES volunteers.

In November 2007, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, wrote to the American Red Cross (ARC) regarding concerns voiced by ARRL volunteers.

In 2006, the Red Cross stated it would implement background checks that included, among other things, a credit check and a "mode of living" check for its staff and volunteers, including ARES volunteers providing services to the Red Cross during disasters. ARRL saw these portions of the background check as unneeded and inappropriate for ARES service.

In a letter dated May 8 of this year, Armond T. Mascelli, ARC Vice President for Disaster Response Services replied to President Harrison: "I can now report back to you that [these] actions have been completed and changes have been instituted which I trust resolves the concerns detailed in your letter. This effort took considerably more time and attention than originally envisioned, but I believe the results will now benefit our respective organizations.

"A new background consent form now [is] to be used by all Red Cross chapters for ARRL members and other partner organizations. The form and related process is limited to the name and social security number verification of the individual, and a criminal background check. References and suggestions to other related investigative possibilities have been stricken."

Harrison said that "We are very pleased that the American Red Cross has addressed some of the issues that we raised regarding their background investigations and that we can move forward in a relationship that has existed for a long, long time. The American Red Cross and the ARRL have shared a productive relationship for many years which has been of benefit to both the organizations and to the public. We are glad that throughout the past months we have been able to negotiate the issues that we had and have finally come to a resolution."

With the background check issue apparently resolved, the ARRL will be working with the ARC in the negotiation and creation of a draft for a new "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU) or similar document to replace the one which expired last year; Dura and Keith Robertory of the ARC will be leading the effort. When complete, the draft of the MOU will be presented to the leadership of both organizations for approval.

"While we believe that the Red Cross is implementing some changes that will address some of the concerns expressed to them by ARRL, at this point, it is work in process," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. "There are many questions yet to be answered, but we believe that the Red Cross is progressing in good faith to complete the changes to their policy and their background check consent form, which was the primary concern expressed to the Red Cross by ARRL. There will be more clarifications and information in the near future. Please keep an eye on the ARRL Web site for updates as we know them. We are very much aware of your concerns and have conveyed them to the Red Cross. We expect the Red Cross to address these and other concerns on subject of their background check policy in the near future."

"The ARRL is very pleased that the American Red Cross has responded appropriately to our concerns about the background check issue," said

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "We believe it now will be possible to go forward to negotiate a statement of understanding between the two organizations. We look forward to renewing and expanding the relationship with the Red Cross."

Dura warns that when requesting a background check on the ARC Web site, volunteers from partner agencies, such as the ARRL or ARES, should select "I am an ARC partner" when asked "What is my Red Cross role?" Otherwise, he says, volunteers will see the background check form that asks for "everything."

==> FCC'S BILL CROSS, W3TN, CALLS HAM RADIO "BELOW THE RADAR"

William Cross, W3TN, a staff member in the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Riley Hollingsworth, Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, spoke at the FCC Forum on Saturday afternoon at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention. Cross opened by explaining just where Amateur Radio falls in the FCC's bureaucracy.

"The Mobility Division of Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has the oversight of the Amateur Radio Service," Cross said. "We handle the day-to-day administration of the Amateur Service and some of the rulemaking activities that affect the Amateur Radio Service. The Gettysburg office handles applications, licensing -- including vanity calls -- and the ULS. Within the Commission, other bureaus also make rules that affect you. The Office of Engineering and Technology handles spectrum allocations and equipment issues. Our Managing Director's Office is the office that handles matters relating to fees, such as the fees relating to vanity call signs, Debt Collection Improvement Act matters, the need for Federal Registration Numbers."

Cross divided comments into two areas: Proceedings where the Commission has issued a decision and rulemaking requests that have been filed with the FCC, but which are pending resolution by the Commission.

Calling the past year "interesting, because it has been a quiet year on the regulatory front," he said that no big rulemaking items were released. "This being an election year, there doesn't seem to be any legislation on Capitol Hill that is of direct interest or impact on the Amateur Service. This year is a good time for Amateur Radio to be flying 'below the radar,' and that's where ham radio is right now in terms of the big picture -- below the radar," Cross said. "We wrapped up a couple of Petitions for Rulemaking [PRM] that were pending and it doesn't look like (at least in the near future) there will be anything else coming out."

One of the cases the FCC issued a decision on was what Cross referred to as the Miller Order. This Order, released May 7, dismissed a PRM from Mark Miller, N5RFX. Miller sought three points: To delete the FCC's 2006 addition to how it defines data, to amend the rules to prohibit automatically controlled stations from transmitting on frequency

segments other than those specified in Section 97.221(b), and to replace the symbol rate limits in Section 97.307(f) with bandwidth limitations.

"The effect of these changes," Cross explained, "when taken together, would have been, as [Miller] said, 'A small number of wider bandwidth modes, including Pactor III, would no longer be authorized.' Translating that into English, what he was asking for was 'bye-bye Winlink.' Don't get me wrong -- Winlink as a communications system seems to have become the 'Brussels sprouts of ham radio' -- you either love it or you hate it. And trying to bury it under ketchup or hollandaise sauce hasn't changed the basic like or dislike for Winlink. Most of the controversy here seems to swirl around how certain licensees use it. Some use it for a radio e-mail system. Others use it for getting weather maps while they are on sailboats in places the brave dare not go. Others use it for their personal business activities, such as buying and selling stocks. These uses are really a Section 97.113, a 'prohibited communications' question, not a technology question."

Cross mentioned that there are "some things coming down the pike that you want to keep track of. The ARRL has a pending petition -- RM 11325 -- that requests that we amend the rules that apply to the power stations may use when transmitting spread-spectrum emissions -- BPL. The DC Circuit Court of Appeals remanded the FCC's final BPL rules. The Court did not vacate the rules, so they are still in effect. There will be another proceeding to address what the Court told the Commission it had to address."

The Northern California Packet Association has filed a request for clarification that the FCC define what is meant by the term "simultaneously" as it is used when defining a repeater. "The issue here is that in California," Cross explained, "D-STAR repeaters have been coordinated on channels that are set aside for auxiliary stations, on the basis that, because there is a delay in retransmission of the signal, the retransmission is not simultaneous, and therefore the repeating station is not a repeater." Cross said others have advanced what he calls "the duck argument: If the station looks like a repeater, if it functions like a repeater, and it sounds like a repeater, it should be treated as a repeater -- and confined to the repeater subbands. A decision on this will be coming [from the Commission] shortly."

When Hollingsworth stepped up to the podium, he spoke about what he called "the magic of radio," saying, "we need to realize the debt we owe to those who work so hard to further the goals of Amateur Radio, whether it's the Emergency Communications participants, club members, teachers, VEs, the League. One of the richest rewards in doing something is to experience joy in doing it. And with so many people working so hard on their own time to further the goals of Amateur Radio, we're all a little more free to enjoy radio and to make it fun as well as a public service."

Saying that "things have calmed down a lot in the Amateur Radio Service," Hollingsworth explained, "[that] when it comes to the Amateur Radio Service, there's one enforcement tool we need very badly and we just don't have it -- and that's straitjackets," he deadpanned, eliciting guffaws from the crowd of more than 150 people. "Some days I want to ask, 'Why can't everybody just get along?'"

Hollingsworth noted that since the 75 and 80 meter phone band has been expanded, "a lot of these regular small groups, ragchews and some of the Nets should consider "spreading out, because a lot of the regular operations every night are clumped together. Yes, there are still interference issues and interference allegations, but if everybody would spread out a little bit, now, it's going to take a real change of habit by a group that has used the same frequency for 40 years to talk across the state, but you really need to spread out and take advantage [of the band] expansion."

He also noted that interest in Morse code "seems to be higher than ever before." On the enforcement side, Hollingsworth said he has noticed "no difference in enforcement problems related to no-code, and I think I'm seeing more young people at events that I go to." He reminded audience that only 1 percent of Amateur Radio licensees filed comments in the Morse code Proceeding. "I see the new code keys for sale here, and I always see a big crowd of people around anything related to code or code keyers. I think the interest has really peaked."

Hollingsworth pointed out a 12 year old boy who sat in the front row. When asked, the boy responded he received his license three years ago when he was 9. "The future President of the League might be sitting right there," Hollingsworth explained, pointing at the boy. "That's our future, right there, and we're depending on you. We need a lot more young people and I think that Morse code seems to interest young people -- hopefully they're getting tired of instant messengers and the Internet. Last night someone told me about a 14 year old Net Control Operator on a national Net."

Calling for "more courtesy" on the Amateur Radio bands, Hollingsworth said, "This fighting amongst yourselves is the worst thing that you can do. You have some rude operators and operators who don't care and who are hateful and bitter about life in general, but every group has that, whether it's doctors, electricians, lawyers, plumbers, whatever, every group has a certain percentage of people like that. What you have to do is to remind yourself every day to stay on the high road and report to us if you can't resolve a problem after you've given it a chance to go away. There are plenty of ugly situations in the world and you don't have to add to them. Now, there are a few idiots in your Service who know all the answers, only because they haven't thought of all the questions. They just want recognition and reaction. Don't give it to them. Don't be baited. Don't feel insulted -- they are their own worst punishment. Don't dignify them with a response."

Hollingsworth implored the audience to "never let the Commission get by again with handing you 10 to 12 years of neglect. You have to stay

vigilant. Even though the bands may sound better to you, you have to be vigilant to protect your Service, and be part of the solution -- not the problem -- and operate as if the whole world is listening, because generally it is."

You can listen to the FCC Forum in its entirety on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/images/nms/other/FCCForumMP3.mp3>.

==> NEW SECTION MANAGERS TO TAKE OFFICE JULY 1

In the only contested Section Manager race this spring, Paul Eakin, KJ4G, was elected as the ARRL Northern Florida Section Manager with 430 votes. Dale Sewell, W4NBF, received 385 votes, and Carl Zelich, AA4MI, received 370 votes. Ballots were counted May 20 at ARRL Headquarters.

Eakin's two-year term begins on July 1; he will be stepping into the office that has been held by Rudy Hubbard, WA4PUP, since 1990. Hubbard has served nine continuous terms of office. A Life Member of ARRL, Eakin is from the Tallahassee area and he has been a licensed radio amateur since 1969. He has a strong background in Emergency Communications and many years of emergency service experience.

The ARRL Northern New Jersey Section is getting a new Section Manager starting on July 1, as well: Richard Krohn, N2SMV, of Manalapan, will be taking over the reins from Bill Hudzik, W2UDT, who has served as Section Manager since 2001.

The following incumbent ARRL Section Managers did not face opposition and were declared elected for the next two year terms of office beginning July 1: Tom Ciciora, KA9QPN (Illinois); Bill Woodhead, N1KAT (Maine); Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ (Oregon); Bill Dale, N2RHV (Santa Clara Valley); Paul Gayet, AA1SU (Vermont), and Don Michalski, W9IXG (Wisconsin).

Nominations for the Indiana Section Manager position will be resolicited in July QST for an 18-month term of office beginning in January 2009.

==> CQ ANNOUNCES 2008 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Just before Hamvention weekend, CQ magazine announced its 2008 Hall of Fame inductees, welcoming 14 new members into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame, three new members of the CQ DX Hall of Fame and two new members of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame. The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honors those individuals, whether licensed hams or not, who have made significant contributions to Amateur Radio; and those amateurs who have made significant contributions either to Amateur Radio, to their professional careers or to some other aspect of life on our planet. The CQ Contest and DX Halls of Fame honor those amateurs who not only excel in personal performance in these major areas of Amateur Radio but who also "give back" to Amateur Radio in outstanding ways.

The 2008 inductees to the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame (listed alphabetically) are:

Gaston Bertels, ON4WF -- Honorary President, former President and CEO, UBA (Belgian IARU Member-Society); Founder & President, AMSAT Belgium; Chairman, ARISS Europe.

L. B. Cebik, W4RNL (SK) -- Noted antenna authority, prolific author on topics relating to antennas and antenna modeling. One of Cebik's last articles for QST, "A New Spin on the Big Wheel," appeared in the March 2008 issue. The article, co-written with Bob Cerreto, WA1FXT, looked at a three dipole array for 2 meters. This was a follow-up to their article in the January/February issue of QEX that featured omnidirectional horizontally polarized antennas. Cebik authored the "Antenna Options" column for QEX. Cebik, an ARRL Life Member, passed away last month at age 68.

Gordon England, ex-W3AWO -- Deputy Secretary of Defense; former Secretary of the Navy; former defense industry executive.

Admiral Edmund Giambastiani, N4OC -- Retired Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Gerald Griffin, MD, K6MD -- Brigadier General, Medical Corps, US Army (Retired). Led medical brigades and humanitarian missions in various combat zones; delegate to NATO medical advisory committee

Larnelle Harris, WD4LZC -- Multi-award-winning gospel singer/songwriter.

Lenore Jensen, W6NAZ (SK) -- Co-Founder, Young Ladies' Radio League (YLRL). Jensen wrote articles for QST, such as "Ask Not What Amateur Radio Can Do for You" (September 1978) and "California Hams Assist During Mud/Flood Crisis" (June 1980). During the 1930s, she acted in the radio drama Ma Perkins and later starred with McDonald Carey in the Lock Up TV series. Jenson was featured on This Is Your Life for her important contributions during World War II. After Pearl Harbor, she founded radio training courses for the American Women's Voluntary Service (AWVS), specializing in phone patches between servicemen overseas and their families, running more than 50,000 phone patches during the Vietnam War. Jensen's stepdaughter, Cynthia Wall, KA7ITT, wrote several ham radio-related adventure books for young people that were published by the ARRL.

John Kanzius, K3TUP -- Inventor of possible cure for cancer using RF energy; process for possible use of seawater as fuel. Kanzius's work was featured in the February 2008 issue of QST.

Charles (Chip) Margelli, K7JA -- DXer and DXpeditioner; in 2005, successfully represented hams in Morse code vs text-messaging competition on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. He has written several articles for QST since 1973, including "Field Day 2003 from Cuba" in the December 2003 issue. In his capacity as Vice President for Amateur Sales and Marketing for Heil Sound, Margelli arranged the donation of equipment to The Laird Campbell Memorial HQ Operators Club station, W1HQ.

Philip S. Rand, W1DBM (SK) -- TVI pioneer; author, Television Interference. Rand was an electronics engineer for the Remington-Rand Corporation in the late 1940s, when Amateur Radio faced a crisis in the form of interference to the early VHF television sets. Rand worked with the ARRL to develop TVI suppression techniques for channels two through six. ARRL's then-Technical Editor George Grammer, W1DF, designed high pass filters for the primitive TV sets, while Rand developed new methods of shielding for amateur transmitters. Rand published articles in QST Magazine spanning 50 years, from "A Shack on Wheels" in 1933 to "The Beeper, An Audible Frequency Readout for The Blind Amateur" in September 1983. Rand served as ARRL New England Division Director in 1955 and 1956.

Vice Admiral Scott Redd (Retired), K0DQ/A92Q -- Former Director, National Counterterrorism Center; Retired Commander, US Fifth Fleet; active contester and DXer.

Tony Tether, PhD, K2TGE -- Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

Dr Hamadoun I. Toure, HB9EHT -- Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Dr Toure received his Amateur Radio license in October 2007. An interview with Dr Toure appears in the May 2008 issue of QST.

John Townsend, PhD, W3PRB -- Space program pioneer, aerospace industry executive.

The 2008 inductees to the CQ DX Hall of Fame are:

John Devoldere, ON4UN, who more or less single-handedly popularized DXing on 80 meters. His book, Low Band DXing, the last several editions of which have been published by the ARRL, is considered the "bible" for DXing on these bands, with more than 50,000 copies sold. In 1979, Devoldere was the first ham to earn CQ's 5-Band Worked All Zones (5BWAZ) award; he holds 80 meter DXCC Certificate #1 and currently has 357 countries confirmed on that band.

Nellie Saltiel de Lazard, XE1CI, a pediatrician and DXer/DXpeditioner, has earned just about every major DXing award. She has operated from more than a dozen different countries, including being the first female to operate from Palestine (E4).

Bob Schenck, N2OO, has made his greatest contribution to DXing behind the scenes as QSL manager for more than 100 DX stations as well as more than 130 DXpeditions. Schenck is founder of the QSL Manager's Society.

The 2008 inductees to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame are:

Paolo Cortese, I2UIY, has too many Top 10 finishes to list. Off the air, he served for more than a decade as the HF Contest Manager for Associazione Radioamatori Italiani, Italy's national Amateur Radio association and IARU Member-Society. Cortese wrote a book on contesting and has been a member of the CQWW Contest Committee since 1990,

co-director of the CQ WW RTTY DX Contest and CQ WPX RTTY Contest since 2005. He has also written articles for QST and NCJ.

Randy Thompson, K5ZD, has multiple wins in the CQ World Wide DX Contest, ARRL Sweepstakes, CQ WPX (CW and SSB), CQ 160 and the IARU HF Championship. His station has also hosted many #1 performances by guest operators. Thompson is three-time editor of the National Contest Journal (NCJ) and co-founder of the eham.net Web site. He has just been named Director of the CQ WPX Contests. Thompson is a member of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC).

==> FCC'S HOLLINGSWORTH SET TO RETIRE IN JULY

Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth has announced plans to retire from the FCC later this year. "My intention," Hollingsworth told the ARRL, "is to head out in July, assuming the results of the second round of the PAVE PAWS/440 repeater monitoring in California present no complications. It has been a privilege to work with and for the Amateur Radio licensees and the land mobile frequency coordinators. I am extremely fortunate to work for two wonderful groups of people: Those at headquarters in the Enforcement Bureau, and for the Amateur Radio operators." Hollingsworth had planned to retire earlier this year, but changed his mind, saying, "There [were] several issues on the table that I want[ed] to continue to work through with the amateur community."

While his successor has not been named, he was quick to point out that the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue.

Hollingsworth said he considered it an honor to have given something back to "the incredible enjoyment and benefits that Amateur Radio has given me since age 13. And to every one of the thousands of you that thanked us for our work, many of whom waited for long periods after a forum or radio meeting just to come up and express appreciation for what the FCC was doing in enforcement, you have no idea how much that was appreciated every single time. It sure wasn't a 9 to 5 job, but it was a gift and a daily joy to work for the best group of people on earth. The only bad day in nearly 10 years was September 21, 2001, when we lost Steve Linn, N4CAK. We still miss him." Linn, deputy chief of the Licensing and Technical Analysis Branch for private wireless within the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and his wife Lesley were killed in a car accident on their way to the Virginia Beach hamfest.

Hollingsworth told the ARRL he was "so very impressed" with the young people who are involved with Amateur Radio: "To the very young Amateur Radio operators I met at Dayton, who have dreams of being scientists and astronauts and communications engineers, we will be pulling for you; I have a strong feeling we won't be disappointed."

"The Amateur Radio Service is part of the American heritage, and I am going to stay as actively involved in it as I possibly can," Hollingsworth explained. "Thank you all for working tirelessly to

provide the only fail safe communications system on Earth and for helping this country keep its lead in science and technology. What an incredible gift it has been to work with you every day, and how fortunate we are to love the magic of radio!"

==> FCC POSTS AMATEUR RADIO ENFORCEMENT CORRESPONDENCE

Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth sent a Warning Notice to Thomas A. Nichols, WA6BKR, of Fairfield, California -- a General class licensee - reminded Nichols that on February 28, 2008, the FCC notified him once before, "the Enforcement Bureau indicated that in September 2004 and on various dates since October 2007 you operated on frequencies assigned to Extra class licensees but prohibited to General class licensees."

According to the Warning Notice, Nichols replied to Hollingsworth's February letter, conceding "an instance in which you operated in the Extra Class portion of the band and gave numerous reasons and comments on the Morse code exam, Amateur Radio in general, the Extra Class examination and other radio and kit building topics not relevant to your out-of-band operation."

Hollingsworth warned Nichols that "any additional out-of-band operation may lead to revocation of your license or a monetary forfeiture." Nicholls was also warned that his license would not be renewed or upgraded "until such matter is resolved."

Direct all questions concerning the Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions Web postings via e-mail only to Riley Hollingsworth <fccham@fcc.gov> in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Born of Sun and shower" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: This week several new sunspots appeared for five days, but they were all leftover spots from Solar Cycle 23, not new Cycle 24 spots. But this is okay, because at the sunspot minimum we appreciate any spots we can get. May 16-20 saw daily sunspot numbers of 34, 23, 30, 28 and 23. Sunspot numbers for May 15- 21 were 0, 34, 23, 30, 28, 23 and 0 with a mean of 19.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 71.1, 71.6, 71.2, 71.6, 68.9, 68.6 and 69.1 with a mean of 70.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 2, 3, 8, 10 and 13 with a mean of 6.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 3, 1, 2, 5, 7 and 9, with a mean of 4.1. Keep in mind that a sunspot number of 34 does not mean there were 34 sunspots last Friday. Instead, the numbers represent a somewhat arcane calculation that accounts for the number of sunspot groups and the size of each group. The count gets 10 points for each sunspot group and one point for each spot within the groups, the designation of these different areas within the groups seeming somewhat arbitrary to a layman such as myself. So 34 could mean that there are three darkened areas, with one of them counting as two spots, the other two just one each. Presumably, the same number would describe the Sun with two darkened areas facing Earth, and each counting

for seven spots. Thirty plus four is the same as 20 plus 14, but this week there were three areas. Expect quiet geomagnetic conditions and another prediction for a planetary A index of 25 just before the start of summer on June 17. Geophysical Institute Prague calls for unsettled conditions May 23-24, quiet to unsettled May 25, quiet May 26, quiet to unsettled again on May 27-28 and unsettled for May 29. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend is VK/Trans-Tasman 80 Meter Contest (CW) on May 24. The CQ WW WPX Contest (CW) is May 24-25. The MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint is May 27. The MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint is May 26-27. The ARCI Hootowl Sprint is May 27 (local time) and the SKCC Sprint is May 28. Next weekend is ARRL Kids Day on May 31-June 1. The RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (Data) is June 2. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, June 8, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, June 20, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Chinese Olympic Special Event Stations Are On-the-Air: Special Event stations for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games began operating May 18,

running through Wednesday, September 17. Five special calls, representing the five rings of the Olympic flag, will be on the air: BT1OB, BT1OJ, BT1OH, BT1OY and BT1ON. The last letter of the call sign corresponds to the color of each of the rings of the Olympic flag -- Beibei (Blue), Jingjing (Black), Huanhuan (Red), Yingying (Yellow) and Nini (Green). Zheng Feng, BA4EG, will be the QSL manager for all stations. QSLs can be sent either direct or via the bureau and will begin to be answered in October. A Web site supporting the Special Event stations will include an on line log search, QSL card received and sent status, as well as other information <http://www.bj2008ses.com.cn/>; award criteria will soon be posted on the site. -- Thanks to "The Daily DX" for this information

* New Amateur Radio Satellite Receives OSCAR Designation: Earlier this week, Bill Tynan, W3XO, announced that Amateur Radio satellite Delfi C-3 <http://www.delfic3.nl/> has been issued an OSCAR number: Delfi-C3 OSCAR-64 or Dutch OSCAR-64. The shortened version of either of these two designations is DO-64. Delfi C-3 was successfully launched April, 28, 2008 from India aboard a Polar launch vehicle and was successfully commissioned, currently transmitting telemetry on the 2 meter amateur band. In addition to its 2 meter downlink, Delfi C-3 has an uplink on the 70 cm band. This newest amateur satellite was developed by a team of some 60 students and facility members from various polytechnic schools in The Netherlands. Delfi C-3 carries two experiments: one involving thin film solar cells developed by Dutch Space, and an autonomous wireless Sun sensor from the Dutch Government Research Institute (TNO). According to Delfi C-3 Project Manager Wolter Jan Ubbels, Delfi C-3 has been duly coordinated through Region 1 IARU representative Graham Shirville, G3VZV, that the satellite meets all of the criteria necessary to be issued an OSCAR number. "AMSAT-NA is pleased to welcome DO-64 into the family of Amateur Radio satellites," Tynan said. "We are hopeful that it will fulfill its intended mission of furthering education and increasing interest in the Amateur Radio space program. We congratulate all of those responsible for designing, building, testing and launching this new Amateur Radio satellite and look forward to its long and productive life."

* Nominations for Young Ham of the Year Due May 30: Nominations for Amateur Radio Newsline's Young Ham of the Year award are due no later than May 30. According to AR Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, "We have not received any nominations for this year's award. Not a single one by e-mail. Not a single one by the US mail. Not even a phone call or e-mail asking for a nominating form." He said that due to everything needed to take place in preparation for the award ceremony, "it is impossible to extend [the deadline] beyond [May 30]. Any nomination received electronically after midnight May 30 or postmarked after midnight on May 30 will be deemed ineligible. If no valid nominations are received by that cutoff date and time, the award program for 2008 will be cancelled." Pasternak defined "valid nomination" as a nomination for "a youngster age 18 or younger who has made a major contribution in some way to the betterment of Amateur Radio. This can be through public

service, technical development, contributions to the state of communications sciences, recruitment of new hams or whatever seems to be an accomplishment worth honoring. What is not acceptable are nominations that say something like, 'My 7 year old just passed his tech test so give him a radio.'" The Young Ham of the Year Award is open to any ham age 18 or younger living in the 50 United States, plus Puerto Rico and all Canadian Provinces. A full set of rules, along with a downloadable nominating form is online <http://www.yhoty.org>. The form must have the required substantiating material attached to it. Mail the form and additional material to Amateur Radio Newsline, YHOTY, 28197 Robin Ave, Santa Clarita, CA 91350.

* Notes from the ARRL Contest Desk: ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, has announced that, after receiving numerous requests, he has started a contest blog called Notes from the Contest Branch. "I have just returned from my very first trip to Dayton in 26 years of being licensed. It was a great experience. I'm glad I was able to help answer some of your questions and listen to your suggestions -- and yes, even some constructive criticism. One of the suggestions bandied about was an official Contest Branch blog. Your wish is my command." Kutzko said the new blog will be a place where he can post "official information on all things Contest-related, such as when results for ARRL contests are put online, when awards are going out the door, and if there are any problems you need to know about. This blog will cover both HF and VHF+ contests. I hope this will help keep you informed on happenings here at the Contest Branch. As always, I strive to be available to you. Feel free to drop me a line with any questions, comments, or constructive criticism. Compliments are welcome, too." View the new ARRL Contest Branch blog, as well as other ARRL bogs, on the ARRL blog page <http://www.arrl.org/blog>. Kutzko can be reached via e-mail <kx9x@arrl.org>.

* Notes from the DXCC Desk: ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the 2008 TI9KK DXpedition to Cocos Island <http://www.ti9kk.dh8wr.com > has been approved for DXCC credit. "If you had cards rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk <dxcc@arrl.org> to have your DXCC record updated," Moore said.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
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The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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527. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-23 20:02:00 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <8a88ac3b-795c-423d-a630-ea7f1119eeb8@s50g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2898

On May 23, 12:11 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:

> My thoughts are that having some sort of device that young people can
> use to communicate with each other, in a manner such are they are used
> to, such as texting, might just be a good thing.

The operative word there, IMHO, is "might".

> Add a couple more
> friends, and you have a VHF chat room. No need for repeaters, no need to
> intrude on other people's BW. The idea isn't to forge some new
> technology. Too many people get caught up in that. It is an application
> of available technology in a way that some folk might not see as useful,
> but others might.

The Big Problem I see is that ham radio will never be competitive in
areas where there is a similar mainstream/commercial alternative. IOW,
why would any non-ham with a cell phone that can text want a ham-radio
text-message device?

Where ham radio has always been a success is in offering things that
are *not* available anywhere else. For example, in the days before
cell phones, repeaters and autopatch were a big deal because they
offered communications that the average person could not get any other
way.

This doesn't mean I'm against anyone building whatever kind of ham rig
strikes their fancy, as long as it meets Part 97 rules. All I'm saying
is "do what interests you, don't expect it to attract a certain
demographic".

73 de Jim, N2EY

528. Re: What a great Dayton!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-23 20:50:23 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g177u6lmr1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2899

In article <g153bujs2@reader2.panix.com>,
David Lesher <wb8foz@panix.com> wrote:
>But there's nowhere anywhere nearby with the indoor+outdoor space
>the Hamvention uses. If/when the Wampler family [ISTM that's their
>name..] sells out to developers, the Hamvention may well be history...

Well, there IS Salem Mall for outdoor space... it's got a lot more than
it used to. And, IIRC, there's an abandoned Walmart not too far from there.

529. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-24 00:41:48 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <e5ne34dkksuudqlrlmd9pnbqhfqhpji3ot@4ax.com>
Source record: 2900

On Fri, 23 May 2008 16:02:00 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

> For example, in the days before
>cell phones, repeaters and autopatch were a big deal because they
>offered communications that the average person could not get any other
>way.

Oh? Before ham autopatches were popular on repeaters, the telcos -
both wireline and non-wireline - offered Mobile Telephone Service
(MTS) using mobile operators and Improved Mobile Telephone Service
(IMTS) permitting subscriber dial. Expensive - you bet - but they
were available to the average person. Some of those transceivers
found their way into the ham market after the telcos upgraded to newer
stuff.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

530. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-24 02:58:02 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <99b02362-1f36-4470-8d49-4ec9d61abb8e@e53g2000hsa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2801

On May 23, 8:41 pm, Phil Kane <Phil.K...@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> Before ham autopatches were popular on repeaters, the telcos -
> both wireline and non-wireline - offered Mobile Telephone Service
> (MTS) using mobile operators and Improved Mobile Telephone
> Service
> (IMTS) permitting subscriber dial. Expensive - you bet - but they

> were available to the average person.

Right you are, Phil! I should have noted that while such services existed, their cost was such that most "average people" could not afford them.

73 de Jim, N2EY

531. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-24 02:58:55 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <o56dncxrXf8uHarVnZ2dnUVZ_qfinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2802

"Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
news:g16p8doqq1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu...

> The idea isn't to forge some new technology. Too
> many people get caught up in that.

One of the bedrock notions of Amateur Radio is for licensees to "get caught up in" the advancement of the radio art.

In my opinion, too >FEW< are "caught up in that".

Chat rooms for teenie-boppers isn't mentioned in "Basis and purpose"

73, de Hans, K0HB
Grand Exhalted Liberator of the Fumes of Solder

532. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-24 09:19:15 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-7001CF.04574924052008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 2803

Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:

> Oh? Before ham autopatches were popular on repeaters, the telcos -
> both wireline and non-wireline - offered Mobile Telephone Service
> (MTS) using mobile operators and Improved Mobile Telephone Service
> (IMTS) permitting subscriber dial. Expensive - you bet - but they
> were available to the average person. Some of those transceivers
> found their way into the ham market after the telcos upgraded to newer
> stuff.

Actually, the "supply" of (pre-cellular) mobile phone service was
grossly inadequate to meet the demand for it. That is what drove the
development of cellular phones. Even the owners of the limos in which it
was installed often complained of having to wait 15 minutes or more to
get a dial tone. (You will recall that that service used the 150 MHz
band and there was no law against monitoring it. This was pre-Electronic
Communications Privacy Act.)

--
Klystron

533. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-24 12:46:07 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <8p9f34pk9ghtg3oc287a2s4ardg33khcll@4ax.com>
Source record: 2804

On Fri, 23 May 2008 22:58:55 EDT, "Kï¿½HB" <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
wrote:

>Chat rooms for teenie-boppers isn't mentioned in "Basis and purpose"

Neither is contesting or DXpeditions but we do that and look forward
to more of the same as part of the "real" ham radio experience.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

534. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-24 12:46:29 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <WcydnXiZuvZVl6XVnZ2dnUVZ_ofinZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2805

Kï¿½HB wrote:
> "Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
> news:g16p8doqq1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu...
>
>> The idea isn't to forge some new technology. Too
>> many people get caught up in that.
>
> One of the bedrock notions of Amateur Radio is for licensees to "get ca
ught up
> in" the advancement of the radio art.
>
> In my opinion, too >FEW< are "caught up in that".
>
> Chat rooms for teenie-boppers isn't mentioned in "Basis and purpose"

Spread-spectrum, digital modes, moonbounce . . . none of these are
mentioned in "Basis and purpose".

I don't see any conflict between "chat rooms for teenie-boppers" and
"forge new technology". In fact, I see a lot of similarity between
"chat rooms for teenie-boppers" and the groups that have been squatting
on the same frequency on 75 meters for 40 years and complain of
interference, even though there's lots of unused newly-allocated space.

Some of those younger hams contribute a lot to our hobby, and I wish we
could figure out ways to attract more of them. Maybe a good start would
be to recognize their potential and quit using derogatory terms to
describe them.

73, Steve KB9X

535. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-25 02:58:03 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net>
Message-ID: <Xns9AA8E3496986mcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136>
Source record: 2806

Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote in
news:WcydnXiZuvZVl6XVnZ2dnUVZ_ofinZ2d@deskmedia.com:

> K&#65533;HB wrote:
>> "Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
>> news:g16p8doqq1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu...
>>
>>> The idea isn't to forge some new technology. Too
>>> many people get caught up in that.
>>
>> One of the bedrock notions of Amateur Radio is for licensees to "get
>> ca
> ught up
>> in" the advancement of the radio art.
>>
>> In my opinion, too >FEW< are "caught up in that".
>>
>> Chat rooms for teenie-boppers isn't mentioned in "Basis and purpose"
>
> Spread-spectrum, digital modes, moonbounce . . . none of these are
> mentioned in "Basis and purpose".
>
> I don't see any conflict between "chat rooms for teenie-boppers" and
> "forge new technology". In fact, I see a lot of similarity between
> "chat rooms for teenie-boppers" and the groups that have been
> squatting on the same frequency on 75 meters for 40 years and complain
> of interference, even though there's lots of unused newly-allocated
> space.
>
> Some of those younger hams contribute a lot to our hobby, and I wish
> we could figure out ways to attract more of them. Maybe a good start
>would be to recognize their potential and quit using derogatory terms
>to
> describe them.

Hear Hear, Steve!

I would respectfully suggest that we as hams give a little thought as to
whether or not we actually want young folk in the hobby.

This is beyond the simple statements such as "we need more young people
in the hobby".

Probelem as I see it is that while we might sayt that, alll too many of
us have an implied addidition to that of "As long as they are exactly as

we are.

And the problem is, "we" is an interesting one word.

I know many hams who are surrounded with like minded people, other Hams who share similar interests. They have an outlook in which they think everyone is like them, or at least everyone should be. Those who do not share their outlook are inferior, or at best misinformed.

Strangely enough, many of these hams were licensed at a very young age.

What happened? I don't really know, but I suspect that there were some old timers who just couldn't stand those young hams of yesteryear, too. I'll bet they had names to call them.

related story

When I was a wee lad, after a lot of bugging, My parents bought me a CB Walkie-talkie one Christmas. The other one of a set was bought by my cousin's parents. About 0600 Christmas morning, I went outside and called "anybody listening?". Bam, my cousin called back from a couple miles away. I was hooked.

Fast forward to about 6 months later. A friend and I tried to join a CB club. Wow, what a mistake! After a little talk among the members, we were told we couldn't join, and they would appreciate it if we left immediately. That left an impression. To this day, I have a problem with superior people. But I bet they were pretty happy they got rid of us.

Fast forward to today.

Kids are a little different, but are still kids. They do some different things than we do. One of those things is they way they interact with each other.

If we declare them jerks, then we've lost them. If we even don't say it, yet have that attitude, they'll sense it and find something else to do. Then we've lost them.

I've been kind of surprised by the negative reaction to my texting HT. This device is not aimed at "us", it is aimed at a new generation for whom texting is as natural as talking to another.

Maybe today's hams don't want young people to get licenses. That's okay, that is a valid opinion.

But I would respectfully suggest that getting the young folk involved will take a different tactic than the way many of us became inolved. I think we should give that some consideration.

I'm bowing out of this thread now.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

536. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-25 11:56:17 UTC
From: Buck <usenet01@lumpuckeroo.com>
Message-ID: <fhfi34115s950ss06ar47p3j8f0g8072rn@4ax.com>
Source record: 2807

On Thu, 22 May 2008 19:50:32 EDT, c28f62@TheWorld.com (Mark Kramer)
wrote:

>>PSK31 has a huge advantage in that it is
>>pretty cheap, and not proprietary. D-Star is decidedly not cheap, and is
>> quite proprietary.
>
>No, D-Star is not proprietary. It is an open standard.

Not proprietary? How can I get my Yaesu to work with it?

537. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-25 17:17:17 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <3a451d69-0922-4975-8068-917c6f8203f3@79g2000hsk.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2808

On May 24, 10:58 pm, Mike Coslo <mco...@youknow.comcast.net> wrote:
> Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote innews:WcydnXiZuvZVI6XVnZ2dnUVZ_ofinZ2
d@deskmedia.com:

> > K HB wrote:
> >> "Michael Coslo" <m...@psu.edu> wrote in message
> >>news:g16p8doqq1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu...

> > Some of those younger hams contribute a lot to our hobby, and > > I wish
we could figure out ways to attract more of
> > them. Maybe a good start
> > would be to recognize their potential and quit using
> > derogatory terms to describe them.

> Hear Hear, Steve!

I second that!

I know a few "young people", and IMHO "teenie-bopper" is a derogatory
term for them.

> I would respectfully suggest that we as hams give
> a little thought as to
> whether or not we actually want young folk in the hobby.

> This is beyond the simple statements such as "we need
> more young people in the hobby".

Agreed. And we should be honest in recognizing that there is a small
but vocal minority who do *not* want young people to be
hams. Some years back, I saw a proposal to FCC to create a minimum-age
requirement of 14 years for any class of US amateur radio license.

> Probelem as I see it is that while we might sayt that,
> alll too many of
> us have an implied addidition to that of "As long as
> they are exactly as we are.
>
> And the problem is, "we" is an interesting one word.

> I know many hams who are surrounded with like minded
> people, other Hams
> who share similar interests. They have an outlook in
> which they think
> everyone is like them, or at least everyone should be.
> Those who do not
> share their outlook are inferior, or at best misinformed.

Of course. That's one facet of human nature.

OTOH, Amateur Radio does have standards, traditions,
rules, etc. I don't think it's a good thing to simply accept/promote
any and all "new" things, regardless of what effects they have, simply
because they're new, and to reject the "old" simply because it's old.

That said, we have so much latitude in Part 97 that I think there's
lots of room for 99% of what folks want to do.

> Strangely enough, many of these hams were licensed at a very
> young age.

> What happened? I don't really know, but I suspect that there
> were some
> old timers who just couldn't stand those young hams of
> yesteryear, too.
> I'll bet they had names to call them.

That's nothing new. "No kids, no lids, no space cadets" dates back at
least a half-century.

> Kids are a little different, but are still kids. They do some different
> things than we do. One of those things is they way they interact
> with each other.

> If we declare them jerks, then we've lost them. If we even don't
> say it,
> yet have that attitude, they'll sense it and find something else to do.
> Then we've lost them.

I became a ham at age 13, mostly through what I learned from ARRL
books. The big attraction was that Radio in general and Amateur Radio
in particular looked like a lot of fun to me. And for more than 40
years, it has been.

I think there is a sense that, back in the Old Days, there were young
hams (high school and younger) all over the place. In my experience as
a young ham (1960s-70s), however, that was not the case at all. Ham
radio was a niche thing back then, same as now, even without
computers, cell phones, etc.

There were a few curmudgeons back then who had no time for young hams.
But they were only a few. And a considerable number of young hams
dropped out because equipment was expensive, antennas were huge
compared to their houses, and/or they got interested in other things.

One big "hook", for me was that except for those few curmudgeons I was
not treated as an inferior - particularly on the air. A big part of
this was due to the mode I used - Morse Code. With Morse Code (and
text modes), no one knows your age or gender unless you tell them.
Operating skill, QSO content and signal quality established one's on-
air reputation, not how deep or gravelly your voice was.

To speculate wildly, it might be that one cause for curmudgeon-ness is the fear of what advancements/accomplishments the young folks might actually make.

> I've been kind of surprised by the negative reaction to
> my texting HT.
> This device is not aimed at "us", it is aimed at a new
> generation for
> whom texting is as natural as talking to another.

I think you may have missed the point, Mike.

I don't think the way to attract young people is to come up with some new gadget in an effort to attract them. Particularly if it does something that's already available, such as texting by cellphone.

That said, I think a texting HT is a great idea. But for its own sake; not as a way to "sell" ham radio to young people.

The core value of Amateur Radio is "radio for its own sake". Some folks get that, most do not. The task is to spread that word to all, publicize the wide variety of things hams do, welcome those who are interested, and help them with what *they* find interesting.

Oddly enough, a lot of the young hams I have met are fascinated by Morse Code, simply because it is unique and outside their experience. That doesn't mean it's the only thing to show them, or that all new hams must start out one and only one way. But it does mean we cannot assume young hams are only interested in "new" things.

> Maybe today's hams don't want young people to get
> licenses. That's okay, that is a valid opinion.

I'd say that in a few cases there is no "maybe" about it. But only a few.

I say that such an opinion runs counter to everything Amateur Radio stands for.

> But I would respectfully suggest that getting the young folk involved
> will take a different tactic than the way many of us became
> inolved.

Some ideas:

1) Presentations at the middle-school and even elementary-school level - including the parents.

2) Identify local hams who are available to be Elmers. (I suspect that some of the curmudgeon-ness is due to the fear of being expected to be an Elmer).

3) Subtle helps to prospective young hams, such as a ride to a club meeting, Field Day or hamfest, the loan of a rig, the gift of a box of "old wire" that happens to contain all the parts needed to build an antenna, etc.

4) Inclusion and acceptance. This means being considered an equal, or at least a potential equal. For example, put new hams or prospective hams to work with FD setup, logging, etc. (That means knowing how to do things the right way, though!)

73 de Jim, N2EY

538. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-25 17:18:20 UTC
From: G&#65533;d H&#65533;m <"G&#65533;d H&#65533;m"@NOSPAM.THANKS.IM.FULL.lycos.co.de>
Message-ID: <g1c55l$4sb$1@aioe.org>
Source record: 2809

"Mike Coslo" <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net> wrote in message
news:Xns9AA8E3496986mcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136...

>
> I would respectfully suggest that we as hams give a little thought as to
> whether or not we actually want young folk in the hobby.
>

Here's my reaction to that.

I want more >new< people in the Amateur Radio service with >new< ideas.

Their >birthdate< is of no particular interest to me.

73, de Hans, K0HB

539. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-25 21:01:41 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <l8-dnafn2o-KW6TVnZ2dnUVZ_qDinZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2810

N2EY@aol.com wrote:

> I became a ham at age 13, mostly through what I learned from ARRL
> books. The big attraction was that Radio in general and Amateur Radio
> in particular looked like a lot of fun to me. And for more than 40
> years, it has been.

Me too. But I do think that we have increased competition these days from other outlets for prospective hams, and other things that "look like a lot of fun". Computers and such gadgets are a part of daily life for young folks these days; it's only natural that they gravitate in that direction. I suspect that the vast majority of them have not been exposed to ham radio at all.

I had a good buddy when I was that age who was interested in radio and electronics, and peer pressure being what it is, I followed his lead. Those people are fewer these days.

> I think there is a sense that, back in the Old Days, there were young
> hams (high school and younger) all over the place. In my experience as
> a young ham (1960s-70s), however, that was not the case at all. Ham
> radio was a niche thing back then, same as now, even without
> computers, cell phones, etc.

Yes, I agree. I do remember more young hams back then, though. It was mostly a hobby for older people, but I do think there were more young hams then.

> There were a few curmudgeons back then who had no time for young hams.
> But they were only a few. And a considerable number of young hams
> dropped out because equipment was expensive, antennas were huge
> compared to their houses, and/or they got interested in other things.

A considerable number of old hams dropped out for similar reasons, sometimes providing a source of equipment for the new folks.

> One big "hook", for me was that except for those few curmudgeons I was
> not treated as an inferior - particularly on the air. A big part of
> this was due to the mode I used - Morse Code. With Morse Code (and
> text modes), no one knows your age or gender unless you tell them.
> Operating skill, QSO content and signal quality established one's on-
> air reputation, not how deep or gravelly your voice was.

This was a very important consideration for me, too. Even for the operation that I did on phone, by and large people treated me as an equal, and if I demonstrated skill they recognized that skill without regard to my age. Even in traditional in-person interactions like club

meetings and Field Day operations, I was treated as an equal if I could demonstrate that I deserved to be treated that way. Generally speaking the local ham community was eager to reach out and teach me if it was obvious that I needed teaching.

I can't think of another hobby where I could have gained access to such a community of people who were often peers of my parents.

> To speculate wildly, it might be that one cause for curmudgeon-ness is
> the fear of what advancements/accomplishments the young folks might
> actually make.

I think you give this segment of our hobby too much credit <grin>.

There are always going to be folks who simply have no social skills or prefer not to deal with "kids". There will be people who enjoy building or experimenting, but they have no desire to interact with other humans. That's their prerogative.

It's a shame when they make newcomers feel unwelcome, but it's going to happen in any group. Other members in the group must compensate.

> The core value of Amateur Radio is "radio for its own sake". Some
> folks get that, most do not. The task is to spread that word to all,
> publicize the wide variety of things hams do, welcome those who are
> interested, and help them with what *they* find interesting.

Spreading the word is more important these days than ever before. We can't expect people to become interested in something that they don't know exists.

> Oddly enough, a lot of the young hams I have met are fascinated by
> Morse Code, simply because it is unique and outside their experience.
> That doesn't mean it's the only thing to show them, or that all new
> hams must start out one and only one way. But it does mean we cannot
> assume young hams are only interested in "new" things.

But CW is new to them. It's different. Unique.

Ham radio is never going to appeal to everyone. Never has; never will. The majority of people, young and old, tend to go with what has the interest of the mainstream. Hams have always been somewhat "different", and the hobby has always appealed to a segment of the population that wasn't interested in doing whatever the fashionable thing might be at the moment.

> Some ideas:
>
> 1) Presentations at the middle-school and even elementary-school level
> - including the parents.

Getting the teachers involved would be ideal. Teachers are an incredibly important influence on their students.

> 2) Identify local hams who are available to be Elmers. (I suspect that
> some of the curmudgeon-ness is due to the fear of being expected to be
> an Elmer).

This is indeed key. It's what made the hobby so important for me as a younger ham.

> 3) Subtle helps to prospective young hams, such as a ride to a club
> meeting, Field Day or hamfest, the loan of a rig, the gift of a box of
> "old wire" that happens to contain all the parts needed to build an
> antenna, etc.

And the help to actually put it together.

> 4) Inclusion and acceptance. This means being considered an equal, or
> at least a potential equal. For example, put new hams or prospective
> hams to work with FD setup, logging, etc. (That means knowing how to
> do things the right way, though!)

I do think this is the most important aspect. I'm not suggesting that we coddle people simply because they are young, or fawn over them. But we should give them the opportunity to contribute as equals, with appropriate encouragement and assistance. Breaking into the "old boys' network" can be impossible if the old boys don't make an effort to be inclusive.

73, Steve KB9X

540. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-25 21:01:55 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <dP2dncoj55AxFKTVnZ2dnUVZ_q7inZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2811

"Steve Bonine" <spb@pobox.com> wrote in message
news:WcydnXiZuvZVl6XVnZ2dnUVZ_ofinZ2d@deskmedia.com...

> Spread-spectrum, digital modes, moonbounce . . . none
> of these are mentioned in "Basis and purpose".

Of course they are, Steve, in &#65533;97.1(b).

> In fact, I see a lot of similarity between "chat rooms for teenie-boppers"
> and the groups that have been squatting on the same frequency on 75 meters
> for 40 years and complain of interference....

I agree, Steve, they sound very similar to me also.

73, de Hans, K0HB
Proud Sponsor of the Amateur Blue Electric Smoke

541. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-25 21:03:10 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <1s6dnX8kC402OKTVnZ2dnUVZ_r6rnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2812

"Mike Coslo" <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net> wrote in message
news:Xns9AA8E3496986mcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136...
>
> I know many hams who are surrounded with like minded people, other Hams
> who share similar interests. They have an outlook in which they think
> everyone is like them, or at least everyone should be. Those who do not
> share their outlook are inferior, or at best misinformed.
>

What's interesting to me, is the "vintage" of those "elitists". With a few exceptions they are usually not "old timers" or "newbies" but rather those licensed in the 70's through about 1988 or so. These are the ones who posture about "purity of the ham race" and look down their nose at any ham who "isn't like them". They are, by and large, products of the incentive licensing system with it's fragmentation of the hobby into exclusive ghettos, reeking of "status" and "rank" and "I can beep faster than you can beep".

When I got into this hobby, you got no special call sign, no special status, no special band segments, the callbook didn't show your class, and nobody could poke around the QRZ.COM website to check your "status". All of us, >ALL OF US<, exuberantly played in the ether as equals, and nobody gave a rip if you were a Conditional, General, Advanced, or Extra. You were a ham - PERIOD! I think that's what makes us old-timers more accepting of those who "don't act just like us".

73, de Hans, K0HB

542. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-26 01:41:06 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <jgpj3411fanodqqfj5q7n8o09tmaa99puo@4ax.com>
Source record: 2813

On Sun, 25 May 2008 07:56:17 EDT, Buck <usenet01@lumpuckeroo.com>
wrote:

>>No, D-Star is not proprietary. It is an open standard.

>Not proprietary? How can I get my Yaesu to work with it?

Can your Yaesu do single sideband on 440 MHz? Same issue.

Convince Motorola - who now owns Yaesu - to make an adapter. Up to
now, no one has made and sold such things except Icom. It's not like
Pactor III which is in fact proprietary and no one can make adapters
except SGS, the patent-holder.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

543. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-26 02:55:36 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <6bp_j.7387$wc4.3964@fe117.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2814

Steve Bonine wrote:
> N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>
>> I became a ham at age 13, mostly through what I learned from ARRL
>> books. The big attraction was that Radio in general and Amateur Radio
>> in particular looked like a lot of fun to me. And for more than 40
>> years, it has been.
>
> Me too. But I do think that we have increased competition these days
> from other outlets for prospective hams, and other things that "look
> like a lot of fun". Computers and such gadgets are a part of daily life
> for young folks these days; it's only natural that they gravitate in
> that direction. I suspect that the vast majority of them have not been
> exposed to ham radio at all.

You have to admit that there were always things which looked like a lot of fun. In our day it was guitars, skateboards, stereo equipment, photography, sports and GIRLS. Not many of us were exposed to amateur radio in terms of percentages of young people.

> I had a good buddy when I was that age who was interested in radio and
> electronics, and peer pressure being what it is, I followed his lead.
> Those people are fewer these days.

I had an old Zenith tabletop radio with shortwave which covered 5.5 to 18 MHz. I used it initially to listen to broadcast radio. Then I discovered the shortwave broadcasters and finally the 40 and 20m hams using AM. Luckily for me, I heard a ham who was in our town and he lit the fire for me.

>> I think there is a sense that, back in the Old Days, there were young
>> hams (high school and younger) all over the place. In my experience as
>> a young ham (1960s-70s), however, that was not the case at all. Ham
>> radio was a niche thing back then, same as now, even without
>> computers, cell phones, etc.
>
> Yes, I agree. I do remember more young hams back then, though. It was
> mostly a hobby for older people, but I do think there were more young
> hams then.

There were lots of young hams and young SWLs who were interested in becoming hams. They read Pop'tronics and EI. Most of the Novices I worked were in my age group. K8CFT administered Novice exams to a number of junior high and high school aged boys. At one time, the little town of Oak Hill, West Virginia (population 7,000) boasted seven young Novices along with six or seven higher class radio amateurs. Of

those seven hams, five are still licensed and active. One dropped out of amateur radio and one (who was active) died last year. The key was that *we were interested*. No one can make someone spend his leisure hours doing something in which he has no interest.

>> There were a few curmudgeons back then who had no time for young hams.
>> But they were only a few. And a considerable number of young hams
>> dropped out because equipment was expensive, antennas were huge
>> compared to their houses, and/or they got interested in other things.
>
> A considerable number of old hams dropped out for similar reasons,
> sometimes providing a source of equipment for the new folks.

Quite a number of those who were teenage hams dropped out because of their interest in girls or cars or because they went off to college and had no room for antennas and rigs or no time due to studying. Many of them returned to amateur radio. Many got married and started families and returned to ham radio. Most never left amateur radio but their activity varied.

>> One big "hook", for me was that except for those few curmudgeons I was
>> not treated as an inferior - particularly on the air. A big part of
>> this was due to the mode I used - Morse Code. With Morse Code (and
>> text modes), no one knows your age or gender unless you tell them.
>> Operating skill, QSO content and signal quality established one's on-
>> air reputation, not how deep or gravelly your voice was.
>
> This was a very important consideration for me, too. Even for the
> operation that I did on phone, by and large people treated me as an
> equal, and if I demonstrated skill they recognized that skill without
> regard to my age. Even in traditional in-person interactions like club
> meetings and Field Day operations, I was treated as an equal if I could
> demonstrate that I deserved to be treated that way. Generally speaking
> the local ham community was eager to reach out and teach me if it was
> obvious that I needed teaching.

In my first few years there was no real ham community in my area. I depended upon the support and largess of a number of individuals. A move to Miami in 1966 exposed me to amateur radio clubs--some of them quite large. I can't think of many areas where a young person can be treated as an equal by a banker, an attorney, a doctor, the fellow who runs the local water company or the man who operates his own gas station.

> I can't think of another hobby where I could have gained access to such
> a community of people who were often peers of my parents.

Exactly.

>> To speculate wildly, it might be that one cause for curmudgeon-ness is
>> the fear of what advancements/accomplishments the young folks might
>> actually make.
>

> I think you give this segment of our hobby too much credit <grin>.

You never know when you might have a young Bill Gates visiting your
amateur radio club.

> There are always going to be folks who simply have no social skills or
> prefer not to deal with "kids". There will be people who enjoy building
> or experimenting, but they have no desire to interact with other humans.
> That's their prerogative.

Thankfully, most of them aren't hams. Ham radio is all about
interaction with other humans. I've met a few reclusive or squirrelly
or curmudgeonly radio amateurs over the years, but their number is small.

> It's a shame when they make newcomers feel unwelcome, but it's going to
> happen in any group. Other members in the group must compensate.

I think that in a club situation the other members see it happening and
do step in to balance things.

>> The core value of Amateur Radio is "radio for its own sake". Some
>> folks get that, most do not. The task is to spread that word to all,
>> publicize the wide variety of things hams do, welcome those who are
>> interested, and help them with what *they* find interesting.
>
> Spreading the word is more important these days than ever before. We
> can't expect people to become interested in something that they don't
> know exists.

That's what I liked about the Jay Leno texting versus Morse piece of a
couple of years back. It gave exposure to amateur radio in a fun way.

>> Oddly enough, a lot of the young hams I have met are fascinated by
>> Morse Code, simply because it is unique and outside their experience.
>> That doesn't mean it's the only thing to show them, or that all new
>> hams must start out one and only one way. But it does mean we cannot
>> assume young hams are only interested in "new" things.
>
> But CW is new to them. It's different. Unique.

You've got a point.

> Ham radio is never going to appeal to everyone. Never has; never will.
> The majority of people, young and old, tend to go with what has the
> interest of the mainstream. Hams have always been somewhat "different",
> and the hobby has always appealed to a segment of the population that
> wasn't interested in doing whatever the fashionable thing might be at
> the moment.

When I was licensed, I was living in a remote West Virginia mountain
town. Long distance telephone calls were expensive. We received three
TV stations only via cable. Listening to Bruce Bradley on WABC or Dick
Biondi on WLS meant contact with the rest of the world. Books brought
the world to my door and amateur radio meant that I could use a rather

primitive radio station in my bedroom to contact another fellow
operating from his basement in France, an outbuilding in Russia or a
from a stucco house in Chile.

>> Some ideas:
>>
>> 1) Presentations at the middle-school and even elementary-school level
>> - including the parents.
>
> Getting the teachers involved would be ideal. Teachers are an
> incredibly important influence on their students.

Think back: Some kids do everything the teacher tells them. Some kids
do everything except what the teacher tells them. I've had very good
teachers and I've had dreadful teachers.

>> 2) Identify local hams who are available to be Elmers. (I suspect that
>> some of the curmudgeon-ness is due to the fear of being expected to be
>> an Elmer).
>
> This is indeed key. It's what made the hobby so important for me as a
> younger ham.

I'll assist any young person who wants to become a ham--as long as they
don't call me an "Elmer".

>> 3) Subtle helps to prospective young hams, such as a ride to a club
>> meeting, Field Day or hamfest, the loan of a rig, the gift of a box of
>> "old wire" that happens to contain all the parts needed to build an
>> antenna, etc.
>
> And the help to actually put it together.

...and the patience to demonstrate proper operation.

>> 4) Inclusion and acceptance. This means being considered an equal, or
>> at least a potential equal. For example, put new hams or prospective
>> hams to work with FD setup, logging, etc. (That means knowing how to
>> do things the right way, though!)
>
> I do think this is the most important aspect. I'm not suggesting that
> we coddle people simply because they are young, or fawn over them. But
> we should give them the opportunity to contribute as equals, with
> appropriate encouragement and assistance. Breaking into the "old boys'
> network" can be impossible if the old boys don't make an effort to be
> inclusive.

I think that most do make an effort to be inclusive and to show a
newcomer the ropes. Some of it has to do with the old boys. Much has
to do with the attitude of the newcomer.

Dave K8MN

544. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-26 08:17:12 UTC
From: Derry Hamilton <gm4fh@rasilon.net>
Message-ID: <rc4qg5-imi.ln1@ravalox.home.rasilon.net>
Source record: 2815

On 2008-05-26, Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> On Sun, 25 May 2008 07:56:17 EDT, Buck <usenet01@lumpuckeroo.com>
> wrote:
>
>>>No, D-Star is not proprietary. It is an open standard.
>
>>Not proprietary? How can I get my Yaesu to work with it?
>
> Can your Yaesu do single sideband on 440 MHz? Same issue.

Yes, just fine thanks.

> Convince Motorola - who now owns Yaesu - to make an adapter. Up to
> now, no one has made and sold such things except Icom. It's not like
> Pactor III which is in fact proprietary and no one can make adapters
> except SGS, the patent-holder.

I'd prefer to make one myself, except I'd have to buy an AMBE chip from DVSI. DVSI, being the patent holders, are the only ones who can make them (without paying 6-7 figures for the license, and even then only in hardware). And that seems to me to make it just as proprietary as Pactor III.

73 de GM4FH
Alexander Hamilton

545. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-26 08:17:24 UTC
From: Buck <usenet01@lumpuckeroo.com>
Message-ID: <mtrk34tgbjfl4o9mb5p5ldo58if8smere2@4ax.com>
Source record: 2816

On Sun, 25 May 2008 21:41:06 EDT, Phil Kane
<Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:

>On Sun, 25 May 2008 07:56:17 EDT, Buck <usenet01@lumpuckeroo.com>
>wrote:
>
>>>No, D-Star is not proprietary. It is an open standard.
>
>>Not proprietary? How can I get my Yaesu to work with it?
>
>Can your Yaesu do single sideband on 440 MHz? Same issue.
>
It can do all modes!

546. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-26 13:25:06 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <Z5udnSYKAq68KafVnZ2dnUVZ_jCdnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2817

Dave Heil wrote:
> Steve Bonine wrote:
>> N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>>
>>> I became a ham at age 13, mostly through what I learned from ARRL
>>> books. The big attraction was that Radio in general and Amateur Radio
>>> in particular looked like a lot of fun to me. And for more than 40
>>> years, it has been.
>>
>> Me too. But I do think that we have increased competition these days
>> from other outlets for prospective hams, and other things that "look
>> like a lot of fun". Computers and such gadgets are a part of daily
>> life for young folks these days; it's only natural that they gravitate
>> in that direction. I suspect that the vast majority of them have not
>> been exposed to ham radio at all.
>
> You have to admit that there were always things which looked like a lot
> of fun. In our day it was guitars, skateboards, stereo equipment,
> photography, sports and GIRLS. Not many of us were exposed to amateur
> radio in terms of percentages of young people.

The difference is the level of exposure as a user. Today, every young person is exposed to personal computers as a user, in the same way that they are exposed to cars as a user. Most of them won't go past the level of a user, but a few will turn into gearheads or into computer geeks.

> I had an old Zenith tabletop radio with shortwave which covered 5.5 to
> 18 MHz. I used it initially to listen to broadcast radio. Then I
> discovered the shortwave broadcasters and finally the 40 and 20m hams
> using AM. Luckily for me, I heard a ham who was in our town and he lit
> the fire for me.

That's my point. I, too, had access to a shortwave receiver and followed much the same path that you did. That's much less likely to happen today. Back then, people were exposed to radio as users. Today, they're exposed to it via cell phones but they don't perceive it as radio. Entering ham radio via the SWL route is very rare these days.

> There were lots of young hams and young SWLs who were interested in
> becoming hams. They read Pop'tronics and EI. Most of the Novices I
> worked were in my age group.

Now that you mention it, I do remember working a lot of novices who were in my age group. There weren't that many local hams who were as young as me, but there were a lot on the air.

> K8CFT administered Novice exams to a
> number of junior high and high school aged boys. At one time, the
> little town of Oak Hill, West Virginia (population 7,000) boasted seven
> young Novices along with six or seven higher class radio amateurs. Of
> those seven hams, five are still licensed and active. One dropped out
> of amateur radio and one (who was active) died last year. The key was
> that *we were interested*. No one can make someone spend his leisure
> hours doing something in which he has no interest.

Yes, but you can only be interested in something if you know it exists. If the option of finding out about ham radio via the SWL route has disappeared, how do young people find out that they have the option of spending leisure hours in ham radio?

I think that the best option to attract young folks into the hobby is to expose them at school. Doing that requires teachers who are at least amenable to the idea. I suppose that getting publicity into the channels that they use could work, but I'm not sure how to do that. I'm not even sure what channels to shoot for.

Another option is to attract older recruits. This has its own set of issues since someone who is busy raising a family and building a career may not have vast amounts of spare time to spend in a hobby.

But for me the bottom line is that it's important to attract people into the hobby to replace the folks who are leaving. As the ham population ages and declines, it becomes more and more difficult to find a critical mass of local hams to support things like the local club, FD operations, Skywarn, and anything that's not done on the air. This problem is especially evident in rural areas that don't have a large population to draw from.

73, Steve KB9X

547. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-26 20:03:42 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <a8b1bf09-671c-403f-b8a1-17c63a627f52@a1g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2818

On May 25, 5:01 pm, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > I became a ham at age 13, mostly through what I learned from ARRL
> > books. The big attraction was that Radio in general and Amateur Radio
> > in particular looked like a lot of fun to me. And for more than 40
> > years, it has been.
>
> ..I do think that we have increased competition these days
> from other outlets for prospective hams, and other things that "look
> like a lot of fun". Computers and such gadgets are a part of
> daily life
> for young folks these days; it's only natural that they gravitate in
> that direction.

Those things are part of daily life for almost everyone (in developed countries) today.

But amateur radio has had that sort of competition for many decades - it's nothing new.

> I suspect that the vast majority of them have not been
> exposed to ham radio at all.

IMHO, *that* is the Big Problem.

> > I think there is a sense that, back in the Old Days,
> > there were young
> > hams (high school and younger) all over the place.
> > In my experience as
> > a young ham (1960s-70s), however, that was
> > not the case at all. Ham
> > radio was a niche thing back then, same as now, even without
> > computers, cell phones, etc.
>
> Yes, I agree. I do remember more young hams back then,
> though. It was
> mostly a hobby for older people, but I do think there were more
> young hams then.

Here's one data point for you:

I graduated from high school in 1972. Middle class suburb of Philadelphia, emphasis was on math and science. Out of about 5000 students (boys and girls in two side-by-side schools), there were never more than a handful of hams. Less than a dozen in the four years I was there (which covers 7 graduating classes. At any one time there

were no more than six hams in both schools.

> > Operating skill, QSO content and signal quality
> > established one's on-
> > air reputation, not how deep or gravelly your voice was.
>
> This was a very important consideration for me, too. Even for the

> operation that I did on phone, by and large people treated me as > an
> equal, and if I demonstrated skill they recognized that skill without
> regard to my age. Even in traditional in-person interactions like

> club
> meetings and Field Day operations, I was treated as an equal if I > could
> demonstrate that I deserved to be treated that way. Generally
> speaking
> the local ham community was eager to reach out and teach me if > it was ob
vious that I needed teaching.

Yep. But at the same time, there had to be a willingness to learn.

> I can't think of another hobby where I could have gained
> access to such
> a community of people who were often peers of my parents.

And on a first-name basis, too. A bank president was "Joe", a
respected MD was "Bill", a highly skilled professional radio operator
was "Lou".

> > To speculate wildly, it might be that one
> > cause for curmudgeon-ness is
> > the fear of what advancements/accomplishments
> > the young folks might
> > actually make.
>
> I think you give this segment of our hobby too much credit <grin>.
>
> There are always going to be folks who simply have no social
> skills or prefer not to deal with "kids".

That's true, but it's not what I was getting at.

What I have seen happen more than a few times is the case of a young
amateur rising through the ranks very quickly, passing older and more-
experienced amateurs on the way. Not just in license class (although
the "incentive licensing" changes helped that) but in things like DXCC
countries, code speed, contest scores, operating skills, new
technology in use, etc.

While most hams are glad to see such things, I suspect that there were
at least a few who did not like being bested at *anything* by
young(er) folks. Particularly when it's in the area of skills.

> > The core value of Amateur Radio is "radio for its
> > own sake". Some
> > folks get that, most do not. The task is to spread that word to all,
> > publicize the wide variety of things hams do, welcome
> > those who are
> > interested, and help them with what *they* find interesting.
>
> Spreading the word is more important these days than ever
> before. ?We
> can't expect people to become interested in something that they
> don't know exists.

Again, that's the Big Problem.

> > Oddly enough, a lot of the young hams
> > I have met are fascinated by
> > Morse Code, simply because it is unique and
> > outside their experience.
> > That doesn't mean it's the only thing to show them, or that all new
> > hams must start out one and only one way. But it does
> > mean we cannot
> > assume young hams are only interested in "new" things.

> But CW is new to them. ?It's different. ?Unique.

Yes. it's new to them. But they rapidly recognize that it's not a new
technology at all. Doesn't matter; it's the uniqueness that makes it
interesting.

Uniqueness is a big deal to the young people I know. I clearly recall
seeing the first Harry Potter book appear - and seeing it being read,
in hardcover, by local kids as young as 2nd and 3rd grade.
"Conventional wisdom" says that "kids today" would not read books, let
alone buy them (or pester their parents to buy them), yet here they
were doing just that. Because the stories are unique.

> Ham radio is never going to appeal to everyone. ?
> Never has; never will.

Of course.

> The majority of people, young and old, tend to go with
> what has the interest of the mainstream. ?Hams have
> always been somewhat "different",
> and the hobby has always appealed to a segment
> of the population that
> wasn't interested in doing whatever the fashionable
> thing might be at the moment.

I think it's much simpler than that. Some people like the idea of
"radio for its own sake", others can't see the point.

That applies to almost any voluntary activity. For example, most
golfers will never play at anything like a professional level. The

game takes a considerable amount of time and expense, is dependent on season and weather, and even when you play really well only a few will ever know.

Yet lots of folks play, because it's not only fun but a challenge.

Same for sport fishing, target shooting, running marathons, and a variety of arts and crafts done for pleasure. In all cases the journey is as important (if not more important) than the destination.

> > 1) Presentations at the middle-school and even elementary-
> > school level - including the parents.
>
> Getting the teachers involved would be ideal. Teachers are an
> incredibly important influence on their students.

Agreed! But that requires a teacher who is a ham.

Scouting is perhaps the #1 source of new young hams today, btw. Particularly boys. Scouting groups are always looking for responsible adult leaders.

> > 2) Identify local hams who are available to be Elmers. (I
> > suspect that
> > some of the curmudgeon-ness is due to the fear of being
> > expected to be an Elmer).
>
> This is indeed key. It's what made the hobby so important for me
> as a younger ham.
>
> > 3) Subtle helps to prospective young hams, such as a ride to a > > club
> > meeting, Field Day or hamfest, the loan of a rig, the gift of a
> > box of
> > "old wire" that happens to contain all the parts needed to build
> > an antenna, etc.
>
> And the help to actually put it together.

Sort of. A key factor is knowing just how little help to give.

> > 4) Inclusion and acceptance. This means being
> > considered an equal, or
> > at least a potential equal. For example, put new hams
> > or prospective
> > hams to work with FD setup, logging, etc. (That means
> > knowing how to
> > do things the right way, though!)
>
> I do think this is the most important aspect. I'm not suggesting
that
> we coddle people simply because they are young, or fawn over
> them. But

> we should give them the opportunity to contribute as equals, with
> appropriate encouragement and assistance. Breaking into
> the "old boys'
> network" can be impossible if the old boys don't make an effort to > be in
clusive.

Agreed - and that includes being willing to delegate authority.

I will never forget being allowed to run the 40 meter CW setup overnight on Field Day back in 1970. I was 16, a ham for three years, and there I was with a Drake 4-line and good antenna on a hot contest band. You can bet I learned a lot that night!

73 de Jim, N2EY

548. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-27 01:11:34 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <p5qdnWld0bsEy6bVnZ2dnUVZ_gWdnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2819

N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>>> 1) Presentations at the middle-school and even elementary-
>>> school level - including the parents.
>> Getting the teachers involved would be ideal. Teachers are an
>> incredibly important influence on their students.
>
> Agreed! But that requires a teacher who is a ham.

No, it doesn't. It only requires a teacher who is open to allowing
someone to help him/her, and a person willing to help.

73, Steve KB9X

549. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-27 18:14:17 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g1hhoj$932$1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2820

In article <rc4qg5-imi.ln1@ravalox.home.rasilon.net>,
Derry Hamilton <gm4fh@rasilon.net> wrote:
>I'd prefer to make one myself, except I'd have to buy an AMBE chip from
>DVSI.

I'd like to make a lot of things for myself but I have to buy patented
chips from the license holders. AM radio isn't a proprietary protocol,
but a lot of the parts used to make an AM radio are patented. You buy
them only from people the licensee has approved.

550. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-27 23:38:13 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g1hsp3$1a9a$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2821

Mark Kramer wrote:
> In article <rc4qg5-imi.ln1@ravalox.home.rasilon.net>,
> Derry Hamilton <gm4fh@rasilon.net> wrote:
>> I'd prefer to make one myself, except I'd have to buy an AMBE chip from
>> DVSI.
>
> I'd like to make a lot of things for myself but I have to buy patented
> chips from the license holders. AM radio isn't a proprietary protocol,
> but a lot of the parts used to make an AM radio are patented. You buy
> them only from people the licensee has approved.

Hi Mark,

Could you elaborate on the relationship of electronic parts to
proprietary codecs for radios?

I think there is a little confusion here regarding proprietary aspects
of electronics and radio concepts.

Any patents held on electronic components are patents to safeguard the
makers methods of making them - not the concept of the parts. The
resistors, diodes and other parts are basic electronic building blocks,
and anyone can make those.

I could make a nicely functioning radio out of pencils, microscope
slides, aluminum foil, scrap wire, an old oatmeal box, and If I really
wanted to get involved, I could construct my own vacuum tubes and design
and build a superheterodyne radio.

As long as I built them according to my own methods, and did not
infringe on the methods used by a manufacturer, not one patent, nor
intellectual property would be violated.

Another way of looking at this, is that I can go to the local Radio
Shack, and buy a handful of components to build say, a blinking light.
Maybe an IC-type 555, an op amp or two, and their needed peripheral parts.

My finished device is not owned by the companies that made the parts. If
it is my original design, I can claim copyright on it.

Now on to the intellectual property of the D-Star codec.

D-Star uses this Codec, and it is proprietary.

If you do not use the Codec, you will not be able to use the D-Star
repeater.

If you can use the repeater, you have the Codec.

This differs in many important ways from normal repeaters, and normal Codecs in use by Amateurs.

Examples of non proprietary Codecs are(randomoly picked except for D-Star:

SPEEX- lossy but good ro IRLP

FLAC - lossless

Proprietary codecs:

AMBE

The D Star Codec.

The ramifications of using each are important.

Amateur Radio has traditionally used open source whenever possible, because we also have a tradition of working on and improving those things that we work with. Examples are the PSK31 and RTTY modes. Amateurs are continually providing new and improved software for those. There are even multi PSK channel data transmission softwares out there. A lot of PSK signals fit within the bandwidth taken up by one SSB voice transmission.

My experimenting with a particular PSK engine is usually based on going to the web, and downloading it. Most applications are free, but even those that have to be purchased, the whole sum is going to the developer.

Hypothetically, say a group of hams came up with a digital repeater using the SPEEX Codec. (SPEEX is used for illustration purposes only, it might not be the best choice)

Most of us would be able to either build or purchase an interface that would allow us to interface our radios to the computer, as software would be easily available to run them.

Hand helds would be easily adaptable, as there is no specific need for a computer, just the necessary software and hardware to turn an audio stream into a digital stream, in the same manner as cell phones do (they use a different codec, but the principle is the same.

I would note that there has not been a huge amount of work done by Amateurs in the VHF and up region as related to Digital voice. A lot of this can be ascribed to the fact that an SSB channel is already pretty narrow, so there aren't orders of magnitude gains to be made in conserving bandwidth. Another issue is that with digital signals, multipath can be a severe problem. Anyone who does doppler direction finding (I do) can tell you that at VHF and up, Multipath is a major problem. What might be a little whoosh or garble on FM without upsetting readability can sometimes just keep the digital system nice and quiet.

Now let us turn to our D-Star equipped repeater.

What will communicate with it:

Icom D-Star Equipment
Kenwood (a rebranded Icom, sold only in Japan
Moetronix Can hear and talk D-Star on the internet.

That is a pretty short list. One for all practical purposes You buy the equipment and you use it.

Do you know what the price for the AMBE Chip is in quantities of one? It may not even be realistic for an amateur to attempt to build one of their own.

Mike

551. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-28 00:26:52 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <j08p34l6qqtga22lp641kckfq8bte3ro5g@4ax.com>
Source record: 2822

On Tue, 27 May 2008 19:38:13 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

>Now let us turn to our D-Star equipped repeater.
>
>What will communicate with it:
>
>Icom D-Star Equipment
>Kenwood (a rebranded Icom, sold only in Japan
>Moetronix Can hear and talk D-Star on the internet.
>
>That is a pretty short list. One for all practical purposes You buy the
>equipment and you use it.

The "leadership" of our ARES/RACES group are D-Star fanatics. They claim, though, that the ICOM equipment does have an FM mode to pass FM signals through. I have no idea how that works (dual detection channels?).

As I understood it, D-Star is a set of open protocols generated by individuals in the Japan Radio Club (or whatever the formal name is) and ICOM was the only one so far to implement them in hardware. If someone else wants to implement them, a good IP lawyer can steer them in the direction of non-infringement. A good (non-ham) friend of mine is the IP attorney for Nikon USA and he is always checking to see that the newest stuff proposed does not infringe patents by Canon and others, yet digital photography uses open standards that everyone implements in their own way.

One of our club members is the author of D-Rats (that's Star spelled backwards), a set of open-source applications for functionality of D-Star radios. There's nothing proprietary about what he is doing or its applications, and he comes out with updates weekly. I'm not a software person so I can't comment on hooks and APIs and such.

Hey, I would be a D-Star "nut" also were the radio fairy to deliver four dual-band mobiles and an HT on my doorstep one night. We'll leave the light on for ya'.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

552. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-28 13:33:52 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g1jmc1$1854$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2823

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Tue, 27 May 2008 19:38:13 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>> Now let us turn to our D-Star equipped repeater.
>>
>> What will communicate with it:
>>
>> Icom D-Star Equipment
>> Kenwood (a rebranded Icom, sold only in Japan
>> Moetronix Can hear and talk D-Star on the internet.
>>
>> That is a pretty short list. One for all practical purposes You buy the
>> equipment and you use it.
>
> The "leadership" of our ARES/RACES group are D-Star fanatics. They
> claim, though, that the ICOM equipment does have an FM mode to pass FM
> signals through. I have no idea how that works (dual detection
> channels?).

I've looked to see if such a thing (fm voice) exists within D-Star.
Could these folks steer us to some documentation? Here are the RF
modules I've found:

http://homepage.mac.com/rrucker/d-star/D-Star_repeater_modules.pdf

Do you know of any coordination or frequency placement issues involved
with opening a presumptive FM side?

You know that whole D-Star "repeater" is not a repeater issue, so
frequencies are opened up for it in repeater crowded areas. Those
frequencies would not be proper repeater frequencies for an FM repeater.

Do you know a reference for that action Phil? I've looked a bit on the
FCC site, but haven't found it yet. I think it was in 2006.

> As I understood it, D-Star is a set of open protocols generated by
> individuals in the Japan Radio Club (or whatever the formal name is)
> and ICOM was the only one so far to implement them in hardware. If
> someone else wants to implement them, a good IP lawyer can steer them
> in the direction of non-infringement.

I would really hate to have to hire a lawyer to consult on my
homebrewing... ;^)

> A good (non-ham) friend of mine
> is the IP attorney for Nikon USA and he is always checking to see that
> the newest stuff proposed does not infringe patents by Canon and

> others, yet digital photography uses open standards that everyone
> implements in their own way.
>
> One of our club members is the author of D-Rats (that's Star spelled
> backwards), a set of open-source applications for functionality of
> D-Star radios. There's nothing proprietary about what he is doing or
> its applications, and he comes out with updates weekly. I'm not a
> software person so I can't comment on hooks and APIs and such.
>

Does he have a website? I'd like to take a look.

> Hey, I would be a D-Star "nut" also were the radio fairy to deliver
> four dual-band mobiles and an HT on my doorstep one night. We'll
> leave the light on for ya'.

I'd be interested in experimenting with it. We just don't have a
digital repeater for a long way around here, and the costs of putting
one up just don't make it happen. It kind of reminds me of the old
credit problem for young people.

Need a loan? You need a good credit rating
Need a good credit rating, you need to get a loan.. 8^)

Like you said, if the radio fairys were to drop a system off... 8^)

553. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-29 00:56:36 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g1kuamqgn1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2824

In article <g1hsp3$1a9a$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>,
Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>As long as I built them according to my own methods, and did not
>infringe on the methods used by a manufacturer, not one patent, nor
>intellectual property would be violated.

Yes, by definition, if you don't infringe, you haven't infringed. You can build just about anything for personal use and not infringe.

>D-Star uses this Codec, and it is proprietary.

The digital voice part of D-Star uses a codec. The rest does not. The protocol is open and published. Certain parts used to implement the protocol are patented and sold only by a single source. When 741s were new, they were expensive and sole-sourced.

>If you do not use the Codec, you will not be able to use the D-Star
>repeater.

I'm not sure you are correct about that.

>This differs in many important ways from normal repeaters, and normal
>Codecs in use by Amateurs.

If you don't have an FM radio, you cannot use an FM repeater.

Just as you can build your own copies of patented things for personal use, as you mentioned earlier, you can build your own copy of an AMBE codec for personal use. TI won't tell me how to build a 741 IC; AMBE is under no compulsion to tell you how to build their codec. If you buy one and reverse engineer it, that's fine -- for personal use.

>Amateur Radio has traditionally used open source whenever possible,

Airmail and Winlink 2000 are two very large obvious counterexamples. The firmware in a KPC3+ another. The firmware in the repeater controller I had to reverse engineer to make usable, ditto. It is common for ham applications to run only on Windows -- the epitome of closed source. The control and programming software from Kenwood for the D700 is -- closed source windows only. Look around at all the Motorola gear in use in ham radio. I've yet to see an open-source version of ANY of the programs required to program a Motorola.

Yes, there is open source for many things. No, it's not always used. The "tradition" is limited.

>Now let us turn to our D-Star equipped repeater.
>

>What will communicate with it:
>
>Icom D-Star Equipment
>Kenwood (a rebranded Icom, sold only in Japan
>Moetronix Can hear and talk D-Star on the internet.
>
>That is a pretty short list.

A very incomplete list, I believe. And, at an early stage of development, not unexpected.

>One for all practical purposes You buy the equipment and you use it.

For all practical purposes, 2m and 440 are "you buy the equipment and you use it". I don't know many people building their own HTs, and even those that did used the Heathkits. For most commodity ham uses, homebrew is rare.

>Do you know what the price for the AMBE Chip is in quantities of one?

About $200.

>It
>may not even be realistic for an amateur to attempt to build one of
>their own.

The ID-1, last I looked, is $1000. About. The IC-V92AD is about $600. An SDR is on the order of $1000 and up. A lot of bleeding edge components are a bit spendy. Ham radio experimentation is a spendy hobby.

554. Greeting and test

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-29 20:11:39 UTC
From: Jim Hampton <aa2qa@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <gkC%j.17$wH.14@fe119.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2825

Hello gang,

Just got a new computer (need a new HF station to go with it too LOL) and am connecting up to newsgroups. Looks good so far. Took me until 2:00 AM the day I received it as I had to clean out the computer room (orders) and then found out the thing does *not* like my USB 1 or 1.1 devices. Ethernet took care of the USB on the DSL modem.

Along with a nice day here, a new job, new computer and some friends stopping over, things couldn't be much nicer in these parts.

Hope everyone else is having a decent day.

73 from Rochester, NY
Jim AA2QA

555. Re: Greeting and test

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-29 21:02:48 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g1n4t4$1cfq$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2826

Jim Hampton wrote:
> Hello gang,
>
> Just got a new computer (need a new HF station to go with it too LOL)
> and am connecting up to newsgroups. Looks good so far. Took me until
> 2:00 AM the day I received it as I had to clean out the computer room
> (orders) and then found out the thing does *not* like my USB 1 or 1.1
> devices. Ethernet took care of the USB on the DSL modem.

Hello Jim, good to see you here!

I know what you mean about the USB business, The newer stuff doesn't like the older stuff, and most (maybe all) Ham equipment still uses Serial. So I have to get a USB-Serial converter.

My brand new TS-480 is that way. It will probably be a while before the Manufacturers catch up, after all, USB has only been around since 1995 or so. ;^)

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

556. Re: Greeting and test

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-30 04:15:38 UTC
From: Jim Hampton <aa2qa@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <yMI%j.8$4I5.0@fe103.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2827

"Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
news:g1n4t4$1cfq$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu...
> Hello Jim, good to see you here!
>
>
> I know what you mean about the USB business, The newer stuff doesn't like
> the older stuff, and most (maybe all) Ham equipment still uses Serial. So
> I have to get a USB-Serial converter.
>
> My brand new TS-480 is that way. It will probably be a while before the
> Manufacturers catch up, after all, USB has only been around since 1995 or
> so. ;^)
>
>
> - 73 de Mike N3LI -
>

Hello Mike,

Now all I need is a good CW key to USB converter ..... :)

I've got a few 12AX7s, one 12AT7, and a couple of 12AU7s. Got any
schematics for a converter using them? :))

Seriously, I am trying to get everything together on this end. I need a few
e-mail addys (you know what I mean) as I've nothing in the compooter LOL.
I'm about to try the Kodak digital camera .... USB 1.0 .... I think I've got
to get another camera. That thing is USB 1.0 and methinks that the newest
operating systems consider them about equal to ISA busses :)

All kidding aside, folks cannot possibly know how much is offered in amateur
radio. One has to get interested and go beyond - well beyond - the tests.
If it sparks an interest, the sky is the limit. I keep reading QST and the
Radio Amateur's Handbook. I enjoy the articles. When the VA put me on to a
possible job, I went and applied. There was a test attached. Fill in the
blanks. Simple schematic *symbols*. All were easy for me. Grounds,
capacitors, crystals, inductors. But you'd best be able to identify
transistors. Not just NPN and PNP bipolar transistors, but N-channel and
P-channel JFETs as well as enhancement mode and depletion mode IGFETs.
Simple enough so long as you get hooked with the ham radio virus LOL.

It seems so silly to argue over who is 'qualified' as a ham. Darn, the
purpose, at least to me, is to introduce folks to communication and
electronics. Let everyone take it from there.

So long as we treat each other with respect, we may well get the opportunity to 'infect' some more youngsters with the bug. And get them to progress. Get a degree in electronics or physics, or at least get involved as a technician. One never knows what ham radio can lead to. I've had the good fortune to see what ham radio can do. I believe it was in 1968 that Hans (K0HB) and I re-established communications between Saipan and Guam. The Navy had a problem. The hams got the comms going. And I'd be happy to serve again with Hans in the lead. Never argue with a chief - especially a *master* chief. He is one heck of a guy. We both did what we had to do.

Life is too short, my friend, to let animosities get in the way. D@mn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!

73 from Rochester, NY
Jim AA2QA - Vietnam vet and thankful to have had Hans at the other end of the circuit way back when sparkplug, sparkplug1, and KG6AAY hooked up on 75 meters. Kilo Golf six All American Yankee

557. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1607 - May 30, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-30 09:06:28 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080530020531.0450e1f0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2828
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1607 - May 30, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1607 with a release date of Friday, May 30th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T.

Russia launches its RS-30 ham radio satellite. The FCC says it will soon clarify what a repeater really is, no new subbands on 2 meters for digital voice operations, a quick look at what was new at Dayton and the Anchorage Hamfest says to "come on up!!" Find out more on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1607 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: RUSSIA LAUNCHES RS-30

Ham radio has a new bird in the sky. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has the details:

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Russia has successfully orbited a new ham radio satellite called Yubileiny. Also designated as RS-30 the bird's CW beacon is operational on 435.315 MHz with reports of other signals also on 435.215 MHz as well.

At the time of writing it is still not clear if RS-30 is carrying a linear or FM transponder. It does appear to be in a 1500 km orbit which would give a pass time of up to 20 minutes and enable stations over 7000 km away to be worked.

Work on the satellite started in December 2004 with the intention of launching it in 2007 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first satellite Sputnik-1.

We will have more ham radio space related news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report.

From the studio in Los Angeles, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

A full report on the satellite with pictures can be seen at www.npopm.com/?cid$2
(ANS)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS SUPPORT CHINA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Ham radio post quake rescue operations are continuing in China. Jim Linton, VK3PC, of the WIA News is in Forrest Hill, Australia, with the latest update:

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Situation report on China earthquake

The Chinese Radio Sports Association is quietly very pleased that radio amateurs in its country have been a key part of the rapid government-led response to the big Sichuan earthquake.

The death toll climbs daily with many thousands still missing and five million left homeless following the 12th of May quake. The extensive disaster recovery work that includes disease prevention measures, providing food and shelter will continue for some considerable time yet.

What is now emerging are more details of how radio amateurs swung into immediate action to provide emergency communications.

Clearly, when the IARU national radio society CRSA asked in the early days for three designated HF frequencies to be kept clear, those frequencies were being used for urgent traffic.

Fan Bin, BA1RB, on behalf of CRSA, said the society expresses sincere thanks for the cooperation around the world to free up those frequencies, and acknowledges having received inquiries and ï¿½warm concerns' of amateur
radio societies worldwide.
.
As the disaster response begins to lessen in intensity, government officials and the news media such as the China Central Television have given recognition that amateur radio amateurs stepped in to provide vital links.

The TV service in a news report said that when all other communication means failed, amateur radio operators came out to provide valuable first hand information from the centre of the earthquake disaster.

This included an HF link for the Red Cross from the disaster area back to the nation's capital city of Beijing, enabling that aid agency to do its essential humanitarian work.

In other action, Luo BY8AA continuously coordinated VHF/UHF communications for a 100 km radius from Chengdu, the capital of southwest China's province of Sichuan.

More repeaters were set up in two other cities that are among the worst hit areas outside the epicentre, to form an effective amateur radio communication network.

In another report two ham radio operators drove to the centre of the earthquake area and had a repeater set up by the morning of 13 May just hours after the disaster hit.

Their repeater enabled the transmission of rescue instructions, status reports and was a main communication channel for public use when telephone services were down.

Among the traffic that repeater carried were communications for the Mayor of a city, who gave his orders to those on the front line rescue and recovery activity, and to receive up to date situation reports.

A fuller story on the role amateur radio played in China's worst earthquake disaster in 58 years is expected later this month but there's no doubt the individuals involved did their very best under extreme conditions that included hundreds of after-shocks.

Now closing this report with an acknowledgement of information provided by Fan Bin BA1RB, this is Jim Linton VK3PC, Chairman of the IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Meantime the Southgate news reports that radio amateurs in Hong Kong have been sending much needed supplies to assist victims of the Sichaun, China earthquake that occurred almost three weeks ago. The Chinese Radio Sports Association website said that on May 18th members of the Hong Kong Amateur Radio Communications Association - VR2HAM - donated a second batch of food, medicine, communications equipment and other materials to the ongoing disaster relief efforts. (VK3PC, WIA News, Southgate News)

**

RADIO LAW: IS IT A REPEATER OR IS A DUCK A DUCK

Back in the United States, the FCC says it will soon answer the question of when is a repeater and when might it be is it something else? That's what the Northern California Packet Association wants to know and it has filed a request for clarification that asks the FCC define what it means by the term simultaneously as it is used when defining what a repeater is. According to the FCC's Bill Cross, speaking at the recent Dayton Hamvention FCC forum, this question is the result of some folks who claim D-Star repeaters are not repeaters by virtue of their inherent analog to digital and digital to analog lime lag:

--

Cross: "The Northern California Packet Association has filed a request for clarification that the FCC define what is meant by the term simultaneously as it is used when defining a repeater.

"The issue here is that in California, D-STAR repeaters have been coordinated on channels that are set aside for auxiliary stations, on the basis that, because there is a delay in retransmission of the signal, the retransmission is not simultaneous, and therefore the repeating station is

not a repeater.

"Others have advanced what he calls "the duck argument: If the station looks like a repeater, if it functions like a repeater, and it sounds like a repeater, it should be treated as a repeater -- and confined to the repeater subbands.

"A decision on this will be coming shortly."

--

The applicable rule that Bill Cross seems to be referring to is section 97.3, subpart 36. It defines a repeater as an amateur station that instantaneously retransmits on a different channel the angle-modulated phone or image emission transmission of another amateur station.

But this rule was written before the advent of digital audio systems that by their very nature have some inherent delay. Whether or not the FCC will strictly adhere to this definition or modify it to meet current technology could well determine the future of digital audio repeaters. Bill Cross says that a decision on this issue will be coming from the Commission in the not to distant future. (ARNewsline)

**

BREAK 1

From down-under in New Zealand and the West coast of the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Indianapolis Hamfest Association repeater serving Indianapolis, Indiana

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: DON'T ASK THE FCC TO RE-REGULATE HAM RADIO

If there was one lesson that came out of the FCC Forum at the recent Dayton Hamvention it is not ask the FCC to re-regulate any aspect of the service because its just not going to happen. Case in point, the recently denied petition filed with the agency by Mark Miller, N5RFX. The FCC's Bill Cross says that the rules now in place are more than adequate to minimize interference from digital operations to other existing modes:

--

Cross: "The request that we limit the subbands for automatically controlled digital stations are permitted to transmit on to only those specified in (Part) 97 is curious because the rules as they are today limit transmissions from these stations to a bandwidth of no more than 500 cycles or Hz. on frequencies authorized for RTTY and data emissions outside of the automatically control subbands, when a locally or remote controlled station is interrogating that automatic station. If the idea behind this request was to limit these stations to the subbands to minimize interference, we

were not persuaded that limiting stations that were transmitting in response to interrogation by a station where there was a control operator present would cause increased interference because these stations are already limited to a 500 Hz. bandwidth."

--

In other words, the technology of tomorrow is about here and its up to all of us in the ham community to learn how to introduce it and how use it without the help of the FCC. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

RADIO LAW: NO NEW SUBBANDS FOR DIGITAL VOICE

At the same time, the FCC made it clear that its not going to make specific spectrum available for digital voice relay operations. This after the agency recently turned away a petition from two California hams who wanted the creation of an additional 300 kHz wide subband for D-Star and other digital voice operations on the two meter band. Again Bill Cross, W3TN:

--

Cross: "The third item that came out had to do with 2 meters. We received a request from two hams out in California. What they wanted was for us to (allow) a little more spectrum -- 300 KHz -- to be authorized for repeater stations. Currently, repeater can use 3 of the 4 Mhz in the 2 meter band. They claim that additional spectrum is needed for repeater stations because some amateur repeater stations have begun (using) certain digital communications protocols and digital voice operations that are incompatible with the existing analog operations because digital voice users are unable to determine if the desired frequency is in use by An analog station. Inadvertently, they say, digital systems can cause harmful interference to analog systems. They also claim that coordinating groups have been unable to separate analog and digital voice repeater operations because the available repeater spectrum on the 2 meter band is fully occupied by existing analog systems.

Now, as I mentioned, repeaters are prohibited from using two 500 Khz segments of the 2 meter band in order to minimize harmful interference to other amateur service stations. Believe it or not, some licensed users use 2 meters for things other than repeater operation. The petition was turned down because their request would likely result in increased interference to other operations such as Packet, moonbounce, and simplex type operations. .

--

So how do you make room for digital voice repeaters where no channel pairs are available? Cross says that's up to the ham community and the nations frequency coordinators to work out and not the job of the FCC.

Cross also came down on those hams who hold a coordination but have no system on the air. He stopped short of directing that coordinators act to free up channels where a coordination exists but their is no repeater using

it. None the less his message to the coordination community and to those who have repeaters only on paper came through loud and clear. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

RADIO LAW: UN-NEEDED PETITION LAUNCHED OVER INDUSTRY CANADA MISTAKE

A strange story out of Canada where mis-information on the part of one of that nations telecommunications regulators lead to an un-needed petition from the ham radio community. One asking that nations political leaders to force Industry Canada to resume regulating the nations ham radio operators, even though it had never stopped doing so. Here's what happened.

Back in early May, Eddie Pereira, VA3EDP, sent a letter to Industry Canada regarding interference complaints in the Canadian amateur radio service. The reply he received on May 13th from the Spectrum Management department in Toronto likely caught him off guard. It read, and we quote:

"The Amateur Band is self policing now because it has been de-licensed for the past few years. Industry Canada is no longer the regulatory body overseeing the Amateur Band operation."

This response did not sit well with VA3EDP, and he decided to do something about it. His action came in the form of that on-line petition to Canadian Parliamentary leaders that urged them to force Industry Canada to resume regulating the Canadian amateur radio service. The petition garnered close to 300 signatures in its short life. Some from real heavyweights in Canadian ham radio politics.

Well, you guessed it. The Industry Canada bureaucrat who had responded to Pereira's original information request was totally wrong. Industry Canada had not abandoned the nations hams and has no plans to do so. But it took intervention from Radio Amateurs of Canada to straighten it all out.

On May 20th Radio Amateurs of Canada contacted Industry Canada which confirmed that the information sent to VA3EDP was incorrect. In fact, the agency affirmed it is the regulatory authority for Amateur Radio in Canada.

VA3EDP has since received a message from the acting Director of Industry Canada's Toronto office confirming that the original unsigned e-mail was sent in error. He says that he will be meeting an official of the Industry Canada in the near future to discuss a spectrum management issue that was the cause of his initial inquiry with. (RAC, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: GAREC 2008 TO BE HELD IN GERMANY IN JUNE

The fourth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference, GAREC-2008, will take place on June 26th and 27th in Germany. This, in concert with the German HamRadio 2008 convention that begins on the 27th of June at the Conference Center of the Friedrichshafen.

GAREC-2008 will focus on the co-operation among IARU member societies and with specialized groups working on emergency communications in the Amateur Radio Service. The event is being organized by the IARU Region 1 Emergency Coordinator, Seppo Sisatto, OH1VR. Working with him ias the same team that has already put on the highly successful GAREC Conferences in Tampere, Finland, in 2005 and 2006. (Southgate)

**

RESCUE RADIO: DELAWARE ARES GROUP RESPONDS TO MAJOR STORM

Back in the USA, Sussex County Delaware ARES sprang into action on Monday May 12th, This as a major late season storm strained resources in the states coastal region.

As wind gusts were clocked in excess of 60 mph and inches of driving rain blanketed the area, Sussex County ARES activated its' Emergency Radio Network.

Beginning at 09:50 hours the group began providing eyewitness reports of weather, flood and traffic conditions throughout the county. Some 32 members worked for hours reporting power outages and road closures due to flooding and debris. (eHam)

**

ON THE AIR: USPS AND ARRL SPECIAL EVENT

To help kick off the 2008 North American Safe Boating Campaign, the United States Power Squadrons will hold a special event June 7 and 8 at the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station. That's W1AW at American Radio Relay League headquarters in Newington, June Connecticut.

The United States Power Squadrons and the ARRL have been working together for the past several years on these campaigns. The ARRL shares in the Power Squadrons' commitment to education, safety and public service. It has been promoting boating and marine electronic education and seminars.

The W1AW special event station will broadcast from 1200 to 2400 GMT on frequencies 3.99, 7.29, 14.29 and 21.39 MHz for single side band phone. The station will also use digital modes PSK31 and RTTY. (USPS - ARC)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. This week from beneath the Southern Cross in Wellington, New Zealand and from the United States of America, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline, with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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DAYTON WRAP-UP: THE LITTLE BIT OF NEW GEAR

If those attending the recent Dayton Hamvention were hoping that a bunch of new gear would be introduced this year, they would have been very disappointed. Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, in the newsroom with more:

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While 2007 had a load of new product introductions, 2008 can best be described as a year of tweaking and improving what was shown 12 months ago. That's not to say that there were no new products -- just not very many and
nothing really upscale. And unfortunately, nothing that could be classified as earth shattering.

On the high frequency transceiver front Icom did show its soon to be available IC-7200. This unit is being billed as a robustly built transceiver providing coverage of H-F amateur bands plus 6 meters and housed in a box that should be of interest to those who are involved in on-the-go emergency communications.

While Icom does not say that the IC-7200 is waterproof, it notes that extra design steps have been applied to the front panel buttons and knobs. This provides a measure of protection against water intrusion.

Power out is the customary 100 watts. Features include D-P filtering, digital twin pass band tuning, manual notch filter, keypad entry, dual VFOs, voice synthesizer, 200 memories, attenuator, RIT, scanning, 1 Hz tuning and even a USB port on the rear panel. Taken together these features are perfect for those first responders needing the ability to do electronic messagingvia an HF network from a USB connected laptop.

For the crowd on 6 meters and above, the only new item was a quad-band H-T from the folks at Vertex Standard. The latest in its Yaesu brand V-X line, the new VX-8 can transmit and receive in the 50 to 54, 144 to 148, 222 to 225 and 440 to 450 MHz bands. Its submersible design makes it practically an air tight unit that includes a built-in dual speed packet modem with APRS support along with Bluetooth and GPS options. Included are all the other bells and whistles that the very popular V-X line has become famous for.

And from a major supplier hardware standpoint, that was it.

If there were any big losers it was those who are waiting for a second source for D-Star transceivers and HTs -- in the hope that would bring competition and possibly drive prices down.

But no other company showed up at this year's Dayton with a D-Star compatible radio. And so far, it doesn't seem that there is any interest on
the part of any of any other company to enter the D-Star field.

So for now it seems that only Icom plans to support D-Star in North America. Because of this, one could assume that prices will likely remain unchanged or even go up. And if that happens it will not be Icom's fault

either. With the weakening US dollar vs. the strengthening Japan Yen, the actual cost for electronic goods made in the western half of the Pacific Rim may very likely see a significant price hike in the months to come -- as will much of everything else made outside of the U.S.A.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, at the studio in Los Angeles.

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Oh yes, if you want to get a good visual idea of what this years Dayton Hamvention was like may we recommend that you view two free videos. Both were produced by our friend Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB, and are up on the YouTube dot com website. One is titled All Night Long and the other Joe calls Lean on Me. Just search on YouTube Hamvention 2008 and K0NEB to find them. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: HALL OF SCIENCE HAMFEST IN NYC JUNE 8

The Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club Hamfest will be hold June 8th in the New York Hall of Science parking lot. That's in Flushing Meadow Corona Park in Queens, New York. Admission is by donation. Vendor set-up begins at 7:30 a,m. with the doors opening to the public 9 a.m. local Ewastern time. Amenities include ample free parking,, QSL card checking and more. Talk-in is on the 145.270 MHz repeater and requires a 136.5 sub-audible access tone. For more information e-mail Stephen Greenbaum to wb2kdg@arr1.net or visit www.hosarc.org on the world wide web. (Via e-mail)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CHINA TO LAUNCH NEW HAMSAT IN 2009

AMSAT says that China will likely launch a new ham radio satellite in 2009. The ham radio space agency says that it has received a report from Michael Chen, BD5RV, that indicates the CAS-1 amateur radio bird has completed its IARU frequency coordination and the hardware has been finished.

The payload of CAS-1 will likely include a CW telemetry beacon, a linear transponder, an FM repeater and a digital store and forward transponder. These operations will use 2 meters for uplinks and 70 centimeters for downlinks at 500mW output power.

The satellite is expected to be launched from China into a sun synchronous orbit with a 670 km apogee. According to Chen the CAS-1 team is waiting for another payload to be finished before launch date is officially set. (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CALL IT DO-64

AMSAT's Bill Tynan, W3XO has announced that the Delfi C-3 amateur aadio satellite has been issued an OSCAR number. From this point on Delfi-C3 OSCAR-64 or Dutch OSCAR-64 will be known simply as DO-64.

This newest amateur satellite was developed by a team of some 60 students and facility members from various polytechnic schools in The Netherlands. It was successfully launched April, 28th from India aboard a Polar launch vehicle and was successfully commissioned.

Currently DO-64 is transmitting telemetry on the 2 meter amateur band. In addition to its 2 meter downlink, the new bid has an uplink on the 70 cm band. (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AN INTERMITTANT AO-16

AO-16 Command Station Mark Hammond, N8MH, says that over the last several days you are likely to have found the AO-16 ham satellite silent. According to Hammond, there appears to be something in the spacecraft shutting down the transmitter after a short, random period of time.

Hammond says that it does not appear to be a battery related issue. Rather current speculation on the problem includes a temperature issue that has reared its ugly head now that the eclipse periods are increasing and the spacecraft internal temperatures are decreasing.

For the moment, ground control stations will manually turn the satellite on and then configure it for voice operations. This is a manual process and command stations are limited to the East coast of the US. Hammond says that only time will tell if the current situation will stay the same, improve, or get worse. (ANS)

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DX

In DX, word that DL6ZFG will be active portable I-S-Zero from the island of Sardinia until around June 10th. He plans to work all popular modes concentrating on PSK, RTTY, CW and also SSB. Listen out for him mostly on 20, 30 and 40 meters and QSL As directed on the air.

And DL2AAZ, will show up portable V4 using the call 9H3TI from Nevis. He plans on using CW and SSB on 80 through 10 meters through June 15th. QSL via DL2AAZ, either direct or via the bureau.

Also, WA3FPK will be in Rwanda until the 5th of June. He has been issued the callsign 9X0A and plans to be active in his spare time, mainly on 20 meters SSB. QSL via KA1CRP.

Members of the South Flanders DX Activity Group will be active from June 5th to the 9th ON6JUN slash P from the Pegasus Bridge memorial museum. This, as a DX-pedition commemorating World War 2 D-Day landings. Operation will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL direct or to the

bureau via ON5SD

AA8YH, says via the Ohio Penn DX Newsletter that ne will be returning to Tunisia in mid-November for a 5 week stay. He plans to concentrate on the lower frequency bands is willing to accept skeds from QRP stations, Either on CW or SSB. You can contact him via his \e-mail address listed on QRZ.com.

Lastly, SP9PLK, the club station of the 2nd Mechanized Corps of the Polish Land Forces, will be active as HF9GA from the 2nd to 30th of June. QSL this one via SP9PLK.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: COME NORTH TO ALASKA IN AUGUST

Finally this week, we all know that there are a lot of good hamfests out there, but very few that put out radio spots designed to invite the public to come on down. Or in this case its come on up. Up to Alaska for the Anchorage Hamfest. Take a listen:

--

Audio only - hear it in the audio version of this newscast downloadable in mp3 form at www.arnewsline.org

--

That's Pete Summers, KL2GY, who is the voice of the Anchorage Hamfests radio spot. And in addition to Pete's contribution, the Anchorage Hamfest will have loads of other activities to make the trek to America's last frontier a memorable outing.

Again the dates are August 1st to the 4th at the Anchorage Sheraton Hotel. And as Pete says, to learn more just take your web browser to www dot akhamfest dot com and be ready for a lot of ham radio fun in America's 49th state. (KL7SP)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go, please note that by the time most of you hear this newscast, the nominating period for the 2008 Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award will have closed. The cutoff was Friday, May 30th at midnight. All nominations are now in the hands of the judges. We should have the name of this years recipient in just a few short weeks.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Meachen,
ZL2BHF, saying 73 from down-under, and we thank you for listening.

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558. Digital broadcaster on 76 m ?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-30 20:16:46 UTC
From: Rick <ricknj10@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <484051d2$0$15189$607ed4bc@cv.net>
Source record: 2829

Every evening on 3865 here in the northeast US there is what I believe to be a digital broadcaster.
The "noise" is a rasping sound, and it goes on all evening long, steady.
Quite strong.

I know nothing about digital reception. Is there a way to decode this signal, by using my PC sound card and some software?

Rick K2XT

559. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 21 (Friday, May 30, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-30 21:30:57 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080530193655.1C62830FCF@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2830
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 21
May 30, 2008
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+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========================================================

==> HAMS HEED THE CALL WHEN TORNADOES SWEEP THROUGH COLORADO

On Thursday, May 22 at approximately noon MDT, a large tornado touched
down in northern Colorado near the town of Windsor. Windsor, with a
population of nearly 19,000, is located approximately 10 miles southeast
of Fort Collins, and 50 miles north of Denver. According to ARRL
Colorado Section Manager Jeff Ryan, K0RM, initial reports indicated that
there was the possibility of extensive damage. Ryan said that Colorado
ARES District 10 was activated and David Markham, W0CBI, the Colorado
Section Emergency Coordinator, monitored the situation.
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The funnel cloud, accompanied by golf-ball sized hail, blackened the skies over Windsor as it knocked down power lines, shredded crops in fields outside the city and blasted whole neighborhoods; the southeast side of town was hit the worst by the storm. "It will be a long time before the town recovers from this," Windsor Mayor John Vasquez said.

Ryan said reports indicated the Windsor tornado was just one of several that swept across northern Colorado and part of Wyoming: "The storm resulted in one fatality, and more than 100 people were treated on the scene for some type of injury with another 18 people treated at area hospitals. Damage is widespread and includes homes and business in Weld and Larimer Counties. We also received damage reports from the smaller towns of Gilcrest and Platteville."

The Weld County Sheriff's Office reported that the lone fatality, Oscar Manchester, 52, a US Marine and Vietnam veteran, was killed in a recreational vehicle that was destroyed in the storm at a campground west of Greeley, about 60 miles north of Denver.

Colorado ARES District 10 Emergency Coordinator Randy Long, W0AVV, reported that 31 operators provided communications service to the Emergency Operations Center and Fire Department in Windsor, the Weld County Emergency Operations Center, the Larimer County Emergency Operations Center, the City of Loveland Emergency Operations Center, the Loveland Mobile Command post and two Red Cross shelters.

"On Friday, the town was still without power and remained so until local utilities could complete a survey of electrical transmission lines in the affected area that is expected to take up to 48 hours," Ryan said. "A mandatory evacuation for sections of Windsor is in effect due to gas leaks and downed power lines. The National Guard is on duty and is responsible for escorting emergency responders in and out of the area."

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter ordered the National Guard to aid rescue and cleanup efforts. He visited the town Thursday evening, saying the number of homes damaged was "significant" and declared a state of emergency for Weld County. Representatives from FEMA were on the scene conducting damage assessments. On Monday, President Bush approved Colorado's request for federal disaster aid to help with the costs of the storms and tornadoes, and declared Weld and Larimer Counties federal disaster areas.

On Friday, Markham placed an additional 15 Amateur Radio operators in Larimer and Weld County on standby in anticipation of an overnight shift; he also requested adjacent districts to prepare in support of the ongoing operations if necessary.

Windsor, Fort Collins and Loveland lie in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains, where the Great Plains give way to steep hills. "It's very unusual to see [a tornado like] this by a mountain range. It's kind of a freak thing," said Captain Steve Fleming of the Poudre Fire Authority.

Ryan said that at the peak of the ARES operation, "Colorado ARES District 10 had 55 operators supporting emergency response and relief

efforts in the aftermath of the tornado that touched down near Windsor."

==> AMATEURS ASSIST WITH FLORIDA FIRES

Amateur Radio operators in Brevard County, Florida responded in a support role during a recent spate of wildfires that ravaged the towns of Palm Bay and Malabar. The fires, all of which were deemed "suspicious" by fire authorities, began on Sunday, May 11. Dubbed the "Mother's Day Fires," they burned close to 13,000 acres in southern Brevard County. Located about 25 miles east of Orlando, Brevard County is home to Kennedy Space Center, site of NASA's space shuttle launch area.

John Weatherly, AB4ET, and Clayton Bennett, KA4NHW, manned a 2 meter station in a shelter set up by the American Red Cross. Additionally, the Brevard Emergency Amateur Radio Services (BEARS) donated the use of their mobile command center to public safety agencies. The command vehicle, dubbed BEARS-I, was obtained through a $100,000 grant from the State of Florida. The interior was designed and built by a group of Amateur Radio operators from local Brevard County clubs that are members of BEARS. BEARS-I is outfitted with Brevard County 800 MHz public safety radios and amateur equipment.

BEARS-I was used as a command post in the weeklong operation. The Palm Bay Fire Department, the Palm Bay Police Department, ARES and Florida Power and Light manned the four operating positions. The unit was put in place at Bayside High School when the fires started; it was relocated the next day to the US Air Force tracking station that became the new command center, as well as the staging area for trucks and teams from other counties. BEARS-I was used as a self-contained command center around the clock for over five days

According to official sources, the Mother's Day fires destroyed more than 30 homes with an estimated value of $5.6 million, and damaged almost 250 residences. A man is in custody on three counts of intentional burning of lands after witnesses reported seeing him light several small fires one night that were quickly extinguished. According to authorities, the investigation continues into whether the suspect set all the fires, or if others were involved. -- Some information provided by Jan Heise, K4QD, and Dan Fisher, AI4GK

==> CHINESE OFFICIALS GIVE KUDOS TO AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

As disaster recovery efforts continue following the earthquake in the Wenchuan area of China's Sichuan province on May 12, China's Information Office of the State Council reports that the death toll has reached more than 67,000 persons as of May 27. Communications in some of the surrounding areas were cut off, and communications in some other areas experienced network congestion due to drastically increased traffic. According to the Chinese Radio Sports Association (CRSA) -- the Chinese IARU Member-Society -- Chinese government officials and the news media have recognized that when communications failed after the earthquake,

Amateur Radio operators stepped in to provide vital links.

CRSA designated 14.270, 7.050 and 7.060 MHz for emergency communications use during the quake, but these frequencies are now no longer restricted for this use; should a severe aftershock occur, CRSA said it will make the call for them to be kept clear again.

On Monday, May 26, China Central Television (CCTV) reported that, "When all other communication means failed, Amateur Radio operators came out!An Amateur Radio emergency communication network was set up, and one of the commanders, Liu Hu [BG8AAS], called for Amateur Radio operators on air to provide services for disaster relief."

Fan Bin, BA1RB, on behalf of CRSA, said, "Thankfully, one main repeater survived during the earthquake. This repeater provided 100 km coverage to Mianyang. Amateur Radio operators from Chengdu, Shenzhen, He'nan went to the center of the disaster area, set up repeaters in Beichuan County and provided various valuable first hand information from the center."

CRSA officials said they hoped to report more detailed information on the role of Amateur Radio emergency communications in the big earthquake at a later date. In the meantime, Fan said, CRSA acknowledged that the main organizer of local Amateur Radio traffic, Luo Minglin, BY8AA, "continuously coordinated VHF/UHF communications for a 100 km radius from Chengdu, the capital of southwest China's province of Sichuan. More repeaters were set up in both Beichuan and Mianyang -- among the worst hit areas outside the epicenter -- to form an effective Amateur Radio communication network."

Zhang Zhen, BG8DOU, said that right after the earthquake, "Two ham radio operators drove to the center of the earthquake area and had a repeater set up by the morning of May 13. This repeater enabled the transmission of rescue instructions and status reports, and was a main communication channel for public use. The repeater carried communications for the Mayor of Mianzhu City who gave orders to those on the front line rescue and recovery activity."

The CRSA said it appreciates the support given by the Amateur Radio community in helping to keep clear the emergency communication frequencies of 7050 kHz, 7060 kHz and 14270 kHz during the critical period after the earthquake: "Thanks for the cooperation and efforts made by all Amateur Radio societies." The CRSA also acknowledged having received inquiries and the "warm concerns" of Amateur Radio societies worldwide. -- Information provided by Fan Bin, BA1RB, on behalf of CRSA, via IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee Chairman Jim Linton VK3PC

==> ARRL FILES COMMENTS IN TWO MATTERS BEFORE FCC

On Tuesday, May 27, ARRL filed electronic comments concerning two matters that the FCC has under consideration. The first set of comments concerns a company that filed a request for a waiver of Part 90 of the FCC rules; ReconRobotics, an electronics manufacturer, wishes to sell,

and for its public safety customers to use, a robotic device that operates in the 430-448 MHz band. The primary allocation in that portion of the spectrum is United States government radiolocation (military radars). The Amateur Service has an allocation on a secondary basis. The second matter deals with GE Healthcare and their request for allocation of spectrum (as a secondary user) in the 2300 MHz band; the Amateur Service has a primary allocation in a portion of the requested band.

On January 11, 2008, ReconRobotics filed a request with the FCC for a waiver of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules with respect to the Recon Scout, a remote-controlled, maneuverable surveillance robot designed for use in areas that may be too hazardous for human entry. This device can be thrown, dropped or launched into hazardous areas and can provide an operator located a safe distance away with video and audio, along with infrared, biological, chemical, heat, radiation or other data. According to the FCC, ReconRobotics seeks a waiver to permit equipment authorization of the Recon Scout, and its use by state and local law enforcement and firefighting agencies and by security personnel in critical infrastructure industries.

The FCC said a waiver is required to permit licensing of the Recon Scout because "the device operates in the 430-448 MHz band." ReconRobotics asserts that because the Recon Scout operates with 1 W peak power, it is "unlikely to cause interference to these services."

The ARRL contends that "Because [this device] operates on a channelized basis, each of the three channels being six megahertz wide, the necessary bandwidth of the device is apparently close to 6 MHz. [ReconRobotics] asks that it be granted an unspecified series of permanent waivers to allow the marketing and sale to, and use of this device by law enforcement and fire department personnel for public safety applications. The Amateur Service, which has a heavily occupied, secondary allocation in the 420-450 MHz band...would be potentially substantially impacted by grant of these waivers."

The ARRL's comments also state that ReconRobotics "fails to establish that the 420-450 MHz band is the only viable choice and that no other band would be suitable; an obligation of the Petitioner in order to entitle it to a waiver." In requesting the waiver, ARRL asserts that ReconRobotics only claimed, but did not show, prove or demonstrate, that other bands were not suitable for its purposes. In other cases before the FCC as recent as 2006, the Commission denied such waivers, saying, "We do not believe that the public interest requires grant of a waiver merely to accommodate a manufacturer's choice of a specific frequency when others are available."

The ARRL contends, in its comments, that "nothing in the four corners of [ReconRobotics'] request indicates anything that would verify the factual conclusions offered. The waiver request boils down to 'trust us, we have checked into this.'"

The ARRL points out in its comments that there are differing amateur operations throughout the 420-450 MHz band. One of the channels ReconRobotics is requesting use of -- 442-448 MHz -- is used by amateur repeaters (with band plans varying by locality) and also for Amateur television repeater inputs. "These repeater inputs, both for voice and video, are at high locations where line-of-sight to [ReconRobotics] devices should be expected anywhere in the United States. Repeaters in this band are routinely used for emergency communications via amateur Radio for numerous served agencies including FEMA, and so at times when [ReconRobotic's] device may be expected to be used, the repeaters may be expected to be in operation in the same areas," ARRL comments state.

For this reason as well, the ARRL maintains that interference to [the Recon Scout] device may be expected on a regular basis from Amateur Radio operations: "While it is all well and good for [ReconRobotics], a manufacturer, to suggest that it understands that operation of the device would be subject to interference received from licensed users in the band, such interference is not a comforting thought for licensed radio amateurs who could very easily be perceived to be, or held responsible for the failure or malfunction of these analog devices in a given application and the danger to public safety officers who are relying on them. It is also too much to expect that a Public Safety licensee will understand that the use of the device is unpredictable because interference to the device is unpredictable. [ReconRobotics] is correct about one thing: Amateur Radio operators take their relationship with First Responders very seriously. Creating fundamental incompatibility between Public Safety communications and Amateur Radio operations serves no one well at all, and for this reason, [ReconRobotics] should reconfigure its device to operate in a different allocation."

The ARRL urges the FCC to deny the waiver request, "either permanently or even temporarily," and calls on the Commission to require ReconRobotics to "initiate a rulemaking proceeding if it feels that the Part 90 or Part 15 rules governing analog devices are not sufficiently accommodating and should be changed, and could be changed consistent with interference avoidance. Repeatedly granting waivers for analog devices which do not meet the fundamental interference avoidance requirements of the existing rules is bad spectrum management and ill-serves the Amateur Service."

In December 2007, GE Healthcare filed ex parte comments in response to a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) in the pending "MedRadio" proceeding, proposing that the band 2360-2400 MHz be allocated on a secondary basis for "Body Sensor Networks" (BSNs). These systems are apparently to be used for wireless patient monitoring. They are very short-range networks consisting of multiple body-worn sensors and nodes, connected via wireless to nearby hub stations at medical facilities and in homes. The Amateur Radio Service is currently allocated 2390-2400 MHZ on a primary basis.

In its comments, the ARRL states that it does not expect a "significant amount of harmful interference to Amateur operations at 2390-2400 MHz from BSNs." GE Healthcare's proposal, however, makes "erroneous assumptions about Amateur uses in these bands, and the interference potential of the devices to Amateur Radio stations in residential areas is not known."

According to GE Healthcare, they propose an allocation of the entire 2360-2400 MHz band for use of the BSN devices, but the ARRL contends that "in any given area, only 20 MHz of that band would be used. [GE Healthcare's] proposal specifically mentions Amateur Radio and claims that, because the band 2390-2400 MHz is 'designed [sic] for fast scan video, high rate data, packet, control and auxiliary applications' and not weak signal communications, it is well-suited for sharing with the BSN systems."

The ARRL argued that this is a misconception on GE Healthcare's part: "The fact is that there are no limitations on the type of Amateur uses to be made in these bands. The band may in fact be used in some areas for weak signal communications, on a completely unpredictable basis. The uses of this band by radio amateurs, though guided overall by a national band plan, are very much subject to local variation dictated by custom and usage. Weak signal Amateur communications utilize long propagation paths, very low received signal levels, and very high transmitted signal levels. The band is also used for long distance data, voice and television communications using relatively weak received signal levels."

The ARRL, in its comments, said it "is far more concerned" about potential interference to BSNs from licensed Amateur Radio operation in the 2390-2400 MHz band: "The ramifications of radiofrequency interference (RFI) to these systems in terms of danger to medical patients are obvious, and potentially severe." The ARRL contends "that the potential for interference from Amateur Radio operations, which are in this band occasionally itinerant and mobile, but most often fixed in residential areas, to BSNs operated at a patient's residence would be...a problem."

In light of the possibilities of harmful interference, the ARRL requested that the FCC "not proceed with the proposal of GE Healthcare as proposed in the 2390-2400 MHz band."

==> GET READY FOR THE UPCOMING ARRL JUNE VHF QSO PARTY

June is just about here, and according to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, that means the VHF bands are starting to get some steam. "If you've never experienced the fun of VHF+ operating, the ARRL June VHF QSO Party is a great place to start. With many HF radios now offering at least 6 meter SSB/CW capabilities -- and some offering 2 meters and 70 cm as well -- any amateur with a Technician class license or higher can experience long-haul communication on the VHF bands," he said.

Known as the "Magic Band," 6 meters can be quiet for days at a time, and then suddenly explode with signals when the E layer of the ionosphere cooperates. There's no guaranteed way to predict when 6 meters opens, which is why the propagation mode is called "Sporadic-E." When 6 meters opens, contacts several hundred miles away can be made with relatively modest equipment; 50 W and a simple dipole antenna can do wonders during a good opening.

When operating on VHF, Kutzko said that your Maidenhead grid square is the common geographical information exchanged. For complete information on grid squares and how to tell what grid square you are in, visit the ARRL's web site <http://www.arrl.org/locate/gridinfo.html>.

Kutzko advises that there are a few things to know about operating on 6 meters: In the US and Canada, there is a "calling frequency" on 50.125 MHz USB. Many stations monitor this frequency to listen for band openings. Stations can call CQ on the calling frequency, and if somebody answers, the stations will find a new frequency on which to conduct their QSO. It is considered poor etiquette to monopolize the calling frequency for QSOs.

Most SSB activity will take place between 50.125 MHz and 50.250 MHz. If conditions are exceptional, Kutzko said you may hear signals above 50.250: "CW signals can be found from 50.100 MHz to 50.080 or so. The frequencies between 50.100 and 50.125 MHz are a 'DX Window,' meaning it is reserved for QSOs between W/VE and DX stations. Please do not make stateside-to-stateside QSOs in the DX Window."

Kutzko said that getting on 6 meters is easy: "A dipole for 6 meters is only 9 feet, 4 inches long and is an easy construction project. Try to get the dipole in the air as high as possible, but even 15 feet off the ground will make some QSOs. If you have an antenna tuner that can handle 6 meters, you can try loading up another of your antennas on 6 meters with reasonable success."

Because VHF+ antennas are relatively small, Kutzko said that many amateurs operate from portable locations, such as a hilltop or a campground. Others operate the contest as a "rover," operating from their car or truck while transmitting from multiple grid squares over the contest period. "Tracking rovers during the contest is almost as much fun as the contest itself," he said.

The ARRL June VHF QSO Party runs from 1800 UTC Saturday, June 14-0300 UTC Monday, June 16. Be sure to use those extra bands on your transceiver and get in on the fun you've been missing on 6 meters and up! For more information on this contest, please be sure to check out the Contest Rules <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/june-vhf.html>.

==> FIRST ARRL BOOK PUBLISHED IN CHINA

The first of several ARRL books has been translated and published by Posts and Telecommunications Press (PTPress) of Beijing, People's Republic of China. "Getting Started with Ham Radio" by QST Editor Steve

Ford, WB8IMY, will be available for purchase in China next month. Other ARRL books to be translated and published in the PRC include "The ARRL Handbook," "ARRL Antenna Book," "Experimental Methods in RF Design," "Understanding Basic Electronics" and "Ham Radio on the Move."

Posts and Telecommunications Press is one of the largest Chinese print and electronic media publishers. It is a specialized publishing house operating under the management of the Ministry of Information Industry. At present, PTPress annually publishes 3600 book titles in 10 categories such as communications, computers, electronics and electrical engineering technology.

"Getting Started with Ham Radio" was translated and adapted for its Chinese audience by Zhang Hong, BG1FPX.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "My Sun sets to raise again" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: This week we saw only one sunspot, number 997, and only on Memorial Day, May 26. Alas, this was another sunspot left over from fading Solar Cycle 23 and its appearance was very brief. One day it weakly emerged, it quickly faded from view. The previous five days were spotless; spots appeared on the five days prior to that, and previous to those spotted days were 10 days of no spots. Sunspot numbers for May 22-28 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 12, 0 and 0 with a mean of 1.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.3, 67.8, 68.5, 68.3, 68, 67.9 and 67.8 with a mean of 68.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 9, 10, 7, 6, 4, 3 and 12 with a mean of 7.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 7, 7, 4, 7, 3, 2 and 10, with a mean of 5.7. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend is Kids Roundup on May 31-June 1 and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (Data) is June 2. Next weekend, the NCCC Sprint Ladder and the Digital Pentathlon are both June 6, and the Wake-Up! QRP Sprint is on June 7. On June 7-8, look for the DigiFest, the SEANET Contest, the UKSMG Summer Contest, RSGB National Field Day, IARU Region 1 Field Day (CW) and the Alabama QSO Party. The SKCC Weekend Sprintathon is June 8. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint and the RSGB 80 Meters Club Championship (CW) are both June 11. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contester's Rate Sheet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, June 8, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, June 20, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* IARU Officials Meet in Newington: IARU President Larry Price, W4RA; Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, with assistance from ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, met in Newington this week. "We are preparing documentation to be discussed at the annual Administrative Council meeting, which will be held in Germany shortly before the Friedrichshafen Ham Radio exhibition in late June," said Sumner. ARRL staff members also took the chance to say goodbye to Rinaldo who is retiring after 25 years on the ARRL staff. "I look back on the great association over the past 25 years - in fact, earlier than that as a volunteer - and I hope to still be around," Rinaldo said. "I'm going to stay involved with the IARU and go to some meetings in Geneva this October."

* New Name, Look for ARRL Contest E-Letter: The ARRL Contest Rate Sheet is getting a new look and name this week. Now known as the "ARRL Contest Update -- News and Techniques for the Active Operator," the biweekly e-letter geared toward contesters will be sent out in a combined HTML and text-only format (readers who prefer text-only will still be able to read it that way using most e-mail clients). The HTML format will present a more attractive newsletter that is easier to read, and photos and graphics will also be included for the first time. According to Contest Update Editor H. Ward Silver, N0AX, "We're going to start slow with a limited amount of HTML snazziness and a few photos. Please bear with us during the growing pain period and soon the HTML version will seem like the old friend that the text-only version has become." To subscribe to the ARRL Contest Update, please visit the ARRL Contest Update Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/about.html#get>.

* National Hurricane Center's WX4NHC Sets On-The-Air Station Test: The annual WX4NHC <http://www.wx4nhc.org/> On-the-Air Station Test from the

National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami takes place Saturday, May 31, 1300-2100 UTC. "The purpose of this annual Station Test is to test all of our radio equipment, computers and antennas using as many modes and frequencies as possible. This is not a contest or simulated hurricane exercise. New equipment and software will be tested, and some operator training will also be conducted," says WX4NHC Assistant Amateur Radio Volunteer Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R. He adds that WX4NHC also will be testing new computers and software as well conducting operator training. WX4NHC will be on the air on HF, VHF and UHF, plus 2 and 30 meter APRS. Suggested SSB frequencies are 3.950, 7.268, 14.325, 21.325 and 28.525 MHz, +/-QRM; WX4NHC reports that they will mostly be on 14.325 MHz and will make announcements when they change frequencies. WX4NHC also will be on the VoIP Hurricane Net 1700-1900 UTC (IRLP node 9219/EchoLink WX-TALK Conference) and on South Florida area VHF/UHF repeaters and simplex. Stations working WX4NHC exchange call sign, signal report, location and name plus a brief weather report, such as "sunny," "rain" or "cloudy." Non-hams may submit their actual weather using the On-Line Hurricane Report Form. QSL to WD4R and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Do not send cards to the NHC. Due to security measures, no visitors will be allowed at NHC during the test.

* US Power Squadron to Hold Special Event at W1AW: Members of the United States Power Squadrons Amateur Radio Club will operate celebrate the National Safe Boating Council's Safe Boating Week with a Special Event at, W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station June 7 and 8, 8 AM-8 PM (EDT) on both days. USPS operated from the station in 2006 and say they enthusiastically anticipate this return to Amateur Radio's flagship station. USPS plans on operating on or near W1AW's regular frequencies: CW -- 1817.5, 3581.5, 7047.5, 14047.5, 18097.5, 21067.5 and 28067.5 kHz; SSB - 1855, 3990, 7290, 14290, 18160, 21390 and 28590 kHz. A special QSL card is in the works and can be received by mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope to W1AW.

* New Russian Satellite in Orbit: A Russian rocket launched from Plesetsk on May 23 carried a number of payloads to orbit, including a new Amateur Radio satellite named Yubileiny -- Russian for jubilee -- since christened Radio Sputnik 30 (RS-30). Operational details are vague at this time. Amateurs throughout the world report receiving signals at 435.315 and 435.215 MHz; some report reception of CW telemetry while others report what appear to be image transmissions from the satellite. RS-30 is orbiting at a maximum altitude of 1500 km, creating a substantial communications footprint below. The satellite will broadcast audio and video about the history of the Soviet and Russian space programs, as well as signals imitating those broadcast by Sputnik I in 1957. According to the satellite's launch team, "The motive for development of the Yubileiny small spacecraft was the 50th anniversary of the first space satellite. With the help of that satellite, the new space systems and equipment are expected to get flight qualification, and radio-amateurs all over the world will be able to receive information on the history of space development and domestic cosmonautics achievements."

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL

cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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560. Re: Digital broadcaster on 76 m ?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-30 23:24:33 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <qq96h5-sji.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 2831

In article <484051d2$0$15189$607ed4bc@cv.net>,
Rick <ricknj10@hotmail.com> wrote:

>Every evening on 3865 here in the northeast US there is what I believe to be
>a digital broadcaster.
>The "noise" is a rasping sound, and it goes on all evening long, steady.
>Quite strong.
>
>I know nothing about digital reception. Is there a way to decode this
>signal, by using my PC sound card and some software?

Try:
http://n1su.com/windrm/ (ham-oriented)
http://drm.sourceforge.net/ (broadcast-oriented)

The wide-bandwidth (broadcast-oriented) DRM systems may require that
you have access to a low-frequency-IF version of the signal, or tap
out a 455 kHz IF and mix it down to around 10-15 kHz.

I believe that the narrow-bandwidth (ham-oriented) versions could use
the audio output from a SSB receiver.

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will
boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

561. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-05-31 23:48:42 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <def46627-d0ec-47e2-a828-290cf2db667e@2g2000hsn.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2832

On May 26, 9:11 pm, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> >>> 1) Presentations at the middle-school and even elementary-
> >>> school level - including the parents.
> >> Getting the teachers involved would be ideal. Teachers are an
> >> incredibly important influence on their students.
>
> > Agreed! But that requires a teacher who is a ham.
>
> No, it doesn't. It only requires a teacher who is open to allowin
g
> someone to help him/her, and a person willing to help.

In theory, yes, the teacher doesn't have to be a ham.

But in practice, I think a teacher who was that interested in having ham radio in the school would *be* a ham, if for no other reason than it makes the whole thing easier.

--

A lot depends, too, on what level of involvement ham radio is to be in the school. For example, in increasing order of involvement:

1) Books, magazines and other info on ham radio could be provided to the school libraries.

2) Local amateurs could give a presentation/demonstration at an assembly, student activity day, etc. This would simply say "Here's what ham radio is, what hams do, what it takes to become one.." etc.

3) Ham radio could be introduced as an extra-curricular activity, same as computer clubs, robotics clubs, etc. (The local high school has a computer club that focuses on rehabbing older computers for use by students who can't afford their own, and a robotics club that designs and builds machines for competition).

4) Ham radio could be part of the curriculum, integrated into the math, technology, communications and geography parts.

IMHO the bell-the-cat question at all levels is: Who's going to do the work, and pay the costs?

73 de Jim, N2EY

562. Nifty Trick - AM Antenna Booster

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-01 17:06:14 UTC
From: David Coyle <davidremovecoylethis@sbcglobal.net>
Message-ID: <Fbz0k.4069$jl5.3003@flpi148.ffdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2833

I know next to nothing about radio, but I wanted to share something (you guys probably already know about, but I was amazed).

I have a small Pogo pocket radio that will record AM and FM to MP3 files, and the problem is that the AM antenna is weak. I started looking on the internet for antenna boosters and enjoyed the antenna technology enough to try and make my own booster that operates on the principle of a resonating oscillator placed close to the Pogo ferrite antenna. This is just a tuning circuit with an adjustable capacitor and induction coil. Well I tried to be careful making the home-made coil and capacitor but I just did not get it right. Nonetheless it started me thinking that I had the same circuit in an old transistor radio. So I took the old radio (ferrite antenna) and tuned it to the station I wanted and placed it head-to head against the Pogo radio. The Pogo reception was boosted dramatically. So I do not need to buy a $50 antenna booster - a cheap $10 second radio will do the same thing quite well, and the second radio does not even have to be on.

Well, maybe this will give a few second hand radios a second life.

-DAC

563. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-05 03:07:57 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <utce44psts93mtapbkinah0drppe5m64b0@4ax.com>
Source record: 2834

On Wed, 28 May 2008 09:33:52 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

>> The "leadership" of our ARES/RACES group are D-Star fanatics. They
>> claim, though, that the ICOM equipment does have an FM mode to pass FM
>> signals through. I have no idea how that works (dual detection
>> channels?).
>
>I've looked to see if such a thing (fm voice) exists within D-Star.
>Could these folks steer us to some documentation? Here are the RF
>modules I've found:
>
The FM voice is not part of the D-Star specs. It is built into the
ICOM hardware. The IC-2820 dual-band dual-channel mobile comes
"D-Star ready" for $600 and the add-on D-Star module is another $200+.

I'd just as soon wait for the prices to come down.
>
>Do you know of any coordination or frequency placement issues involved
>with opening a presumptive FM side?

No, the local coordinator handles that as any other frequency
coordination matter.

>You know that whole D-Star "repeater" is not a repeater issue, so
>frequencies are opened up for it in repeater crowded areas. Those
>frequencies would not be proper repeater frequencies for an FM repeater.
>
>Do you know a reference for that action Phil? I've looked a bit on the
>FCC site, but haven't found it yet. I think it was in 2006.

According to what I've heard, that's a "hot button" topic, but Bill
Cross of the FCC (an active ham) said at Dayton that he applies the
"duck test" to the D-Star repeaters (making them eligible for
automatic control).
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

564. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-05 05:08:23 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <6n8kh5-rul.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 2835

In article <utce44psts93mtapbkinah0drppe5m64b0@4ax.com>,
Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:

>>You know that whole D-Star "repeater" is not a repeater issue, so
>>frequencies are opened up for it in repeater crowded areas. Those
>>frequencies would not be proper repeater frequencies for an FM repeater.
>>
>>Do you know a reference for that action Phil? I've looked a bit on the
>>FCC site, but haven't found it yet. I think it was in 2006.
>
>According to what I've heard, that's a "hot button" topic, but Bill
>Cross of the FCC (an active ham) said at Dayton that he applies the
>"duck test" to the D-Star repeaters (making them eligible for
>automatic control).

That makes good sense to me.

As I understand it, some D-Star advocates are claiming that a D-Star repeater isn't a repeater, because the regs state that a repeater retransmits the incoming signal "instantaneously", and the packet delay in a D-Star system makes it not-instantaneous... that it's fundamentally a store-and-forward system, more like a BBS (albeit with a very short storage time).

That same line of thought (if valid) would seem to apply to a fairly high percentage of ham-radio analog repeaters on the air today. It's quite common to have a digital or bucket-brigate delay device in the receiver audio path, with the analog audio being presented to the repeater controller and transmitter some time (up to tens of milliseconds) after it was actually demodulated by the receiver. This can help reduce the chopping-off of the first part of the first syllable, and allows the transmitter to be un-keyed at the end of the transmission before the beginning of the squelch-tail noise burst gets out of the delay pipeline.

I can't recall hearing anyone argue that an FM analog repeater with an analog bucket-brigade (or even ADPCM digital) audio delay circuit was magically "not a repeater" because the audio retransmission was not "instantaneous". If the D-Star not-a-repeater proponents were to win their case, it might be a *very* pyrrhic victory, as analog repeater owners might also qualify to move into non-repeater frequency segments. Sauce for the goose...

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior

I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will
boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

565. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-05 17:31:54 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g29692vdc1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2836

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Wed, 28 May 2008 09:33:52 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>>> The "leadership" of our ARES/RACES group are D-Star fanatics. They
>>> claim, though, that the ICOM equipment does have an FM mode to pass FM
>>> signals through. I have no idea how that works (dual detection
>>> channels?).
>> I've looked to see if such a thing (fm voice) exists within D-Star.
>> Could these folks steer us to some documentation? Here are the RF
>> modules I've found:
>>
> The FM voice is not part of the D-Star specs. It is built into the
> ICOM hardware. The IC-2820 dual-band dual-channel mobile comes
> "D-Star ready" for $600 and the add-on D-Star module is another $200+.

Right. My thoughts on the whole thing are that with the Bizarre
"repeater that isn't a repeater" argument they couldn't run FM analog
because it would turn the "repeater that isn't a repeater into a
repeater that is a repeater."

Now repeat that ten times real fast! ;^)

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

566. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-05 17:33:44 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g29612vda1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2837

Dave Platt wrote:
> In article <utce44psts93mtapbkinah0drppe5m64b0@4ax.com>,
> Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:

>> According to what I've heard, that's a "hot button" topic, but Bill
>> Cross of the FCC (an active ham) said at Dayton that he applies the
>> "duck test" to the D-Star repeaters (making them eligible for
>> automatic control).
>
> That makes good sense to me.
>
> As I understand it, some D-Star advocates are claiming that a D-Star
> repeater isn't a repeater, because the regs state that a repeater
> retransmits the incoming signal "instantaneously", and the packet
> delay in a D-Star system makes it not-instantaneous... that it's
> fundamentally a store-and-forward system, more like a BBS (albeit with
> a very short storage time).

One B too many IMO! ;^)

> That same line of thought (if valid) would seem to apply to a fairly
> high percentage of ham-radio analog repeaters on the air today. It's
> quite common to have a digital or bucket-brigate delay device in the
> receiver audio path, with the analog audio being presented to the
> repeater controller and transmitter some time (up to tens of
> milliseconds) after it was actually demodulated by the receiver. This
> can help reduce the chopping-off of the first part of the first
> syllable, and allows the transmitter to be un-keyed at the end of the
> transmission before the beginning of the squelch-tail noise burst gets
> out of the delay pipeline.

Our repeater system uses several polling receivers at different sites.
(6 or 7 IIRC) The recievers transmit their received signals to the main
site. The main repeater site determines which is the strongest signal,
and sends that one through to the main repeater transmitter.

As you can imagine, there is some delay there too. Maybe 250 milliseconds.

> I can't recall hearing anyone argue that an FM analog repeater with an
> analog bucket-brigade (or even ADPCM digital) audio delay circuit was
> magically "not a repeater" because the audio retransmission was not
> "instantaneous". If the D-Star not-a-repeater proponents were to win
> their case, it might be a *very* pyrrhic victory, as analog repeater
> owners might also qualify to move into non-repeater frequency
> segments. Sauce for the goose...

One of the biggest problems putting up a repeater these days is that many areas are just full. There's no room at the Inn. And the area in which a D-Star is likely to do best is in those crowded areas. So they tried to do an end run around the issue. Without a lot of thought.

Seems like we have a nice patch of bandwidth between 2 meters and 440 that is a bit underutilized?

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

567. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-05 23:53:13 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <Kuudnbkuasz899XVnZ2dnUVZ_rfinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2838

"Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
news:g29612vda1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu...

>
> One of the biggest problems putting up a repeater these days is that many
> areas are just full. There's no room at the Inn. And the area in which a
> D-Star is likely to do best is in those crowded areas. .
>

Depends on the definition of "full" or the definition of "crowded".

I live in a metropolitan area in which there are no VHF pairs available for assignment. By some definition that might mean that the spectrum is "full" or "crowded".

But you could shoot off a cannon on 2M most of the time and it wouldn't hit a soul. Nobody. Not a signal to be heard. Some days you can scan every channel in sequence for hours on end with not a peep heard. Then go to each QRG in sequence and transmit "K0HB LISTENING". Nobody home.

I travel a lot, to large cities like Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Tucson, Kansas City, Indianapolis, Detroit, OKC, DFW, Tucson, Phoenix, Denver, El Paso/Las Cruces. It's the same everywhere. Just a scattering of signals on the bands, but EVERY PAIR spoken for.

The NFCC needs to quit being the lapdog of the repeater owners, and do some spectrum management housecleaning.

Before Bill Cross does.

568. Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1608 - June 6, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-06 12:11:20 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080606014712.02b300d0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2839
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1608 - June 6, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1608 with a release date of Friday, June 6th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The FCC seems to challenge coordinators over paper repeaters. Amateur radio is honored for it support of the National Hurricane Center. Portugal gives its hams the 70 MHz band. The Shelby Hamfest commits to 5 years at its new home and Riley Hollingsworth tells hams that the world is listening. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline" report number 1608 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

FM AND REPEATERS: TIME TO DO AWAY WITH PAPER REPEATERS

Is the FCC telling the coordination community that its time for them to act against paper repeaters? We are talking about repeaters that have been coordinated to a channel pair but have never come on the air. Or repeaters that were once operational but have been silent for a long time. Speaking at the recent Dayton Hamvention, it appears as if the FCC's Bill Cross, W3TN, has challenged the nations coordination community to make the paper repeaters go away:

--

Cross: Coordinators also need to be sure that the systems that they have coordinated are still using the channels before they tell you that your system cannot be coordinated. From what I have heard, in some areas of the country there are an awful lot of paper repeaters and an awful lot of out of date coordination's.

--

One of the reasons that paper repeaters exist at all has been the fear on the part of coordinators of being sued by the person holding the channel allocation whether a repeater exists or not. This, if they pull a coordination and give the channel pair to the next group waiting in line.

For those unaware, those hams providing repeater coordination services are volunteers. Up until now they have not been willing to risk their homes and life savings just to make the point before a judge and jury that they have the power to tell the owner of a non existent repeater to go away. Now however, Bill Cross words might be the impetus to start changing this. (ARNewsline")

**

FM AND REPEATERS: COORDINATORS BE CREATIVE

Doing away with paper repeaters will help open up channel pairs in some geographic regions, but there are others where all the channels in all of the repeater subbands are truly in use. What do you do in those cases? The FCC's Bill Cross says to use a bit of good old ham radio ingenuity:

--

Cross: "Coordinators can create more channels by, for example, requiring as a condition of coordination that the repeater that a narrower than 25 kHz bandwidth (on UHF) be used, that narrower guard bands be used or that a repeater not be installed on a mountaintop where it ties up a channel pair for half the area of a state,"

--

Cross also said that there are some instances where coordination is not necessary.

--

Cross: "Coordination only becomes relevant if there is interference. If you can find a channel that is unused, the rules permit you to put a repeater on it. If the repeater is coordinated to a closed repeater and you can use it without causing interference (to that closed repeater), you may. Coordination does not establish a squatters right to a frequency or a right to exclude others.

--

Does this mean that the FCC wants to put an end to closed and private repeaters? Well, not really. When questioned about that remark by someone in the audience, Cross went back to the FCC rules and found:

--

Cross: "Its 97.205(e). Limiting the use of a repeater to only certain user stations is permissible. Now you will not find the term closed repeater anywhere in Part 97. Thats a term that you have developed. This rule was adopted at the request of the amateur community so that a repeater owner, operator or control operator would be able to tell a particular licensee to stay off the repeater.

"Usually, our experience has been that comes as a last resort with someone whose just misbehaving and carrying on baiting people. Making unidentified transmissions and other thing that are in the category of totally obnoxious. And as a group or club, they don't want that person on the repeater. So, in the rule making proceeding the comments came in and said that we need to be able to have some kind of authority to tell someone to stay off the repeater. This rule gives you that authority."

--

What appears evident is that there is a very sharp difference of opinion between the way the ham community views closed and private repeaters and the legalistic approach of the FCC.

The FCC views 97.205(e) as an enforcement tool. Those who have run closed and private repeaters long before that rule came about, or those who want to establish one now, have seized on it to justify their exclusivity of a chosen user base. And it is quite likely that trying to prove that this rule does not codify closed and private repeaters would lead to a very costly federal court fight between opposing repeater owner operators. A legal battle that would make a few lawyers rather wealthy and likely bankrupt everyone else involved.

Also, thumbing through a recent ARRL Repeater Directory shows that with the exception of 440 MHz in Southern California, that nationally closed and private repeaters make up only about 1 or 2 percent of all the nations machines. So while the concept of closed and private repeaters is a hot button topic with many hams, the reality is that their impact on channel space availability is minimal at best. (ARNewsline")

**

RESCUE RADIO: NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER DIRECTOR PRAISES HAMS DURING ABBUAL COMMUNICATIONS TEST

On Saturday May 31, members of the Voice Over Internet Protocol or VoIP Weather Net supported the annual WX4HNC communications test from the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida. The Voice Over Internet Protocol Weather net has a long history of supporting the Hurricane Center by sharing reports collected over the Echolink and Internet Radio Linking Project. And this year the centers Director, Bill Read, KB5FYA, took time out to thank the hams who devote them selves to this ongoing life saving project:

--

Read: "CQ all Amateur Radio Operators. This is Bill Read, KB5FYA, Director of the National Hurricane Center.

We all know how important it is to maintain communications during a hurricane to relay our Hurricane Warnings to those in the affected area which may have no other means to receive this vital information.

We are also very appreciative for the surface reports from those in the storm which add to our database and help our Forecasters better visualize what is actually happening at the ground level in real time. As our own Ham Radio Station, WX4NHC, celebrates it's 28th year of volunteer service at The National Hurricane Center, we extend our

thanks to all ham radio operators that continue to support our mission to help save lives.

Thank you and 73. This is KB5FYA at WX4NHC, National Hurricane Center, Miami"

--

In addition to the Voice Over Internet Protocol links, WX4HNC operational on the high frequency bands close to 3.950, 7.268, 14.325, 21.325, and 28.525 MHz. from 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Eastern Time during the test. Stations desiring a QSL card should send their request with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Julio Ripoll, WD4R, rather than direct to the Hurricane Center. Those wanting additional information about the Voice Over Internet Protocol Weather Net should take their web browser to www.voipwx.net (KC5FM)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: HAMS ASKED TO ASSIST CALIFORNIA ELECTION

According to the Sacramento Bee newspaper, ham radio was pressed into service to provide a communications system in sparsely populated El Dorado County during last Tuesday's state wide California election.

According to the newspaper, despite the proliferation of cellular telephones, about 40 percent of the El Dorado County's 1,790 square miles don't have cellular service. The terrain is a mix of sparsely populated open range, thickly wooded hills and hard-to-reach canyons. As such, it makes little economic sense for cellular telephone companies to provide service into the area. Unfortunately come election day some polling places in the largely rural county have had problems maintaining lines of communication, leaving poll workers isolated because there are not even wire-line telephones at these sites.

So the county elections office asked local radio amateurs to provide a communications network that would function at polling sites where the cellular telephones and other radio systems might not. At airtime the extent of the involvement in election communications network by radio amateurs is not known. The entire story is on-line at http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/976114.html (Sacramento Bee)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WA3PBD repeater of the Two Rivers Amateur Radio Club serving the great state of Pennsylvania.

(5 sec pause here)

**

WORLDBEAT - PORTUGAL: HAMS GET LIMITED USE OF 70 MHZ

Portugal has granted its ham community limited access to the European 70 MHz band. The nations telecommunications regulator has announced that two sub bands from 70.167 to 70.212.5 MHz and 70.237.5 to 70.287.5 MHz are available for a limited time to the amateur community at 100 watts effective radiated power. Portuguese hams will operate 70 Mhz on a secondary, non-interference basis with other services. Also, they are not guaranteed protection against interference from other licensed stations operating on the band. The 70 MHz band is an ITU Region One only

allocation. (Southgate)

**

RESCUE RADIO: AMATEURS ASSIST WITH FLORIDA FIRES

The ARRL reports that hams have been busy in recent weeks as tornadoes blew across Colorado and wildfires devastated parts of Florida. First to the South-East where amateur radio operators in Brevard County, Florida responded in a support role. This, during a recent series of wildfires that ravaged the towns of Palm Bay and Malabar. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has more:

--

The fires, all of which were deemed suspicious began on Sunday, May 11th. Dubbed the "Mother's Day Fires," they burned close to 13,000 acres in southern Brevard County in an area about 25 miles east of Orlando.

According to the ARRL Letter, John Weatherly, AB4ET, and Clayton Bennett, KA4NHW, manned a 2 meter station in a shelter set up by the American Red Cross. Additionally, the Brevard Emergency Amateur Radio Services group donated the use of their mobile unit to public safety agencies. It was pressed into service as a command post in the weeklong operation.

The Palm Bay Fire Department, the Palm Bay Police Department, ARES and Florida Power and Light manned the units four operating positions which was initially dispatched to a local high school. It was later relocated to the nearby US Air Force tracking station that became the new command center, as well as the staging area for trucks and teams from other counties. Hams remained on alert until the fires were contained.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reporting.

--

According to official sources, the Mother's Day fires destroyed more than 30 homes and damaged almost 250 others with an estimated value of $5.6 million. A man is in custody on three counts of intentional burning of lands after witnesses reported seeing him light several small fires that were quickly extinguished. (ARRL, published news reports)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS ASSIST AS TORNADOES SWEEP THROUGH COLORADO

Then on Thursday, May 22nd the ARRL reports that hams sprang to the call when a large tornado touched down in northern Colorado near the town of Windsor. Thats about 50 miles north of Denver. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM is here with the details:

--

According to Colorado Section Manager Jeff Ryan, ARES District 10 was activated with Colorado Section Manager David Markham, W0CBI, monitoring

the situation. A funnel cloud, accompanied by golf-ball sized hail, blackened the skies over Windsor as it knocked down power lines, shredded crops in fields outside the city and blasted whole neighborhoods. The southeast side of Windsor was the worst hit by the storm.

Colorado ARES District 10 Emergency Coordinator Randy Long, W0AVV, reported that 31 operators provided communications service to the Emergency Operations Center and Fire Department in Windsor, the Weld County Emergency Operations Center, the Larimer County Emergency Operations Center, the City of Loveland Emergency Operations Center, the Loveland Mobile Command post and two Red Cross shelters.

Friday, May 23rd Markham placed an additional 15 Amateur Radio operators in Larimer and Weld County on standby in anticipation of an overnight shift. He also requested adjacent districts to prepare in support of the ongoing operations if necessary. We will have more on this story in a future Amateur Radio Newsline report.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

--

News reports say that the storm resulted in one fatality, with over a hundred others injured and treated on the scene. Another 18 were temporarily hospitalized. (ARRL, published news reports)

**

ENFORCEMENT: $17,000 FINE AFFIRMED TO UNLICENSED BOSTON BROADCASTER

Turning to enforcement news. the FCC has issued a monetary forfeiture in the amount of $17,000 to Charles Clemons. This, for operating an unlicensed radio transmitter on the frequency 106.1 MHz in Boston, Massachusetts and for failing to permit a station inspection.

This past February 29th the Commissions Boston Field Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $17,000 to Clemons after tracing the unlicensed operation to him. To date, Clemons has not filed a response to the N-A-L or paid the proposed forfeiture. Based on the information before it the FCC has now affirmed the $17,000 fine and ordered that Clemons pay the amount within the time frame specified by law. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FLORIDA CB'ER FINED FOR OVER POWER OPERATION

A Florida C-B operator has been fined $10,000 but will only have to pay $350. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, has the details:

--

The FCC has issued a monetary forfeiture in the amount of three hundred fifty dollars to Florida C-B operator Richard Ross. This, for willful and repeated violation of section 301 of the Communications involving the operation of an unauthorized C-Bradio transmitter.

According to a Commission news release, On August 16, 2007, agents from the Tampa Office inspected RossCB station to confirm that it was in compliance with the rules. They found that RossCB radio station included a CB transmitter and two linear amplifiers. The agents measured the power of the amplifiers combined power output and found the devices had the capability to boost the power of the station to several hundred times the authorized power level.

On March 31, 2008, the Tampa Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture to Mr. Ross in the amount of ten thousand dollars. Ross submitted a response to the NAL requesting cancellation of the proposed forfeiture. He asserted financial hardship and supplied the FCC with documentation to back up his claim. After examining the financial documentation submitted by Ross, it decided to reduce the forfeiture to $350.

--

Ross was given the usual 30 days to pay or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

**

RADIO LAW: CHP POSITION ON THE "HANDS-FREE" WIRELESS TELEPHONE LAWS

Some good news from the California Highway Patrol. This, for hams worried about being stopped for using their push-t-talk radio gear without hands free devices once the states new cellular telephone law takes effect on July 1st.

In a letter to several hams and authenticated by the C-G-C Communicator newsletter, Commander Fran Clader of the patrols Office of Media Relations writes -- and we quote:

"The new cell phone laws involve only wireless telephones. They do not concern radios such as your Amateur Radios, unless they are also wireless telephones.

"Again, the law only applies to wireless telephones.

"Thanks for your inquiry. If you have any further questions, please give us a call."

That said, Commander Clader does have some sound advice for anyone driving a car and operating any sort of accessory. She says -- and again we quote:

" All motorists are strongly encouraged to operate a motor vehicle safely, paying attention to their safe operation of the vehicle, the changing road and weather conditions and the actions or anticipated actions of other drivers."

Words to live by that can keep you alive, no matter where you live. (CGC, ARNewsline)

**

RADIO BUSINESS: A VX-8R UPDATE

And speaking about hands free, thats something we missed in last weeks mention of the new Yaesu VX-8R handheld. It seems as if the VX-8R is the first-ever Blue Tooth capable H-T for the amateur radio market. What this means is that with the optional BU-1 and BH-1 or BH-2 add-ons, you can operate the VX-8R hands free. This is especially handy when operating mobile as more and more states pass hands-free cellphone laws. Vertex Standard says that it hopes to have the Yaesu VX-8R available by July. (Yaesu)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: SHELBY COMITS TO FIVE YEARS AWAY FROM SHELBY

The Shelby Hamfest is holding onto its name, but for at least five years the amateur radio event will have a new home at Biggerstaff Park in Gaston County, North Carolina.

The Shelby Amateur Radio Club had already booked Biggerstaff Park, off U.S. 321 for the event this August. This, after failing to reach an agreement with those who run its longtime home Cleveland County Fairgrounds in Shelby.

Now, the club approved a commitment with Gaston County to hold Hamfest there for five years. Not only that, but Hamfest organizer Robbie Hamrick said Gaston County could become a permanent home for the event.

In a statement, Hamrich said that the hamfest will be there at least five years and probably longer. He says that Biggerstaff Park is a beautiful place that has room for the hamfest to grow.

The Shelby Hamfest has been a Cleveland County tradition for the past 50 years, but an un-reconcilable dispute between the local fairgrounds commission and the Shelby club lead to what will likely be a permanent move several miles to a new location in a different county. (Cleveland County Star)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for todays radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND

Registrations for the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend are now being made at http://illw.net. The event is always held on the 3rd full weekend in August starting at 00:01 UTC on Saturday running through 23:59 UTC on Sunday.

There are some interesting video clips on YouTube that give an idea of the history of the event and what it's like to operate from a lighthouse. Use the YouTube on-site search engine and the search argument International

Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend to find them. (Southgate)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: VE7DXG TO HEAD RAC VHF/UHF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Some names in the news. First to the North where Radio Amateurs of Canada has named Gabor Horvath VE7DXG of Duncan, British Columbia, as Chair of the organizations VHF/UHF Bandplanning Committee. The Committee's role is to make recommendations to the Board of Directors on how amateur radio spectrum between 30MHz and 2GHz is divided among the various modes and techniques employed by Canadian radio amateurs. Horvath succeeds Graham Ide, VE3BYT, of Ottawa, Ontario, in this position. Ide had resigned as Chair of the committee back in 2007. (RAC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: NEWSLINE'S EVI SIMONS - ENGAGED

And some wonderful news to report about one of the members on the Newsline Family. Reporter Evi Simons has announced her engagement to Michael Dworkis. The two plan to wed on Sunday, July 6th in Woodbury, New York. In Addition to her work on Amateur Radio Newsline, Evi is an accomplished voice actor and announcer. She is also a trained non-linear video editor with credits that include Makor League Baseball on-line. Anyone wishing to send congratulatory messages to Evi and Michael can do so using our regular newsline e-mail address and we will forward them on to the young couple. (ARNewsline")

**

RADIO WAVES: SOLAR CYCLE DELAYED A YEAR

The next 11-year cycle of solar storms will most likely start next March and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012. Thats up to a year later than expected according to a forecast issued by NOAAs Space Environment Center in coordination with an international panel of solar experts. The complete story is at www.swpc.noaa.gov/SolarCycle/...ssRelease.html (NOAA, QRZ.COM))

**

RADIO IN SPACE: MARS LANDER WEBSITE HACKED

The website for the new Phoenix Mars Lander has been hacked. A spokesperson for the Phoenix Mars Lander mission says a hacker took over the mission's public Web site during the wee hours of May 31st and changed its lead news story. Sara Hammond says a mission update posted Friday May 30th was replaced with a hacker's signature and a link redirecting visitors to an overseas Web site. The Mars Lander vehicle touched down on the Red Planet on Sunday, May 25th to search for traces of organic compounds that are the basic building blocks of life. The site is on-line at http://phoenix.lpl.arizona.edu/ (Published reports)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: HRISE PHOTGRAPHS MARS LANDER LANDING

A camera abroad a U-S satellite in orbit around Mars caught NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander suspended from its parachute during the lander's successful arrival at the Red Planet on Sunday, May 25th. The image radioed back to Earth from the High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment on NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter marks the first time ever one spacecraft has photographed another one in the act of landing on another planet. (Science On-Line)

**

HAM RADIO NEAR SPACE: NEW HIGH ALTITUDE HAM BALLOON RECORD SET

Cornell University high altitude balloon flight PBH-7 has broken the ARHAB altitude record with burst at 125,449 feet. This, using a 4000 gram helium filled balloon lifting KC2SMP- 2 beacon operating on 144.390 MHz. More information is on www.eyeinthesky.dyndns.org. (Press release)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SATPC32 VER 12.8 RELEASED

Erich Eichmann, DK1TB, has released SatPC32, version 12.8. This latest version of the popular satellite tracking program now contains improvements for Windows Vista compatibility, CAT control of multiple radios, and CAT control of Icom half-duplex radios.

A demo version may be downloaded from www dot dk1tb dot de slash indexeng dot htm. Eichmann donated SatPC32 to AMSAT and all proceeds of its sale support amateur satellite programs. (AMSAT)

**

WORLDBEAT - THAILAND: NSS LICENSING CLASS HELD

Andaman News NBT Radio reports on a recent huge gathering of prospective ham radio operators in Phuket, Thailand. The activity was co-hosted by the Phuket Amateur Radio Association and the Telecommunication club. It was aimed at extending basic amateur radio users to young people and other interested parties.

Students from Phuket and near by provinces attended a workshop training where they were taught a code of conduct, regulations, manners for communication as well as theory on technical aspects for communication radio. They then sat for a test for basic amateur radio in that nation.

According to the Andaman news report, in the past the amateur radio operators have played important roles in back up communications in time of disaster or when other communication systems have failed. The 2004 Tsunami incident was a good example where these radio operators stepped in and played major roles.

At present over 10,000 radio amateurs can be called out as a communication network through out Thailand. (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT - GERMANY: HILBERLING DONATES $14000 PT-8000 RADIO TO DARC

Germany's Hilberling Company has donated first serial numbered Hilberling PT-8000 High Frequency through VHF transceiver to that nations national ham radio society. The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club says that it will set up in the headquarters station at Baunatal. Among other things it will be used for transmitting the DL-news bulletin every Thursday night at 17:30 UTC.

The Hilberling PT-8000 is a high end DSP-transceiver that covers the high frequency bands as well as both 6 and 2 meters. In the United States these radios sell for close to $14,000 and are a direct competitor to the Icom IC-7800 and Yaesu FTDX 9000 from Vertex-Standard. But unlike the Icom and Yaesu entries, the Hilberling can be color coordinated to your station as its available in red, blue, charcoal grey.

The presentation was made on Tuesday, May 27th. Hans Hilberling, DK7LG, Klaus Lohmann, DK7XL, and Jan Hauschildt of Hilberling represented the company at the ceremony where the brand new transceiver was handed off to the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club on permanent loan. (Southgate)

**

WORLDBAT - IRELAND: TWO NEW REPEATERS IN DONEGAL

Two new repeaters are on the air from Donegal, Ireland. The 2meter repeater is EI2IPG and operates on the channel pair of 145.1125 in 145.7125 MHz with 67Hz CTCSS or 1750Hz tone for access. The 10 meter system is E-I-Zero-I-P-G on 29.580 in and 29.680 MHz out. It also requires a 67Hz CTCSS for access. Both repeaters are connected via the EchoLink system.

Steve Homer, EI2GYB, who is the Repeater Keeper says that because there have not yet been any users through the 10meter repeater that the sponsors will be giving out a certificate to the first 5 people who work through it. In Ireland and the U-K a Repeater Keeper is similar to a system trustee here in the U-S-A. More about the systems is on-line at www.echoireland.com.

Steve also tells us that Amateur Radio Newsline is played weekly on both of the new repeaters, so a big shout out to all of our new friends in the Donegal Ireland repeaters and welcome to the ever expanding world-wide Amateur Radio Newsline family. (EI2GYB)

**

DX

In D-X, word that Operators JE3NJZ and JA0KNM will be active portable JA6 from Kuro Island through thev 9th of June. Activity will be on 40 through 6 meters using C-W and SSB. QDL to their home callsigns, direct or by the bureau.

Word that 9Q1TB will be leaving the Democratic Republic of the Congro during June to start his new job in the United Arab Emirates. No word if he has been issued an A 6 call or when he will be on the air from that new location. Still remaining will be 9Q1EK, will stay in Congo for the next

one or two years.

DL5ME and DG3HWO will be active as DL5ME portable OH2 from Emsalo Island, Finland, through the 8th of June. Their activity will be on the 40, 30, 20 and 17meter bands on CW and SSB. QSL via DH5MM using the QRZ.com address only.

Lastly a new 18 MHz band beacon is on the air from Sliema, Malta. It operates 24 hours a day on 18.10015 MHz USB using PSK31. Power is one half watt to a vertical antenna. QSN reports go via e-mail to stanley@9h1lo.net.

**

THAT FINEL ITEM: THE WORLD IS LISTENING

And finally this week, as he gets ready to leave his position as FCC Special Counsel for amateur radio enforcement, Riley Hollingsworth has a few words of wisdom that we all need to take to heart. They were part of his address at the recent Dayton Hamvention and they really are a must listen for every United States radio amateur:

--

Hollingsworth: "The overall compliance is outstanding in the Amateur Radio Service, but never let the Commission get by again with handing you 10 to 12 years of neglect.

"You have to stay vigilant. Even though the bands may sound better you have to stay vigilant to protect your service and to be part of the solution, not the problem.

"And operate as if the whole world was listening, because generally it is."

--

Hollingsworth adds that the last thing that ham radio needs is any sort of in-fighting. He indicates its very important that all of us stick together and work out our differences as mature individuals for the betterment of all licensees. We at Amateur Radio Newsline, totally agree. (ARNewsline")

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline". Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's" only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline", P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, Im Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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569. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-06 12:12:12 UTC
From: nospam@w6yx.stanford.edu
Message-ID: <g2aquh$m63$1@news.stanford.edu>
Source record: 2840

In article <Kuudnbkuasz899XVnZ2dnUVZ_rfinZ2d@earthlink.com> "K&#65533;HB" <groupk0hb@earthlink.net> writes:

>But you could shoot off a cannon on 2M most of the time and it wouldn't hit a
>soul. Nobody. Not a signal to be heard. Some days you can scan every channel
>in sequence for hours on end with not a peep heard. Then go to each QRG in
>sequence and transmit "K0HB LISTENING". Nobody home.

Well, "listening" generally is taken by an increasing number of folks as
meaning you are listening, not that you are soliciting a call. If I hear it,
and I also have some reason to talk to you, I may call. Of course, if I had
something to call you about, the cellphone in my pocket probably already took
care of that.

If you want to talk to someone, call them, or call cq.

>I travel a lot, to large cities like Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Tucson,
>Kansas City, Indianapolis, Detroit, OKC, DFW, Tucson, Phoenix, Denver, El
>Paso/Las Cruces. It's the same everywhere. Just a scattering of signals on the
>bands, but EVERY PAIR spoken for.

True. 10 - 15 years ago, they were busy. Now --- silent. It seems that way
everywhere.

I know that for me, I now have a small car with no good place for a rig, and
park in places where one might not want to leave one in the car. At home, being
married sort of cuts in to sitting in front of the radio all evening.

I don't know what took the interest away for everyone else. However, with
nobody on to talk to, I am less interested in solving the problems in the car
to get on, so if others are in the same boat, we all contribute to the
silence.

Alan
wa6azp

570. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-06 16:33:19 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g2bd2kriu1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2841

Kï¿½HB wrote:
> "Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
> news:g29612vda1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu...
>
>> One of the biggest problems putting up a repeater these days is that many
>> areas are just full. There's no room at the Inn. And the area in which a
>> D-Star is likely to do best is in those crowded areas. .
>>
>
> Depends on the definition of "full" or the definition of "crowded".
>
> I live in a metropolitan area in which there are no VHF pairs available for
> assignment. By some definition that might mean that the spectrum is "full" or
> "crowded".
>
> But you could shoot off a cannon on 2M most of the time and it wouldn't hit a
> soul. Nobody. Not a signal to be heard. Some days you can scan every channel
> in sequence for hours on end with not a peep heard. Then go to each QRG in
> sequence and transmit "K0HB LISTENING". Nobody home.

It is possible that I live in an anomalous area, but in Central PA, the repeaters are pretty busy. And State College is the smallest metropolitan area in the country. We have 5 repeaters, although one is down for maintenance right now. Altoona to the southwest has a number of repeaters that have traffic on them also.

naive mode on:

One of the most interesting aspects of Amateur radio is that we kind of expect someone to be waiting there to talk to us. While we can't control what happens in other areas, we can control our own.

If we want to generate traffic on the repeaters, the simplest way is to generate some traffic on them. Get a friend and talk on the thing. Next thing you know, others will join you. If enough places do that, there will be plenty of traffic.

naive mode off:

That is what we did in our area. Traffic was down, and the obligatory bemoaning of the problem was up.

We just had people get on the air and yak it up. Could be coincidence, but more and more people joined the party, and a few years later the repeater is in constant use.

This is one that Hams themselves have to bootstrap.

> The NFCC needs to quit being the lapdog of the repeater owners, and do some
> spectrum management housecleaning.

Interesting concept, but how to determine use or lack of use? (sounds
easy, but in practice it isn't.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

571. Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-06 16:33:47 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <JLOdnXkaWKCWodTVnZ2dnUVZ_s3inZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2842

Alan wrote:
> "Kï¿½HB" writes:

>> I travel a lot, to large cities like Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Tu
cson,
>> Kansas City, Indianapolis, Detroit, OKC, DFW, Tucson, Phoenix, Denver,
El
>> Paso/Las Cruces. It's the same everywhere. Just a scattering of sign
als on the
>> bands, but EVERY PAIR spoken for.
>
> True. 10 - 15 years ago, they were busy. Now --- silent. It seems
that way
> everywhere.

It's certainly that way in rural Minnesota. There are repeaters in many of the small towns, and they're alive in the sense of being technically there, but they're dead in the sense of anyone using them on a regular basis. Sometimes there's a regular group who gets together in the morning, but for our local repeater even that custom has faded away.

We lost our UHF repeater almost a year ago when the elevator it was on was destroyed by lightning. [For you city slickers, the word "elevator" out here in the sticks is used to describe a large structure in which grain is stored.] That repeater is still silent. A new location was secured, and funding for it was provided by the local emergency management agency, but the antenna still hasn't been erected.

So I have to wonder, in metro areas where all the slots are "full", how many of those repeaters actually exist and would respond if presented with a correctly-toned signal on their published input frequency. Perhaps more important, how many of them are used regularly? It might actually make more sense to shut down several repeaters that don't have a critical mass of users and move those small groups to the remaining repeaters so that there was actually someone there to talk to. Better to have two or three active repeaters in a metro area than a dozen dead ones.

> I don't know what took the interest away for everyone else. However,
with
> nobody on to talk to, I am less interested in solving the problems in t
he car
> to get on, so if others are in the same boat, we all contribute to the
> silence.

It's a chicken and egg problem. I know that I'm contributing to the problem; my 2-meter equipment consists of an HT, and I've considered that I need to buy a "real" 2-meter rig and put up an antenna . . . but it's difficult for me to justify the time and expense to do so when there's no activity.

73, Steve KB9X

572. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 22 (Friday, June 6, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-06 19:05:33 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080606190344.CD63A30B42@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2843
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 22
June 6, 2008
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

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* + ARRL Foundation Announces 2008 Scholarship Recipients
* + Hams Head into Space
* + Field Day Locator Service Up and Running
* + Army MARS Offers Free Father's Day Messages for Soldiers Overseas
* + ARRL Welcomes Yaesu as Principal Sponsor of Logbook of The World Web
Site
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ More Field Day T Shirts On the Way! + Morse Code Returning to MARS Toolbox
Hein Hvatum, N4FWA (SK)
Be Careful on 10 Meters

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

============================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER DIRECTOR JOINS WX4NHC ANNUAL TEST

On Saturday, May 31, WX4NHC <http://www.wx4nhc.org/>, the Amateur Radio
station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC), held their annual
Communications Test from 1300-2100 UTC. According to WX4NHC Assistant
Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, this annual test has two purposes: To
verify that ham radio equipment will not interfere with any equipment at
the NHC, and to ensure proper performance of Amateur Radio equipment at
the NHC.

During the test, NHC Director Bill Read, KB5FYA, addressed the Amateur
Radio community on the VoIP Hurricane Net and on the Hurricane Watch Net
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<http://www.wx4nhc.org/Bill-Read-QST.mp3>. Read spoke about the importance of Amateur Radio in hurricane-related disasters and thanked Amateur Radio operators for their support in past hurricanes. He encouraged hams to continue to provide that strong support as WX4NHC enters its 28th year of service and the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season begins. Read made several contacts with Amateur Radio operators during the test.

"We all know how important it is to maintain communications during a hurricane to relay our hurricane warnings to those in the affected area which may have no other means to receive this vital information," Read said. "We are also very appreciative for the surface reports from those in the storm which add to our database and help our forecasters better visualize what is actually happening at the ground level in real time. As our own ham radio station, WX4NHC, celebrates its 28th year of volunteer service at the National Hurricane Center, we extend our thanks to all ham radio operators that continue to support our mission to help save lives."

Ripoll, calling the annual test "very successful," thanked all the amateurs involved and called on them for their support as the hurricane season starts up. During the test Ripoll and his crew also completed antenna work in preparation for the season.

Ripoll said that the WX4NHC Annual Station Test started very early on Saturday with three of the operators replacing the main HF dipole. "The dipole runs from the 100 foot tower to the top of the Hurricane Center Building and was reinstalled with a better orientation so that the main effective lobes run SE and NW," he said. "This will improve reception to the Caribbean, as well as the US Gulf area. It took three hours of bringing the dipole up and down to fine tune the SWR down to 1:1.2, but it was worth the effort. Stations monitoring our antenna tests reported improvements of 3 to 6 dB at their locations. We are very happy with the results of this new antenna installation."

It was good timing for the test as the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season started on the same day, albeit one day earlier than it was scheduled: Tropical Storm Arthur formed from the remnants of Pacific Tropical Storm Alma over Central America. Arthur did weaken, but was responsible for very heavy rains and flooding over portions Guatemala, Honduras, Belize and Mexico. This is the second straight year in which a tropical system formed prior to the start of the Atlantic hurricane season.

WX4NHC made 346 contacts during this event: 291 on HF and 55 on EchoLink/IRLP. They heard from 23 states and US territories, as well as such foreign locales as Bermuda, Curacao, Jamaica, Cuba, Honduras, Estonia and Canada.

"The WX4NHC Coordinators and Operators extend their thanks to all ham radio operators that participated in our Annual Station Test," Ripoll said, "and look forward to your continued support during the hurricane season."

==> ARRL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2008 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

In May 2008, the ARRL Foundation Board of Directors voted unanimously to award the prestigious William R. Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship <http://www.arrlf.org/programs/scholarships> to Austin Evans Wilmot, KD5QKS, of Dallas, Texas. Wilmot will graduate from Richardson High School this year with a cumulative GPA of 97.64, placing him 19th in a class of 431.

First licensed in 2001, Wilmot holds a Technician class license and was active in his elementary school's Amateur Radio club (W5SPS); he is currently active in the Richardson Wireless Klub, K5RWK. His commitment to volunteer service in his community included support for the Lone Star MS150 Bike tour and the City of Richardson's annual Christmas parade. He can be found on local repeaters and is currently studying for his General class license.

Wilmot credits Amateur Radio with helping to develop leadership, organization and communication skills. Wilmot's studies at Washington University in St Louis will concentrate on medicine and will include his interest in mathematics and finance. "I envision a future as a scientist and economist where I can apply my analytic skills with compassion and curiosity," Wilmot said.

The Goldfarb Scholarship is the result of a generous endowment from the late William Goldfarb, N2ITP. Before his death in 1997, Goldfarb set up a scholarship endowment of close to $1 million in memory of his parents, Albert and Dorothy Goldfarb. Awarded to one high school senior each year, the Goldfarb Scholarship assists the recipient to receive a four-year undergraduate degree in engineering or science or in the medical or business-related fields. The terms of reference of the generous Goldfarb scholarship award require that recipients demonstrate financial need and significant involvement with Amateur Radio, in addition to high academic performance. The sixth Goldfarb Scholarship winner, Wilmot continues the tradition of prior recipients, demonstrating superior academic performance, outstanding leadership and extraordinary Amateur Radio and community service.

More information on the Goldfarb Scholarship is available on the ARRL Web site. Applications for the Goldfarb Scholarship and other ARRL Foundation Scholarships are accepted each year beginning October 1 and ending February 1 for the academic year that starts the following August/September.

The ARRL Foundation awarded more than 50 scholarships -- ranging from $500 to $2500 -- for the 2008-2009 academic year. For a complete list of recipients, please see the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/05/31/10131/?nc=1> or the July issue of QST.

==> HAMS HEAD INTO SPACE

On Saturday, May 31, the space shuttle Discovery launched into the heavens carrying a crew of one Japanese and six American astronauts to

the International Space Station (ISS); of the seven crew members, two are Amateur Radio operators. NASA's Greg Chamitoff, KD5PKZ, is the ISS Flight Engineer and Science Officer on Expedition 17 and will spend six months living and working onboard the ISS, returning home on Endeavour (STS-126), currently targeted for November 10. Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's (JAXA) Akihiko Hoshide, KE5DNI, is a mission specialist.

Chamitoff will replace Garrett Reisman, KE5HAE, who arrived on the ISS in March; Reisman will return to Earth when Discovery leaves the ISS. It is expected that the ISS Crew -- Commander Sergei Volkov, RU3DIS; Flight Engineer Oleg Kononenko, RN3DX, and Chamitoff -- will conduct Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contacts while on the ISS.

This mission, STS-124 -- the 123rd space shuttle flight and 26th shuttle flight to the ISS -- docked with the ISS at 2:03 PM (EDT) on Monday, June 2. Discovery carries with it the second component of JAXA's Kibo laboratory, the Japanese Pressurized Module (JPM). The 37 foot, 32,000 pound JPM will be attached to the left side of the Harmony connecting node by shuttle and station crew members during a series of three spacewalks. The JPM will join the first component of Kibo, the Japanese Logistics Module, which was launched on the last shuttle flight, STS-123 on Endeavour, in March.

Kibo (which means hope in Japanese) is so heavy that only its primary set of avionics systems can be launched inside it. The second set was launched in the logistics module delivered on STS-123 so that it will be available, if needed, when Kibo is activated. "Kibo is just a beautiful piece of work," said lead shuttle flight director Matt Abbott. "I know the Japanese space agency had an element installed on STS-123, but this is really their pride and joy. This module is amazing."

"It's going to be a world-class laboratory," said astronaut Mark Kelly, Discovery's commander. "It's its own little spacecraft, in the sense that it has an environmental system, electrical system, its own computer system, its own robotic arm. It's got a lot of capability, and I'm hopeful that over the years that the laboratory produces significant discoveries in the fields of chemistry, physics, material science and life sciences. It certainly has that potential." The Kibo laboratory complex includes two robotic arms that also will be delivered on Discovery. A third and final shuttle mission to complete the complex will launch an exterior platform for the Kibo laboratory complex that will allow experiments to be exposed to space.

On Earth, STS-124 will mark the first time the JAXA flight control team will activate and control a module from Kibo Mission Control in Tsukuba, Japan. JAXA is scheduled to take over final activation of Kibo on the fifth day of STS-124, the day after the module is installed. "That's a big day for Japan," Hoshide said. "We'll be doing vestibule outfitting, which is basically hooking up all the jumper connections between Node 2 and the pressurized module for power signals, data cables, fluid lines,

all that stuff. Once that's done we will be activating the main computer in the pressurized module from our laptop computer inside the station - we call that the initial activation. "Then, once the computer's activated, the Mission Control Center in Tsukuba Space Center can start commanding, so we'll hand it over to them. They will start doing the final activation of the module."

In addition to Kelly, Hoshide and Chamitoff, the STS-124 crew consists of Pilot Ken Ham and Mission Specialists Karen Nyberg, Ron Garan and Mike Fossum. Discovery is due back to Earth on Saturday, June 14 at 10:45 AM (EDT) at Kennedy Space Center's Shuttle Landing Facility. -- Information provided by NASA

==> FIELD DAY LOCATOR SERVICE UP AND RUNNING

This year, for the first time, the ARRL has put together a Station Locator to help amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day site near them. According to ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, many amateurs have been asking for something like this for many years.

If your group would like to be a part of the Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started. Just go to the Field Day Station Locator Web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php> and follow the instructions.

To help you out, Henderson has prepared a FAQ for the Field Day Station Locator.

Q) How does our Field Day site get listed on the map?
A) A club official or Field Day Chairman needs to go to the Web site. Once there, click on the link for "Add a Station" and follow the instructions.

Q) I put in the name of the park where we will be holding Field Day but got the message that the program can't find it. What do I do?
A) You should use a street address for the location. Unfortunately, the mapping program doesn't have a 100 percent complete database of park names and public site names. You may also use a latitude/longitude - enter the values separated by a comma (e.g. 42.345N, 85.445W) and set the city to NONE).

Q) I put in a street address but the map locator put me it in a wrong location on the street. What do I do?
A) While in the data input or edit screen, use your cursor to move the red "pin" to the correct location on the map.

Q) What if I put in the wrong information or something about our Field Day operation changes?
A) The person who input the data will be able to edit the entry. Simply follow the "Add a Station" link and then select "Edit this entry" next to the one to correct.

Q). I tried to enter my club's information, but I was denied access. What do I do?
A) To help ensure that only one person is managing a club's entry, you must be logged onto the site with your ARRL member ID and password. If you are not an ARRL member, ask a member of the club who is to be responsible for adding the club's information to the site.

Q) I am looking for a Field Day operation to attend. How do I use the site?
A) Begin by typing in the city and state where you would like to search, something like "Brooklyn, New York" or "Anaheim, California." Depending on the geographic location, the map will take you to the area you list. If a Field Day operation has been registered for that general area, a red "pin" will show on the map. If you click on the red pin, the details for that site will appear in the box on the right hand side of the screen. If you don't see a red pin, scroll out a level to find one near the location you listed. It is also possible to drag the map to other areas by holding down the left button on your mouse and then moving the map around. You can also scroll in and out using the +/- buttons on the left side of the map. You may also zoom in and center by double-clicking with the mouse near the red pin.

Q) I found a red pin near where I will be. Where do I find the information on that site?
A) Each entry has a contact person with either an e-mail address or phone number who should be able to help you. It will appear on the right side of the box when you click on the red pin for an entry.

Q) I found an entry with wrong information. What should I do?
A) Please contact the person whose name appears as the contact person for that site. ARRL HQ does not have detailed information on the site.

Q) I want to check on our club's information. What should I do?
A) Type in the call sign that will be used and you will be taken to the location and club information.

ARRL Field Day will be held June 28-29. For more information, please visit the Field Day Web page <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>.

==> ARMY MARS OFFERS FREE FATHER'S DAY MESSAGES FOR SOLDIERS OVERSEAS

If Jeff Hammer, N9NIC, gets his way, he'll be an awfully busy soldier in the run-up to Father's Day on June 15. Captain Hammer, who represents the Army Military Affiliate Radio System (Army MARS) in Iraq, has appealed to the families of troops deployed overseas to "shower down with Father's Day messages" for their loved ones.

According to Army MARS Public Affairs Director Bill Sexton, AAA9PC/AAR1FP/N1IN, these free messages -- called MARSgrams -- date back to the Korean War when many thousands were delivered. The service continued during the Vietnam conflict and the first Gulf War, but had fallen off with the advent of e-mail and cell phones.

As the military's Middle East operations continue, Sexton said that the responses from that area indicate that the soldiers treasure the printed MARSgrams as mementos of their deployment: "It's not just a greeting. E-mail just isn't the same." MARSgram traffic spurted last Thanksgiving and Christmas, and Captain Hammer reports that he is "100 percent set up" to handle MARSgrams for Father's Day.

A National Guardsman from Indiana, Hammer arrived in Baghdad just this spring after previously serving in Afghanistan. In addition to volunteering for the MARS assignment, he is acting as station custodian for the Baghdad Amateur Radio Society. Hammer shipped in his own low-power ham station and began direct receipt of messages May 25; he has to shoehorn his volunteer Amateur Radio activity into his off-duty hours.

On Sunday, June 1, five soldiers including Hammer gathered for a meeting of the Baghdad ARS. Besides Hammer, three Amateur Radio operators are part of the group: Warrant Officer 2 Edward Mendez, N3BZA, who also operated the military MARS station ABM4USS in Korea for an Aviation Maintenance Company; Barry Coronado, KC8RTK, a Department of Defense employee, and Wayne Gale, W0GTO, a contractor.

The subject of Sunday's meeting was preparing for the hoped-for Father's Day surge. After a period of instruction on MARS procedure during which the participants wrote their own MARSgrams, Hammer took the members to his personal MARS station to attempt transmission despite difficult propagation conditions.

"We are only running 5 W on a Yaesu 817, but we wanted to give it a try if for no other reason than to see the equipment and demonstrate the procedure," Hammer messaged afterward. "God must have been smiling down on us because after only a few attempts we connected to AEN3QT in Qatar on 40 meters and got all the messages through without any problems."

Family members can easily send free MARSgrams overseas by entering their message on the MARSgram Web site <http://www.mymars.org/>. The Army MARS WinLink system will automatically relay the Iraq-bound messages to Hammer and his helpers; they will produce printouts and envelopes and hand them off to the Military Postal Service for final delivery. A MARSgram travels much faster than ordinary mail and can be delivered wherever American troops serve.

Army MARS is a Department of Defense-sponsored organization of more than 2700 Amateur Radio operators who provide emergency communications backup for government agencies in times of civil calamity; active-duty service personnel are welcome to join. Parallel MARS units serve the Air Force and Navy-Marine Corps, making the three-prong program more than 5000 members strong.

==> ARRL WELCOMES YAESU AS PRINCIPAL SPONSOR OF LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD WEB SITE

The ARRL welcomes Yaesu as the principal sponsor of the Logbook of The World (LoTW) <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/> Web site. LoTW is a repository

of log records submitted by users from around the world; when both participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit. With almost 21,000 amateurs registered on LoTW, more than 170 million QSO records have been entered into the five year old system, resulting in more than 13.4 million QSL records.

"Yaesu is absolutely delighted to be the Principal Sponsor supporting the extremely popular ARRL Logbook of The World Web site," said Yaesu's Executive Vice President for Amateur Radio Sales and Marketing Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV. "It provides Yaesu with an opportunity to serve the Amateur Radio community. We hope LoTW users will note our support and judge this action for what it is intended to be -- a 'Thank You' to the thousands of avid DXers and other active operators worldwide." In return for its sponsorship of the LoTW Web site, Yaesu will receive promotional consideration in QST and on the LoTW Web site.

Motschenbacher said he understands that hams have felt the "pain" of postal price increases around the world: "I am certain that a huge number of hams have had to give up their dream of having prestigious ARRL certificates and plaques on their wall simply because they could no longer afford the postage costs associated with exchanging QSL cards to verify contacts. Those QSO verifications are, however, absolutely essential for maintaining the integrity of ARRL's DXCC and other awards. LoTW, with its global acceptance, now allows nearly everyone interested in the excitement that goes along with chasing DX and awards to provide most if not all of the required all-important QSO verifications without burdensome postage expenses. LoTW provides a very valuable service for both the individual users and ARRL."

ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, thanked Yaesu for their ongoing support of the ARRL. "We look forward to working with them on the Logbook of The World Web site."

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "A sunny pleasure-dome with caves of ice" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: We had seven days of no sunspots this week, but a sunspot was emerging on Thursday, June 5. Helioseismic holography revealed a high latitude sunspot on the opposite side of the Sun. Until recently, we had no idea what was happening on the far side of the Sun, the side directed away from Earth. The NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center sees a constant and quiet geomagnetic planetary A index of 5 through June 14. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions for June 6, quiet to unsettled June 7-8 and quiet again June 9-12. Sunspot numbers for May 29-June 4 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.1, 67.1, 66.9, 66.6, 67.1, 66.3 and 65.2 with a mean of 66.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 9, 11, 8, 8, 5, 4 and 4 with a mean of 7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 7, 7, 8, 6, 4, 3 and 2, with a mean of 5.3. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's

Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, the NCCC Sprint Ladder and the Digital Pentathlon are both June 6, and the Wake-Up! QRP Sprint is on June 7. On June 7-8, look for the DigiFest, the SEANET Contest, the UKSMG Summer Contest, RSGB National Field Day - IARU Region 1 Field Day (CW) and the Alabama QSO Party. The SKCC Weekend Sprintathon is June 8. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint and the RSGB 80 Meters Club Championship (CW) are both June 11. Next weekend is the ARRL June VHF QSO Party on June 14-16. Look for the NCCC Sprint Ladder and the Digital Pentathlon on June 13. The Portugal Day Contest and Asia-Pacific Sprint (SSB) are June 14. Look for the ANARTS WW RTTY Contest, the GACW WWSA CW DX Contest, the REF DDFM 6 Meter Contest and the West Virginia QSO Party on June 14-15. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest and the SARL Youth for Amateur Radio Event are June 16. The RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (SSB) is June 19. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, June 22, 2008 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, July 4, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010), Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001), Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006), Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009), Analog Electronics (EC-012) and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* More Field Day T Shirts On the Way! During the last couple of weeks, a surge of demand for 2008 ARRL Field Day T shirts had exhausted the supply much earlier than previous years. "It's clear that this year's Field Day logo and slogan -- Ride the Waves -- is a big hit!" said ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "We want to assure

our valued members and clubs that more shirts are on the way. Until today, we weren't certain we could restock the shirts in time for delivery before Field Day. But our manufacturer has promised to re-supply the shirts as early as next week." ARRL Field Day is June 28-29. To order Field Day T shirts, participation pins and other items, as well as information on this year's Field Day, including the Field Day Locator Service, please go to the ARRL Field Day Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/>. The ARRL regrets any inconvenience with order delays. Inderbitzen added, "Since February, we've encouraged clubs to place their orders early. But this good news means there's still time to Ride the Waves!"

* Morse Code Returning to MARS Toolbox: After more than a dozen years, Morse code will soon be returning to Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) nets. In the mid-1990s, the Department of Defense (DoD) did away with CW operation across the board -- including MARS nets -- as automatic systems such as the Internet, SATCOM, cell phones and e-mail became available and the payroll cost of manual operators escalated. Army MARS launched a limited test of CW nets in four Midwestern states in late 2007. During a DoD interoperability test this past March, a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) station used it to communicate with Fort Huachuca. In announcing the return of CW to MARS nets, Navy-Marine Corps MARS Chief Bo Lindfors cited an emergency where CW was sorely missed: "I remember the [1998] Northeast Ice Storm shortly after I became [Navy-Marine Corps MARS] Chief and the unnecessarily lengthy effort by all of southern New England to receive one voice EEI [Essential Elements of Information Report] from a northern New England member whose antenna was covered in ice and lying on the ground. It took more than an hour when CW could have handled it in a few minutes. As more and more of our members enter MARS with no Morse code experience, I am afraid that we will soon lose that skill set if we don't do something." Army MARS Chief Carter said the imminent return of CW will not replace modes such as WinLink, Pactor 3 and MT63. "Our CW nets will focus on maintenance of skills and will necessarily be limited by the shortage of available frequencies and trained members," he said. "But if members want to add CW to their skills, the nets will be available for training."

* Hein Hvatum, N4FWA (SK): Hein Hvatum, N4FWA, who in the 1970s and '80s supervised construction of one of the world's most powerful radio observatories, died of cancer May 22 at his home in Charlottesville, Virginia. He was 85. In 1974, Hvatum assumed responsibility for construction of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory's Very Large Array (VLA), an arrangement of radio telescopes near Socorro, New Mexico. The VLA has made key observations of black holes and protoplanetary disks around young stars, discovered magnetic filaments and traced complex gas motions at the Milky Way's center, probed the Universe's cosmological parameters, and provided new knowledge about the physical mechanisms that produce radio emission. The observatory is perhaps best known to the general public for its appearance in the 1997 movie "Contact" with Jodie Foster; it has also appeared in Carl Sagan's

documentary "Cosmos," in the movie "Independence Day," in a Bon Jovi music video and on the cover of a Dire Straits album. The VLA was completed in 1982. Hvatum, an ARRL member since 1981, was responsible for computing, antenna design and electronics for the $78 million project, the largest the National Science Foundation had funded at the time. Hvatum became acting director at NRAO in 1984 and project manager for the Very Long Baseline Array the next year. He retired in 1987. Hvatum, as a member of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, organized a number of community emergency preparedness drills. He was active with both national and international groups seeking to protect radio frequencies for radio astronomy. Calling Hvatum a "friend, mentor and Elmer," the Albemarle ARC said Hvatum will be missed "by everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him and calling him a friend." According to the Albemarle ARC Web site, a memorial service for Hvatum is planned for 2 PM on June 27 at NRAO Headquarters. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Hospice of the Piedmont or to the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society.

* Be Careful on 10 Meters: With recent band openings beginning on 10 meters, ARRL has received word that a number of US amateurs have been heard using SSB below 28.300. "We urge everyone to remember that 28.000 to 28.300 MHz is reserved for RTTY and data, including CW," said ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG. "Phone is permitted from 28.300 to 28.500 for Novice and Technician class licensees with a maximum power of 200 W. Phone and image are allowed from 28.300 up to 29.700 for General, Advanced and Extra class license holders." Skolaut, who manages the Official Observer and Intruder Watch programs, said that people have called and e-mailed ARRL HQ inquiring about hearing IDs repeated in code on various 10 meter frequencies. "What they are hearing are beacons," Skolaut said; he suggests checking out some Web sites for more information on beacons you might hear on 10 meters <http://www.dxzone.com/cgi-bin/dir/jump2.cgi?ID=1114> and other bands <http://www.ncdxf.org/beacons.html>.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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573. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-06 19:27:48 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g2c0vr$tu8$1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2844

In article <JLOdnXkaWKCWodTVnZ2dnUVZ_s3inZ2d@deskmedia.com>,
Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
>Better
>to have two or three active repeaters in a metro area than a dozen dead
>ones.

Until there is an emergency and those two or three repeaters aren't
sufficient to support the emergency services operations going on.

574. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-06 19:29:12 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g2c22i$23a$1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2845

In article <Kuudnbkuasz899XVnZ2dnUVZ_rfinZ2d@earthlink.com>,
K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net> wrote:
>Then go to each QRG

Please speak english.

>in sequence and transmit "K0HB LISTENING". Nobody home.

When I hear someone say "listening", I think, "that's nice, they're
listening". I'm listening, too. If I don't know them or have some reason
to talk to them, I don't call them.

>The NFCC needs to quit being the lapdog of the repeater owners, and do some
>spectrum management housecleaning.

So now it is also the responsibility of the repeater owner to protect
his investment in equipment by seeking people to use his repeater all
the time? Otherwise, it will be "housecleaned" out from under him?

Do we have enough people to use all the possible repeaters all the
time? If not, then "housecleaning" to open spectrum up for other people
to install repeaters will just result in more empty repeaters. If you say
you just want to houseclean out all the unused repeaters and replace them
with nothing, what value is the housecleaning? You'll remove valuable
resources and replace them with nothing. The only "gain" (in the former
case) will be that new people who want the status of owning a repeater
will own repeaters that are empty. No gain at all in the latter.

I'll point out the opposite opinion: a repeater that is filled with
chit-chat all the time is unlistenable. It just drones on and on and
becomes background noise. Couple that with people who think they need
to be cute and entertaining on the air and it's no longer just noise,
it's painful. We have a "lunch bunch" on a local system every day. The
net control seems to think a sing-song delivery and "creative phonetics"
for everyone checking in is mandatory. I know some people like it. I
find it difficult to understand what he's saying most of the time. Is
he saying something important, or is he just spouting words with the
right first letters for the callsign he just heard? I turn it off.

575. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-06 19:29:37 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <6at72cF37fqd3U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2846

In news:g2aquh$m63$1@news.stanford.edu,
Alan <nospam@w6yx.stanford.edu> typed, for some strange, unexplained
reason:

[snip]

: Well, "listening" generally is taken by an increasing number of
: folks as meaning you are listening, not that you are soliciting a call.
: If I hear it, and I also have some reason to talk to you, I may call.
: Of course, if I had something to call you about, the cellphone in my
: pocket probably already took care of that.
:
: If you want to talk to someone, call them, or call cq.

Now that's an interesting thought. When I was studying for my licence back
in 1982 we were told quite categorically that one didn't "call CQ" on
repeaters, but that we should announce that we were "listening through"
the repeater.

Even now, someone calling CQ via a repeater makes me wince ever so
slightly..!

73 Ivor G6URP

576. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-06 21:09:37 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <-LSdnUEglurJAtTVnZ2dnUVZ_siknZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2847

"Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
news:g2bd2kriu1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu...

>
> If we want to generate traffic on the repeaters, the simplest way is to
> generate some traffic on them. Get a friend and talk on the thing. Next thing
> you know, others will join you. If enough places do that, there will be plenty
> of traffic.
>

I didn't make my point very well. We don't need to "generate traffic", we simply need to clean out the dead "legacy" assignments and free up room for things like DStar and other emerging technologies.

I just had a look at our local (Minneapolis/St Paul) pair assignments. In the 2M and 75CM bands there are 108 repeater pairs assigned. You read right --- ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHT! Yet I can scan both bands for hours on end and hear nothing.

Since this thread is about the "5th Pillar" of ARRL emphasis, "technology", perhaps ARRK and NFCC could jointly sponsor a Skimmer-like technology initiative which would put up a broadband receiver on a local highrise (we're in flatland country out here) and count squelch-tails per QRG for three months. Then approach the low 10% and suggest they might reconsider their needs. Especially those clubs who sponsor multiple quiet repeaters all covering an identical footprint.

73, de Hans, K0HB

577. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-06 21:42:22 UTC
From: "David G. Nagel" <nagel.david@sbcglobal.net>
Message-ID: <y2i2k.5180$xZ.46@nlpi070.nbdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2848

Ivor Jones wrote:
> In news:g2aquh$m63$1@news.stanford.edu,
> Alan <nospam@w6yx.stanford.edu> typed, for some strange, unexplained
> reason:
>
> [snip]
>
> : Well, "listening" generally is taken by an increasing number of
> : folks as meaning you are listening, not that you are soliciting a call.
> : If I hear it, and I also have some reason to talk to you, I may call.
> : Of course, if I had something to call you about, the cellphone in my
> : pocket probably already took care of that.
> :
> : If you want to talk to someone, call them, or call cq.
>
> Now that's an interesting thought. When I was studying for my licence back
> in 1982 we were told quite categorically that one didn't "call CQ" on
> repeaters, but that we should announce that we were "listening through"
> the repeater.
>
> Even now, someone calling CQ via a repeater makes me wince ever so
> slightly..!
>
>
> 73 Ivor G6URP
>

Ivor;

Amazing, that is what I was taught back in the mid 70's. Times they are
a changing....

Dave WD9BDZ

578. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-07 03:02:43 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <vsKdnUEgluqLdNTVnZ2dnUVZ_j2dnZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2849

"Steve Bonine" wrote

> It's a chicken and egg problem. I know that I'm contributing to the problem; my 2-meter equipment consists of an HT, and I've considered that I need to buy a "real" 2-meter rig and put up an antenna . . . but it's difficult for me to justify the time and expense to do so when there's no activity.

There used to be so much activity around here in Tucson a decade or more ago, and I was active in it, but I suppose everyone migrated to the internet... ? I thought about installing my 2m radio in my car so that I have something to occupy part of my cross-country drive next year (I hope), but maybe it's not worth it. If I knew there were folks along the way regularly monitoring .52, I'd do it. If repeaters didn't have all these different tone accesses, I'd do it. I'm not going to spend each night of the trip programming the radio to accommodate what repeaters I may encounter for any given upcoming 500 mile stretch.

Howard

579. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-07 03:04:55 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g2caks$ts6$1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2850

In article <-LSdnUEglurJAtTVnZ2dnUVZ_siknZ2d@earthlink.com>,
K�HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net> wrote:
>I didn't make my point very well. We don't need to "generate traffic", we
>simply need to clean out the dead "legacy" assignments and free up room for
>things like DStar and other emerging technologies.

If you know a "dead" frequency pair, what interference do you imagine you
will create by using it for Dstar or other emerging technology? If you
aren't creating interference for a coordinated repeater, what prevents
you from using that pair?

>which would put up a broadband receiver on a local highrise (we're in flatland
>country out here) and count squelch-tails per QRG for three months.

I'm not sure how you count "squelch tails", but that's such a simple
system to game that it would mean nothing. If I wanted my pair kept
"active", I'd simply make a dozen calls a day on the output frequency. (Is
THAT what this QRG thing you keep talking about is? I don't speak CW
on Usenet.) Heck, I'd just set up an APRS beacon on the output. They have
squelch tails too.

>Then
>approach the low 10% and suggest they might reconsider their needs. Especially
>those clubs who sponsor multiple quiet repeaters all covering an identical
>footprint.

And then the stuff hits the fan and the groups that were going to support
the local hospital and power company and red cross and cop shop and road
department find themselves all trying to use the one or two repeaters
you'd like them to be limited to, while the DStar systems sit silent
because nobody could afford the radios to use them.

580. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-07 03:05:49 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <pbSdnQtyUY7ydtTVnZ2dnUVZ_vSdnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2751

Mark Kramer wrote:
> Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
>> Better
>> to have two or three active repeaters in a metro area than a dozen dead
>> ones.
>
> Until there is an emergency and those two or three repeaters aren't
> sufficient to support the emergency services operations going on.

If there are a dozen repeaters with zero activity, most will go dead in any disaster because it takes real human interest and work to provide emergency power. I'd rather have two or three solid repeaters than a dozen where the maintenance is hit-and-miss and there's no one who really cares whether they are up or not.

73, Steve KB9X

581. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-07 03:06:24 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <pbSdnQpyUY7vdtTVnZ2dnUVZ_vSdnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2752

Mark Kramer wrote:

> So now it is also the responsibility of the repeater owner to protect
> his investment in equipment by seeking people to use his repeater all
> the time? Otherwise, it will be "housecleaned" out from under him?

Kï¿½HB wrote:

> I just had a look at our local (Minneapolis/St Paul) pair
assignments. > In the 2M and 75CM bands there are 108 repeater pairs
assigned.

There must be a compromise between these two opinions. There cannot be
108 active repeaters in one urban area. Frequency coordinators need a
way to reassign pairs that really are no longer being used.

73, Steve KB9X

582. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-07 03:53:00 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <4umdncZns9i9n9fVnZ2dnUVZ_uOdnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2753

"Mark Kramer" <c28f62@TheWorld.com> wrote in message
news:g2caks$ts6$1@vulture.killfile.org...

>
> And then the stuff hits the fan and the groups that were going to support
> the local hospital and power company and red cross and cop shop and road
> department find themselves all trying to use the one or two repeaters
> you'd like them to be limited to, while the DStar systems sit silent
> because nobody could afford the radios to use them.
>

Hi again Mark,

Certainly there are places where there or only "one or two repeaters", but my hypothetical example was built from my own local area where there are 108 pairs assigned. If my PBI were implemented and the Repeater Council could harvest the arbitrary 10% I mentioned, then there'd still be 97 legacy machines to choose from, and 11 pairs opened for emerging technologies.

QSL?

73, de Hans, K0HB

583. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-07 20:28:52 UTC
From: Bryan <bryan.swadenerNOSPAM@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <HrydnSVZIf7uctfVnZ2dnUVZ_oWdnZ2d@giganews.com>
Source record: 2754

Howard Lester wrote:
> There used to be so much activity around here in Tucson a decade or more
> ago, and I was active in it, but I suppose everyone migrated to the
> internet... ? I thought about installing my 2m radio in my car so that I
> have something to occupy part of my cross-country drive next year (I
hope),
> but maybe it's not worth it. If I knew there were folks along the way
> regularly monitoring .52, I'd do it. If repeaters didn't have all these
> different tone accesses, I'd do it. I'm not going to spend each night of
the
> trip programming the radio to accommodate what repeaters I may encounter
for
> any given upcoming 500 mile stretch.
>
> Howard

Hence, HF. You might hear more local activity on 10m. 80 or 40m during daylight hours should also be good for local/regional activity.
Bryan WA7PRC

584. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-07 21:01:10 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <7MydnXdF8tWYatfVnZ2dnUVZ_vadnZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2755

"Bryan"

> Hence, HF. You might hear more local activity on 10m. 80 or 40m during
> daylight hours should also be good for local/regional activity.
> Bryan WA7PRC

Mr. Bryan,

I have neither the room in my car for my IC-735, nor the willingness to put up a 4BTV on my car's plastic bumper. (You'll find them in the back by the shipping area.)

;-)

585. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-07 23:27:00 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <XeydnRjIdvhZidbVnZ2dnUVZ_rTinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2756

"Howard Lester" <heylester@dakotacom.net> wrote in message
news:vsKdnUEgluqLdNTVnZ2dnUVZ_j2dnZ2d@posted.dakotacomip...

> I thought about installing my 2m radio in my car so that I have something to
> occupy part of my cross-country drive next year (I hope), but maybe it's not
> worth it. If I knew there were folks along the way regularly monitoring .52,
> I'd do it.

Fugetaboutit!

K0CKB and I travel many thousands of miles a year in a coach with "K0HB & K0CKB
monitoring 146.52" prominently displayed on the back.

We also frequently announce our presence on .52. In the past 5 years we've had
precisely 2 QSO's on .52 as a result.

Don't bother.

73, de Hans, K0HB

586. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-08 00:12:34 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <tKidnU3Yfft-vtbVnZ2dnUVZ_v_inZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2757

"K�HB" wrote

> K0CKB and I travel many thousands of miles a year in a coach with "K0HB &
> K0CKB monitoring 146.52" prominently displayed on the back.
>
> We also frequently announce our presence on .52. In the past 5 years
> we've had precisely 2 QSO's on .52 as a result.
>
> Don't bother.

Thanks, Hans. That'll save me from making a bunch of unnecessary holes in my nice car.... and the price of a fancy new repeater directory. *sigh* I'll wait until I get to 1-land and get to know my new neighbors.

N7SO

587. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-08 02:04:35 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <hl8m44500ga09jktlsvbcfmg6j1bng18gt@4ax.com>
Source record: 2758

On Fri, 6 Jun 2008 23:04:55 EDT, c28f62@TheWorld.com (Mark Kramer)
wrote:

>And then the stuff hits the fan and the groups that were going to support
>the local hospital and power company and red cross and cop shop and road
>department find themselves all trying to use the one or two repeaters
>you'd like them to be limited to, while the DStar systems sit silent
>because nobody could afford the radios to use them.

One of the several radio clubs which I am a member of maintains a
rather extensive UHF repeater system which usually sits silent except
for about a half-dozen of us during commute hours or when we are doing
some exercise like Field Day. If this was to "go away" (fat chance of
that, knowing the reality of the situation and the folks involved) the
local medical center where I am the Disaster Communications Team
co-manager would be without required ham radio backup. We went to
that arrangement when we found out in a real disaster last December
that the local ARES groups could not accommodate the type of traffic
that we needed because of their own overloads.

Consider the trap that the FCC's first-generation automated Spectrum
Management System fell into some 30+ years ago. It sat on Fire Radio
Service frequencies and reported no activity. Of course not - if
there are no fires there is no radio traffic, and the vast majority of
fire radio activity is with 5-watt on-scene HTs. Similarly, it
reported almost no Railroad Radio Service traffic in New York City -
where the monitoring was done during daytime and the bulk of freight
movements are at night. And to cap it off, it reported continuous
occupancy of a lot of channels in Chicago 24/7, until one of the old
hands at the Field Office listened and found out that it was a
defective electrical device throwing RFI into the air.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

588. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-08 02:05:01 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <2k9m445hoot1jgl8kjr4092sffagkbrc37@4ax.com>
Source record: 2759

On Fri, 6 Jun 2008 23:05:49 EDT, Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:

>If there are a dozen repeaters with zero activity, most will go dead in
>any disaster because it takes real human interest and work to provide
>emergency power. I'd rather have two or three solid repeaters than a
>dozen where the maintenance is hit-and-miss and there's no one who
>really cares whether they are up or not.

You assume that those repeaters do not have backup power. I found that this was not the case in the ham communities of San Francisco and Portland (OR) areas, the two places that I have had extensive experience with VHF/UHF repeaters. Backup power is relatively easy to get at those sites where ham and commercial facilities are co-located, which are most of the places where the ham repeaters are.

Similarly, you assume that because a repeater is silent that "the maintenance is hit-and-miss and there's no one who really cares whether they are up or not". Again, my experience does not bear this out. Most of the repeaters that are reported "silent" are because they are kept alive by a small group of people whose activity is not always observed by the casual ham. I'm the trustee of two club repeaters maintained by one of the other members who is a 2-way radio tech. Our 2 meter machine is used all the time by ham-licensed truckers driving up and down the Interstate. The other is used only by the few club members who have the 223 MHz band in their radios. The casual listener would consider that one "unused", which is not the case.

Similarly, during the many hours each day that I spend in my Comm Center at home - a cross between a home office, a library, and a ham shack - I maintain a speaker watch on the UHF repeater that my other local club uses for commute-hour rag chews and is available for use for hospital disaster communications. Except for the commute hours, it is "silent" but I'm there to answer any calls and to join in the rag chews. That seems to be the norm for the "silent" repeaters in this "no pairs available" area. We do have several where there's pretty frequent use, though.

Repeater-based ham radio is alive and well in Webfoot Country.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

589. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-08 02:05:17 UTC
From: "David G. Nagel" <nagel.david@sbcglobal.net>
Message-ID: <uqG2k.4589$uE5.2549@flpi144.ffdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2760

Kï¿½HB wrote:
> "Howard Lester" <heylester@dakotacom.net> wrote in message
> news:vsKdnUEgluqLdNTVnZ2dnUVZ_j2dnZ2d@posted.dakotacomip...
>
>> I thought about installing my 2m radio in my car so that I have something to
>> occupy part of my cross-country drive next year (I hope), but maybe it's not
>> worth it. If I knew there were folks along the way regularly monitoring .52,
>> I'd do it.
>
> Fugetaboutit!
>
> K0CKB and I travel many thousands of miles a year in a coach with "K0HB & K0CKB
> monitoring 146.52" prominently displayed on the back.
>
> We also frequently announce our presence on .52. In the past 5 years we've had
> precisely 2 QSO's on .52 as a result.
>
> Don't bother.
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB
>
>
>
The last time I tried to have a QSO on .52 the other guy didn't have a
radio in his car. Hard to communicate that way.

Dave WD9BDZ

590. Re: Digital broadcaster on 76 m ?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-08 07:57:37 UTC
From: Tom <holden_family@sympatico.ca>
Message-ID: <6a5ff1e6-e1bc-40ea-bcca-85d246b6a620@x41g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2761

On May 30, 7:24 pm, dpl...@radagast.org (Dave Platt) wrote:
> In article <484051d2$0$15189$607ed...@cv.net>,
>
> Rick <rickn...@hotmail.com> wrote:
> >Every evening on 3865 here in the northeast US there is what I believe to
be
> >a digital broadcaster.
> >The "noise" is a rasping sound, and it goes on all evening long, steady.
> >Quite strong.
>
> >I know nothing about digital reception. Is there a way to decode this
> >signal, by using my PC sound card and some software?
>
> Try:
> http://n1su.com/windrm/ (ham-oriented
)
> http://drm.sourceforge.net/ (broadcast-orient
ed)
>
> The wide-bandwidth (broadcast-oriented) DRM systems may require that
> you have access to a low-frequency-IF version of the signal, or tap
> out a 455 kHz IF and mix it down to around 10-15 kHz.
>
Did you mean 3965kHz? There is no scheduled DRM transmission on
3865kHz. On 3965, Radio France has a 1kW DRM transmission from
Issoudun targetting France on all day except 1800-1900 and 2000-2200
UTC. I'm amazed that you find it so strong across the Atlantic.

Tom

591. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-08 09:34:14 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <484b73a2$0$12971$4c368faf@roadrunner.com>
Source record: 2762

Kï¿½HB wrote:
> K0CKB and I travel many thousands of miles a year in a coach with "K0HB & K0CKB
> monitoring 146.52" prominently displayed on the back.
>
> We also frequently announce our presence on .52. In the past 5 years we've had
> precisely 2 QSO's on .52 as a result.

Hans, reminds me of a story about a person I knew complaining
that he called several times and I didn't answer (the cell
phone.) I just looked at him and said, "I know. That's why I
have caller ID."

Do I need to put a smiley face here so every ones I'm just
teasing Hans a teensie bit?

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

592. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-08 15:20:41 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <aOmdnTBYEMB5aNbVnZ2dnUVZ_uednZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2763

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Fri, 6 Jun 2008 23:05:49 EDT, Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
>
>> If there are a dozen repeaters with zero activity, most will go dead in
>> any disaster because it takes real human interest and work to provide
>> emergency power. I'd rather have two or three solid repeaters than a
>> dozen where the maintenance is hit-and-miss and there's no one who
>> really cares whether they are up or not.
>
> You assume that those repeaters do not have backup power. I found
> that this was not the case in the ham communities of San Francisco and
> Portland (OR) areas, the two places that I have had extensive
> experience with VHF/UHF repeaters. Backup power is relatively easy to
> get at those sites where ham and commercial facilities are co-located,
> which are most of the places where the ham repeaters are.

I am assuming that a repeater with ZERO activity is a repeater with no one who cares about it. In one of your previous posts you mentioned a repeater in your area which is "only" used during commute times and FD; this is not zero activity and indicates that there is a core group of people who care about the repeater.

The kind of repeater I'm talking about is one that might have been quite active a decade ago, but has been running on inertia for several years. Maybe it still responds to a signal on the input frequency, but the chance of it having usable backup power is extremely low. Another issue is potential damage during the disaster; if there is not a group of people who use the repeater, no one will be there to make the perhaps-trivial repairs necessary to get it back on the air.

> Similarly, you assume that because a repeater is silent that "the
> maintenance is hit-and-miss and there's no one who really cares
> whether they are up or not". Again, my experience does not bear this
> out. Most of the repeaters that are reported "silent" are because
> they are kept alive by a small group of people whose activity is not
> always observed by the casual ham. I'm the trustee of two club
> repeaters maintained by one of the other members who is a 2-way radio
> tech. Our 2 meter machine is used all the time by ham-licensed
> truckers driving up and down the Interstate. The other is used only
> by the few club members who have the 223 MHz band in their radios. The
> casual listener would consider that one "unused", which is not the
> case.

The key word in your sentence is "used". "Zero activity" is incompatible with "used".

I said, "I'd rather have two or three solid repeaters than a dozen where the maintenance is hit-and-miss and there's no one who really cares whether they are up or not." I did not imply that if a repeater is silent that the maintenance is hit-and-miss. What I said is that if there is not a group of people who care about the repeater, it's likely to be useless in a disaster, and I stand by that statement.

> Similarly, during the many hours each day that I spend in my Comm
> Center at home - a cross between a home office, a library, and a ham
> shack - I maintain a speaker watch on the UHF repeater that my other
> local club uses for commute-hour rag chews and is available for use
> for hospital disaster communications. Except for the commute hours,
> it is "silent" but I'm there to answer any calls and to join in the
> rag chews. That seems to be the norm for the "silent" repeaters in
> this "no pairs available" area. We do have several where there's
> pretty frequent use, though.

Any repeater that has a regular group that uses it during commute does not fall under the category of "zero activity", and obviously there is a group of people who care about it.

> Repeater-based ham radio is alive and well in Webfoot Country.

Good. I think that perhaps you misinterpreted my initial comment to be that a repeater needs to have constant activity to be viable, and that's not what I was trying to say. I do stand by my initial statement that, given the choice of a dozen zero-use repeaters or a couple of busy ones, I'll take the lower number of busy ones because they will be more likely to survive a disaster.

And again let me point out the difference between urban and rural environments. The simple fact that you have a higher population density almost guarantees that you have more people using the repeater(s). Of course, if you have many repeaters, the person-per-repeater number may be as low as ours.

Our situation here in rural Minnesota is rather marginal. We do have a local club with a core group of people who care enough about the repeater to keep it going. On the other hand, our UHF repeater has been down for almost a year now, and somehow the group has not been able to get it back on the air, primarily because one person has promised to provide a new site for the repeater and has not followed through on that commitment.

We had an actual disaster a few months ago, not in this immediate area but in rural Minnesota. There was a need for ham radio communications because the incident was "down in a hole" where cellphones wouldn't work. (Floods often happen in river valleys.) The response was not what it should have been. Part of this is due to the low number of hams, and part is due to the lack of organization.

73, Steve KB9X

593. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-08 18:55:04 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net>
Message-ID: <Xns9AB7788E1CB05mcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136>
Source record: 2764

"K HB" <groupk0hb@earthlink.net> wrote in
news:-LSdnUEglurJAtTVnZ2dnUVZ_siknZ2d@earthlink.com:

```
>
> "Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
> news:g2bd2k$riu$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu...
>
>>
>> If we want to generate traffic on the repeaters, the simplest way is
>> to generate some traffic on them. Get a friend and talk on the thing.
>> Next thing you know, others will join you. If enough places do that,
>> there will be plenty of traffic.
>>
>
> I didn't make my point very well. We don't need to "generate
> traffic", we simply need to clean out the dead "legacy" assignments
> and free up room for things like DStar and other emerging
> technologies.
>
> I just had a look at our local (Minneapolis/St Paul) pair assignments.
> In the 2M and 75CM bands there are 108 repeater pairs assigned. You
> read right --- ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHT! Yet I can scan both bands for
> hours on end and hear nothing.

I'm not sure that the idea of getting rid of analog repeaters so that D-
Star repeaters can be given those frequencies is really going to do
much. If your area has 108 repeater pairs coordinated, and no activity,
I suspect that a D-Star repeater will be likewise not have much
activity. At this time you would probably just have one more repeater
that isn't used.

Your area's problem is lack of interest, not too many repeaters. My
point is if Hams start using the repeaters, they might bootstrap
interest.

After interest is generated, then the possible next conversation might
be "Hey, we have that old repeater on the south side of town, maybe a
group of us can get together and go digital....

- 73 de Mike N3LI -
```

594. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-08 20:20:47 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <MvCdnfC_5oG5q9HVnZ2dnUVZ_g-dnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2765

"Mike Coslo" <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net> wrote in message
news:Xns9AB7788E1CB05mcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136...

> I'm not sure that the idea of getting rid of analog repeaters so that D-
> Star repeaters can be given those frequencies is really going to do
> much. If your area has 108 repeater pairs coordinated, and no activity,
> I suspect that a D-Star repeater will be likewise not have much
> activity. At this time you would probably just have one more repeater
> that isn't used.
>
> Your area's problem is lack of interest, not too many repeaters. My
> point is if Hams start using the repeaters, they might bootstrap
> interest.
>
> After interest is generated, then the possible next conversation might
> be "Hey, we have that old repeater on the south side of town, maybe a
> group of us can get together and go digital....
>

Condensing that, could we say "You guys can't have a pair for your newfangled
technology until you busy up all the silent analog repeaters." ?

73, de Hans, K0HB
Still listening.

595. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-09 19:02:27 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g2jkdp$uu2$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2766

Kï¿½HB wrote:

> Condensing that, could we say "You guys can't have a pair for your newfangled
> technology until you busy up all the silent analog repeaters." ?

Respectfully no. my lack of communication skills is showing sorely.

What I am saying is that if the sum total of communications is Zero, no
one will use a new repeater, D-Star or analog.

Further, I am saying that if no one is interested, who among the
disinterested is going to put up that repeater?

Finally, if interest is generated, perhaps some of the interested will
remove that unused analog repeater, and put a digital one in it's place.

Or the condensed version:

An unused digital repeater sounds the same as an unused analog one. ;^)

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

596. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-09 19:02:54 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g2jrac$o3$1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2767

In article <aOmdnTBYEMB5aNbVnZ2dnUVZ_uednZ2d@deskmedia.com>,
Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
>I am assuming that a repeater with ZERO activity is a repeater with no
>one who cares about it.

Your assumption is just that, an assumption.

>> Similarly, you assume that because a repeater is silent that "the
>> maintenance is hit-and-miss and there's no one who really cares
>> whether they are up or not". Again, my experience does not bear this
>> out.

Ditto.

>The key word in your sentence is "used". "Zero activity" is
>incompatible with "used".

Unless you monitor a frequency 24/7/365, it is impossible to claim
"zero use". When most people say "zero use", they mean "I never hear
anything on it". There is a BIG difference.

>I did not imply that if a repeater is
>silent that the maintenance is hit-and-miss.

"I am assuming that a repeater with ZERO activity is a repeater with
no one who cares about it." Define the difference between "silent" and
"zero activity".

>What I said is that if
>there is not a group of people who care about the repeater, it's likely
>to be useless in a disaster, and I stand by that statement.

597. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-09 19:03:30 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g2jrk7$1dj$1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2768

In article <4umdncZns9i9n9fVnZ2dnUVZ_uOdnZ2d@earthlink.com>,
K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net> wrote:
>
>"Mark Kramer" <c28f62@TheWorld.com> wrote in message
>news:g2caks$ts6$1@vulture.killfile.org...
>> And then the stuff hits the fan and the groups that were going to support
>> the local hospital and power company and red cross and cop shop and road
>> department find themselves all trying to use the one or two repeaters
>> you'd like them to be limited to, while the DStar systems sit silent
>> because nobody could afford the radios to use them.
>
>Hi again Mark,
>
>Certainly there are places where there or only "one or two repeaters",

I wasn't talking about a place where there are only one or two repeaters.
I was talking about a place where there are a large number of repeaters,
but only one or two have a lot of activity. If you want to got through
and shut down the "inactive" repeaters so you can harvest the assigned
pairs, then you will wind up with not enough infrastructure when it is
really needed.

>If my PBI were implemented and the Repeater Council could
>harvest the
>arbitrary 10% I mentioned, then there'd still be 97 legacy machines to choose
>from, and 11 pairs opened for emerging technologies.

If there are 10% of those pairs truly unused, there doesn't need to be any
harvesting. Just use them. Who will you be interfering with?

>QSL?

I verify this conversation took place.

598. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-09 19:03:47 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g2jror$1ns$1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2769

In article <MvCdnfC_5oG5q9HVnZ2dnUVZ_g-dnZ2d@earthlink.com>,
K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net> wrote:
>Condensing that, could we say "You guys can't have a pair for your newfangled
>technology until you busy up all the silent analog repeaters." ?

No, we could say "who are you interfering with if you put your newfangled technology on a pair where there is no repeater active?"

How did we ever have repeaters before coordinating agencies were formed?

599. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-09 19:04:06 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g2jrrg$1tf$1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2770

In article <pbSdnQpyUY7vdtTVnZ2dnUVZ_vSdnZ2d@deskmedia.com>,
Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
>There must be a compromise between these two opinions. There cannot be
>108 active repeaters in one urban area. Frequency coordinators need a
>way to reassign pairs that really are no longer being used.

Ummm, they already have it. If the pair really is unused, who is
going to tell you to stop using it?

600. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-09 21:51:53 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <VfOdnc0nKN_1FNDVnZ2dnUVZ_vKdnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2771

"Mark Kramer" <c28f62@TheWorld.com> wrote in message
news:g2jror$1ns$1@vulture.killfile.org...

>
> No, we could say "who are you interfering with if you put your newfangled
> technology on a pair where there is no repeater active?"
>

The tone of this (and other) responses seems to suggest "just stroke up on a convenient pair, and wait to see if the coordinated person/club complains".

If I lived in Resume Speed, Montana that might work, at least for awhile, if I had the bad manners and grapes to try. But if you commandeer a pair in an already wait-listed/saturated environment, you can kiss off EVER getting a coordinated pair (and for good reason).

73, de Hans, K0HB

601. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-09 22:51:04 UTC
From: Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz>
Message-ID: <xxx-CF9977.18441509062008@news.verizon.net>
Source record: 2772

c28f62@TheWorld.com (Mark Kramer) wrote:

> [...]
> Unless you monitor a frequency 24/7/365, it is impossible to claim
> "zero use". When most people say "zero use", they mean "I never hear
> anything on it". There is a BIG difference.
> [...]

It would be far easier to connect a voice-activated tape recorder
(like a Sony TCM-37V recording walkman) to a scanner that was set to
scan just the frequencies that are suspected of being dead. Then, you
could document your results when claiming that the frequencies should be
reassigned.

--
Klystron

602. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-10 02:00:11 UTC
From: Bryan <bryan.swadenerNOSPAM@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <e9GdnUFA75mKfdDVnZ2dnUVZ_t3inZ2d@giganews.com>
Source record: 2773

Howard Lester wrote:
> "Bryan"
>
> > Hence, HF. You might hear more local activity on 10m. 80 or 40m during
> > daylight hours should also be good for local/regional activity.
> > Bryan WA7PRC
>
> Mr. Bryan,
>
> I have neither the room in my car for my IC-735, nor the willingness to
put
> up a 4BTV on my car's plastic bumper. (You'll find them in the back by the
> shipping area.)
>
> ;-)

Ja sure you betcha. B'sides, you'd have to plan your route to avoid
overpasses! <g>
Note to others: Howard and I used to "work" together back "when dirt was
new".
Bryan ;-)

603. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-10 03:18:29 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g2kftr$m47$1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2774

In article <VfOdnc0nKN_1FNDVnZ2dnUVZ_vKdnZ2d@earthlink.com>,
K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net> wrote:
>"Mark Kramer" <c28f62@TheWorld.com> wrote in message
>news:g2jror$1ns$1@vulture.killfile.org...
>> No, we could say "who are you interfering with if you put your newfangled
>> technology on a pair where there is no repeater active?"
>
>The tone of this (and other) responses seems to suggest "just stroke up on a
>convenient pair, and wait to see if the coordinated person/club complains".

No, that is not what was said at all. That is not the tone of what was
said, nor was it said directly.

If you know a pair where there is no active repeater, you are not just
"stok[ing] up on a convenient pair", you've picked the pair with an
explicit reason. If a coordinated user complains that you are interfering
with a repeater that does not exist, you are free to laugh at him. Tell
me, just how DO you interfere with a non-existant system? Do you think
the FCC is going to listen to him?

>If I lived in Resume Speed, Montana that might work, at least for awhile, if I
>had the bad manners and grapes to try.

You think it is bad manners to use a frequency that is not being used? You
only join conversations already in progress? You never make a call on
an unused frequency?

>But if you commandeer a pair in an
>already wait-listed/saturated environment,

The the pair is wait-listed and saturated, then it isn't unused, now is it?

604. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-10 06:58:12 UTC
From: "David G. Nagel" <nagel.david@sbcglobal.net>
Message-ID: <mXm3k.7227$xZ.4361@nlpi070.nbdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2775

Mark Kramer wrote:
> In article <VfOdnc0nKN_1FNDVnZ2dnUVZ_vKdnZ2d@earthlink.com>,
> Kï¿½HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net> wrote:
>> "Mark Kramer" <c28f62@TheWorld.com> wrote in message
>> news:g2jror$1ns$1@vulture.killfile.org...
>>> No, we could say "who are you interfering with if you put your newfangled
>>> technology on a pair where there is no repeater active?"
>> The tone of this (and other) responses seems to suggest "just stroke up on a
>> convenient pair, and wait to see if the coordinated person/club complains".
>
> No, that is not what was said at all. That is not the tone of what was
> said, nor was it said directly.
>
> If you know a pair where there is no active repeater, you are not just
> "stok[ing] up on a convenient pair", you've picked the pair with an
> explicit reason. If a coordinated user complains that you are interfering
> with a repeater that does not exist, you are free to laugh at him. Tell
> me, just how DO you interfere with a non-existant system? Do you think
> the FCC is going to listen to him?
>
>> If I lived in Resume Speed, Montana that might work, at least for awhile, if I
>> had the bad manners and grapes to try.
>
> You think it is bad manners to use a frequency that is not being used? You
> only join conversations already in progress? You never make a call on
> an unused frequency?
>
>> But if you commandeer a pair in an
>> already wait-listed/saturated environment,
>
> The the pair is wait-listed and saturated, then it isn't unused, now is it?
>

Gentlemen;

The point to remember is that NO repeat NO one has a right to any
particular radio frequency. Even coordination does not grand any right
to a particular radio frequency, only license to use the frequency.

The repeater coordinator has a responsibility to insure that an
applicant really does intend to utilize the assigned radio frequency. If
the applicant does not do so after a reasonable time then the
coordination is or should be null and void. No, I am not going to define
reasonable.

It's like cell phone companies getting assignment to a block of 10,000 numbers and not using them causing the creation of a new area code to free up new numbers. The FCC, I believe, has baned this practice.

Repeater Coordinators have a responsibility to allocate an extremely scarce resource in a fair and reasonable manner. Those who get a coordination just to have one and don't place equipment on the air, even if they use it in a limited manner, do not deserve to retain the coordination and the frequency should go to a new applicant.

Remember the FCC gives precedence to a valid coordinated applicant over a claim jumper. But the coordinated applicant must be using the coordination. Maybe applicants should report back to the coordinator when the repeater is placed into service and when it is removed from service for reasons other than routine maintenance to include damage due to natural causes. This will keep applicants on their toes to keep their repeater on the air and active.

Dave WD9BDZ

605. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-10 13:21:52 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <ndmdndNUWvtW59PVnZ2dnUVZ_qfinZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2776

David G. Nagel wrote:

> The point to remember is that NO repeat NO one has a right to any
> particular radio frequency. Even coordination does not grand any right
> to a particular radio frequency, only license to use the frequency.

97.205(c).Where the transmissions of a repeater cause harmful interference to another repeater, the two station licensees are equally and fully responsible for resolving the interference unless the operation of one station is recommended by a frequency coordinator and the operation of the other station is not. In that case, the licensee of the noncoordinated repeater has primary responsibility to resolve the interference.

So does 97.205(c) give the licensee of the coordinated repeater any rights? Seems to me that it does.

We can go on and on with "could of" and "should of", and with discussion of what "harmful interference" means. The bottom line is that frequency coordination is recognized in the regulations and thus it's not a prudent idea to simply ignore it and pick a pair for your new repeater.

73, Steve KB9X

606. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-10 14:12:57 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <B9udnRqYzoRHFtPVnZ2dnUVZ_rCtnZ2d@dakotacomip>
Source record: 2777

"Bryan" wrote

> Ja sure you betcha. B'sides, you'd have to plan your route to avoid
> overpasses! <g>
> Note to others: Howard and I used to "work" together back "when dirt was
> new".
> Bryan ;-)

"Line one for the counter..."

- RIP, Dick

(Bryan and I worked behind the counter of a ham radio store. The owner's
name was Dick.)

Howard

607. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-10 14:17:17 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <qJWdnauYydsd6tPVnZ2dnUVZ_q3inZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2778

Mark Kramer wrote:
> In article <VfOdnc0nKN_1FNDVnZ2dnUVZ_vKdnZ2d@earthlink.com>,
> Kï¿½HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net> wrote:
>> "Mark Kramer" <c28f62@TheWorld.com> wrote in message
>> news:g2jror$1ns$1@vulture.killfile.org...
>>> No, we could say "who are you interfering with if you put your newfan
gled
>>> technology on a pair where there is no repeater active?"
>> The tone of this (and other) responses seems to suggest Ummm, they alr
eady have it. If the pair really is unused, who is
going to tell you to stop using it?
>
> No, that is not what was said at all. That is not the tone of what was
> said, nor was it said directly.

Your actual words in <g2jrrg$1tf$1@vulture.killfile.org> were "Ummm,
they already have it. If the pair really is unused, who is going to tell
you to stop using it?". That looks exactly like, "Ummm, they already
have it. If the pair really is unused, who is going to tell you to stop
using it?"

> If you know a pair where there is no active repeater, you are not just
> "stok[ing] up on a convenient pair", you've picked the pair with an
> explicit reason.

How is this different than picking a pair where there's an active
repeater, or a repeater that is temporarily down? It's not your
prerogative to "pick a pair", just because you think it's unused.
That's what frequency coordination is for, and the reason it exists. Of
course you have an "explicit reason"; that doesn't give you the right to
ignore the law. And yes, it is "the law".

> If a coordinated user complains that you are interfering
> with a repeater that does not exist, you are free to laugh at him. Tell
> me, just how DO you interfere with a non-existant system? Do you think
> the FCC is going to listen to him?

Yes, the FCC is going to listen to him, because he has the right to use
that pair, while you do not. The FCC does recognize the work of
frequency coordinators.

>> If I lived in Resume Speed, Montana that might work, at least for awhi
le, if I
>> had the bad manners and grapes to try.
>
> You think it is bad manners to use a frequency that is not being used?

You
> only join conversations already in progress? You never make a call on
> an unused frequency?

You just don't understand the concept of formal frequency coordination,
do you?

>> But if you commandeer a pair in an
>> already wait-listed/saturated environment,
>
> The the pair is wait-listed and saturated, then it isn't unused, now is
it?

I am sure that in many areas there are repeater pairs that, in your
eyes, would appear unused. It is the charter of the frequency
coordinator to make that determination, not each individual ham.

It's too bad that we need formal frequency coordination and can't go
with the concept of "no one owns any frequency". Experience has shown
that the formality is needed in this case, and I your explanation of how
you could just jump in and squat on any repeater pair because you want
it is a fine illustration of how we got to this point.

73, Steve KB9X

608. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-10 15:44:54 UTC
From: Jeff <jeff@local.host>
Message-ID: <484e9ad2$0$30638$834e42db@reader.greatnowhere.com>
Source record: 2779

>"How is this different than picking a pair where there's an active
>repeater, or a repeater that is temporarily down? It's not your
>prerogative to "pick a pair", just because you think it's unused. That's
>what frequency coordination is for, and the reason it exists. Of course
>you have an "explicit reason"; that doesn't give you the right to ignore
>the law. And yes, it is "the law".

Could you please remind us where the work of the frequency coordinator is
enshrined in law?

Sure there is a legal duty not to cause interference, but as the OP said it
is not possible to interfere with a non-existent system.

Jeff

609. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-10 19:57:22 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <484ebd1f$0$5700$4c368faf@roadrunner.com>
Source record: 2780

Steve Bonine wrote:
> It's too bad that we need formal frequency coordination and can't go
> with the concept of "no one owns any frequency". Experience has shown
> that the formality is needed in this case, and I your explanation of how
> you could just jump in and squat on any repeater pair because you want
> it is a fine illustration of how we got to this point.

I used to be involved in packet radio coordination, a subset of
frequency coordination. As I explained to people, "If you're not
getting any death threats, you're not doing your job."

On frequency coordinators. They are necessary because people
have shown repeatedly that they can not all work together.
From the very beginnings in the early '70s out here in Los
Angeles people have shown a propensity for acting like fools.

Not that the frequency coordinators "do it right" all the
time. Notably the 220 disaster. How do you reallocate all
the repeaters when you lose a big chunk of spectrum? Easy,
You tell everyone at the low end of the band, "You lose."
That actually required the FCC to step in and force band
plans on the coordinators.

The bottom line, frequency coordination is necessary. As
they say, "Good fences make good neighbors."

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

610. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-10 19:57:56 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g2mf7b$ri6$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2781

Jeff wrote:
>> "How is this different than picking a pair where there's an active
>> repeater, or a repeater that is temporarily down? It's not your
>> prerogative to "pick a pair", just because you think it's unused. That's
>> what frequency coordination is for, and the reason it exists. Of course
>> you have an "explicit reason"; that doesn't give you the right to ignore
>> the law. And yes, it is "the law".
>
>
> Could you please remind us where the work of the frequency coordinator is
> enshrined in law?

Try going without one. Who wins the frequency? the one with th e
strongest signal, I suppose.

> Sure there is a legal duty not to cause interference, but as the OP said it
> is not possible to interfere with a non-existent system.

Squatting is just bad manners, and not terribly civilized. Hams are
supposed to be civilized. Let's say that you put up an uncoordinated
repeater on a frequency that someone else has coordinated. Then le't
suppose another uncoordinated repeater goes up on the frequency you
picked. Who controls that frequency? You or the second squatter? Who moves?

I looked up the repeater coordination in Hans' area. Although I didn't
come up with 108 allocations, I might not be using the same total area
he is. I used Minneapolis/St Paul, and came up with a hundred - 76 in
Minneapolis and 24 in St Paul. Fairly close at any rate.

On Artscipub.com, they have listed 21 repeaters for Minneapolis, and 1
for St Paul.

Note that 3 of those are in the 6 meter band, and 4 are on 222 MHz band.

That leaves us with 8 on 144 MHz and 7 on 440 MHz. Less than 10 percent
utilization.

There is no reason that application can not be made to acquire one of
those unused pairs. I don't know if it is universal, but in at least
some repeater councils, after 6 months of no use, and no extenuating
circumstances, a repeater pair can come up for re-coordination.

But looking at the disparity between the assigned numbers, the repeaters
in use, and what Hans has to say about the situation, adding a new
repeater is not going to cure what appears to be a severe lack of
interest in V/UHF repeater use in his area. Seriously, that needs fixed
first.

Has anyone tried re-coordination, Hans?

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

611. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-10 19:58:28 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g2ml2kbpm1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2782

In article <mXm3k.7227$xZ.4361@nlpi070.nbdc.sbc.com>,
David G. Nagel <nagel.david@sbcglobal.net> wrote:
>The point to remember is that NO repeat NO one has a right to any
>particular radio frequency. Even coordination does not grand any right
>to a particular radio frequency, only license to use the frequency.

Umm, no, the FCC grants the license, not the coordinating body.

The coordinating body picks who gets preference when there is an
interfering use.

If there is no interference, coordination doesn't come into play.

If I use the output frequency of the local repeater in simple mode,
I am not interfering with that repeater. The repeater won't even know
I am there. The users of the repeater who can't hear me won't know. The
users who do hear me hear nothing different than if I was using it. If
someone keys up the repeater on top of me, they interfere with me, but
that's life. If they are coordinated and I am not, I have to put up with
them. If they are not coordinated, we have to work to solve the problem.

>Repeater Coordinators have a responsibility to allocate an extremely
>scarce resource in a fair and reasonable manner. Those who get a
>coordination just to have one and don't place equipment on the air, even
>if they use it in a limited manner, do not deserve to retain the
>coordination and the frequency should go to a new applicant.

Of course.

612. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-10 21:00:30 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g2mpdl$kj1$1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2783

In article <g2mf7b$ri6$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>,
Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>> Could you please remind us where the work of the frequency coordinator is
>> enshrined in law?
>
>Try going without one. Who wins the frequency? the one with th e
>strongest signal, I suppose.

What, exactly, is the signal strength coming from a repeater that does not
exist? I suspect 0 is a correct answer.

>> Sure there is a legal duty not to cause interference, but as the OP said it
>> is not possible to interfere with a non-existent system.
>
>Squatting is just bad manners,

Using an unused frequency is not squatting. It's done every day.

>Hams are
>supposed to be civilized. Let's say that you put up an uncoordinated
>repeater on a frequency that someone else has coordinated.

Ok. He's the coordinted user, but hasn't installed any hardware in the three
years that he's had that coordination. That frequency pair is coordinated
but unused.

>Then le't
>suppose another uncoordinated repeater goes up on the frequency you
>picked.

Ok. Someone else puts up a repeater on the frequency you put yours on.
Good so far.

>Who controls that frequency? You or the second squatter? Who moves?

Nobody controls it. The law says that you are both responsible for
solving the interference issues. Nobody has to move. You might solve
it by putting different tones on the inputs. You might solve it by
lowering power, or in any number of other ways. But nobody "controls"
the frequency. You are both on the hook. That's part of the privilege
of being able to select one's operating frequency.

>On Artscipub.com, they have listed 21 repeaters for Minneapolis, and 1
>for St Paul.

Repeater directories are really good for telling you where the repeater
is, but notoriously bad for telling you what they cover. To know a pair
is unused, you need much more than a repeater directory.

>That leaves us with 8 on 144 MHz and 7 on 440 MHz. Less than 10 percent
>utilization.
>
>There is no reason that application can not be made to acquire one of
>those unused pairs.

How do you know they are unused? In my state, you ask for a pair but you
don't ask for a specific one. They tell you what you get.

>I don't know if it is universal, but in at least
>some repeater councils, after 6 months of no use, and no extenuating
>circumstances, a repeater pair can come up for re-coordination.

So the coordinators have a means of reallocating unused pairs.

>But looking at the disparity between the assigned numbers, the repeaters
>in use, and what Hans has to say about the situation, adding a new
>repeater is not going to cure what appears to be a severe lack of
>interest in V/UHF repeater use in his area. Seriously, that needs fixed
>first.

Yep.

613. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-10 21:00:55 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <7oSdnTMR9PStdtPVnZ2dnUVZ_uqdnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2784

"Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
news:g2mf7b$ri6$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu...
>
> I looked up the repeater coordination in Hans' area. Although I didn't come up
> with 108 allocations, I might not be using the same total area he is. I used
> Minneapolis/St Paul, and came up with a hundred - 76 in Minneapolis and 24 in
> St Paul. Fairly close at any rate.
>
> On Artscipub.com, they have listed 21 repeaters for Minneapolis, and 1 for St
> Paul.
>
> Note that 3 of those are in the 6 meter band, and 4 are on 222 MHz band.
>
> That leaves us with 8 on 144 MHz and 7 on 440 MHz. Less than 10 percent
> utilization.
>
> There is no reason that application can not be made to acquire one of those
> unused pairs.

The pairs are all assigned, Mike, or are assigned in other nearby areas too
close for geographical sharing.

If you must check my numbers (why would I make something up?) the official
coordinated list is at http://www.mrc.gen.mn.us/MN_List.pdf ... scroll down to
about page 10 under the heading <<METRO>>

Now where did I lay my Skimmer......

Sheeeeeesh!

73, de Hans, K0HB

614. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-11 00:11:03 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <DPCdnegEp_KZi9LVnZ2dnUVZ_qTinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2785

"K&#65533;HB" <groupk0hb@earthlink.net> wrote in message
news:o4CdnSoQedjzdLDVnZ2dnUVZ_qHinZ2d@earthlink.com...

>
> If ARRL will put enough weight into this idea that it can gain traction, I
> feel this may be the key to a renewed health for our hobby.
>

ARRL >>IS<< putting some weight into this idea! See this great site!

---> http://www.wedothat-radio.org/wedothat/

Good stuff!

73, de Hans, K0HB
Grand Exhalted Liberator of the Blue Electric Smoke

615. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-11 18:13:59 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <M5idnepUsrWimM3VnZ2dnUVZ_vWdnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2786

"Mark Kramer" <c28f62@TheWorld.com> wrote in message
news:g2jrk7$1dj$1@vulture.killfile.org...

>
> I wasn't talking about a place where there are only one or two repeaters.
> I was talking about a place where there are a large number of repeaters,
> but only one or two have a lot of activity. If you want to got through
> and shut down the "inactive" repeaters so you can harvest the assigned
> pairs, then you will wind up with not enough infrastructure when it is
> really needed.
>

The notion I advanced wasn't an arbitrary and heavy-handed "mass extinction",
but a deliberate cooperative "needs assessment" process. Here is what I
suggested:

Since this thread is about the "5th Pillar" of ARRL emphasis,
"technology", perhaps ARRL and NFCC could jointly sponsor
a Skimmer-like technology initiative which would put up a
broadband receiver on a local highrise (we're in flatland
country out here) and count squelch-tails per QRG for three
months. Then approach the low 10% and suggest they might
reconsider their needs. Especially those clubs who sponsor
multiple quiet repeaters all covering an identical footprint.

An obvious part of that needs assessment process would be to identify (and
protect) critical infrastructure. The desired end result (not well stated,
perhaps), would be a small pool of QRGs set aside as an "emerging technology
corridor" (DStar mentioned only as an example) where tinkering and
experimentation were encouraged.

Mike suggests that there would be very few users of such a "technology
reservation". That's almost certainly true, but I don't think that makes it a
"bad thing". It's no secret that homebrewing and "radio for the sake of
advancing the art of radio" (in Mikes terms "technology for it's own sake") is a
minority share of our hobby. But I think that it's an important minority,
critical to our future, and that we can afford to set aside "incubation
spectrum" to nurture it.

73, de Hans, K0HB

616. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-11 19:08:39 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <2l60541ir2hnvbcnb5h2068e0brbnlvo7i@4ax.com>
Source record: 2787

On Mon, 9 Jun 2008 18:51:04 EDT, Klystron <xxx@yyy.zzz> wrote:

> It would be far easier to connect a voice-activated tape recorder
>(like a Sony TCM-37V recording walkman) to a scanner that was set to
>scan just the frequencies that are suspected of being dead. Then, you
>could document your results when claiming that the frequencies should be
>reassigned.

I spent a good chunk of my career gathering info on use (and non-use)
of radio channels as evidence. It is easy to show something is used -
play the tape / show the printout. Showing that a channel is not used
is quite a bit more difficult - is the blank tape real or a sham?

We're going through that right now in a commercial channel reclamation
proceeding before the FCC where it's our word against theirs.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

617. Re: Fifth pillar

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-11 19:14:48 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g2p2ki$j75$1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2788

In article <qJWdnauYydsd6tPVnZ2dnUVZ_q3inZ2d@deskmedia.com>,
Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
>Mark Kramer wrote:
>> In article <VfOdnc0nKN_1FNDVnZ2dnUVZ_vKdnZ2d@earthlink.com>,
>> K0HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net> wrote:
>>> "Mark Kramer" <c28f62@TheWorld.com> wrote in message
>>> news:g2jror$1ns$1@vulture.killfile.org...
>>>> No, we could say "who are you interfering with if you put your newfan
>gled
>>>> technology on a pair where there is no repeater active?"
>>> The tone of this (and other) responses seems to suggest Ummm, they alr
>eady have it. If the pair really is unused, who is
>going to tell you to stop using it?

That is not what K0HB wrote. In
<VfOdnc0nKN_1FNDVnZ2dnUVZ_vKdnZ2d@earthlink.com> what he actually
said was:

]The tone of this (and other) responses seems to suggest "just stroke up on a
]convenient pair, and wait to see if the coordinated person/club complains".

That is also what appears in the article you replied to.

What YOU claim he wrote was something I wrote in a different
sub-thread. Yes, when what he actually wrote is replaced with something
I wrote, then what I wrote will look exactly like what you claim he said.

So, when I wrote:
>> No, that is not what was said at all. That is not the tone of what was
>> said, nor was it said directly.

I was replying to the actual statement made by K0HB. I did not say
"convenient", nor "just stroke up", nor "wait to see" if anyone complains.
I said that there WILL be nobody to complain about the use of an unused
coordinated pair, because there will be no interference to complain about.

A coordination owner can complain that someone is using "his" frequency,
but all I have to do is ask what interference I am causing. And then
I'll ask him what rule makes that "his" frequency. When he answers "none"
and "none", the complaint will have been dealt with.

>> If you know a pair where there is no active repeater, you are not just
>> "stok[ing] up on a convenient pair", you've picked the pair with an
>> explicit reason.
>
>How is this different than picking a pair where there's an active

>repeater, or a repeater that is temporarily down?

An unused pair is one where there IS NO REPEATER. That's how it's different. A pair with an active repeater on it is not unused. I've said that before.

>It's not your
>prerogative to "pick a pair", just because you think it's unused.

First of all, I did not say "because I think it's unused". I said a known, unused pair. That's not "think", that's KNOW. There is a difference.

Second, yes, the FCC gives ALL of us the prerogative of picking the frequency we operate on. With the restriction that I may not cause malicious or deliberate interference to another operator, and must operate within the CFR allocations, I am free to pick any frequency I wish, just as you are. Since I cannot possibly cause any kind of interference to a repeater that does not exist, I have met the limitation of "no malicious or deliberate". Since there is no repeater to interfere with, there is no action I am required to take under the section that deals with coordination, since the only required act is for the uncoordinated operator to solve any interference issues. There are none to solve.

If you think there is a rule that says I don't get to pick my own frequency to operate on, other than the limits I've already mentioned, please quote it. The one about coordination isn't it.

>That's what frequency coordination is for, and the reason it exists.

No. Frequency coordination is intended to mitigate interference issues. It can't solve them (because they sometimes create the problem themselves by coordinating two systems on the same pair too close together -- even professional coordinators sometimes do that.) They are there to identify the station who must act to solve interference issues. They do not grant exclusive rights to a frequency. They cannot. The rules do not allow it, and every 605 contains a statement that nobody owns a frequency. That applies to repeater ops, too.

>Of
>course you have an "explicit reason"; that doesn't give you the right to
>ignore the law. And yes, it is "the law".

Please quote the law that says I may not use an unused repeater pair. I cannot ignore a law that does not exist. In the meantime, I am obeying the "uncoordinated must solve interference" law fully, in both spirit and letter. I am ignoring or breaking no law.

>Yes, the FCC is going to listen to him, because he has the right to use
>that pair, while you do not.

Please quote the law that says THAT.

>You just don't understand the concept of formal frequency coordination,
>do you?

Yes, I do, and that insult was unwarranted.

>I am sure that in many areas there are repeater pairs that, in your
>eyes, would appear unused. It is the charter of the frequency
>coordinator to make that determination, not each individual ham.

I said "known unused". I did not say "in my eyes appears".

>It's too bad that we need formal frequency coordination and can't go
>with the concept of "no one owns any frequency". Experience has shown
>that the formality is needed in this case, and I your explanation of how
>you could just jump in and squat on any repeater pair because you want
>it is a fine illustration of how we got to this point.

This paragraph is a deliberate insult. I have never caused interference
to a coordinated (or uncoordinated) system, and never plan to, despite
your implication.

"This case" is not about the need for coordination because it is
not about interference. It is about the use of an UNUSED pair without
coordination. Since there is nobody using the pair, there is nothing
to interfere with. Since there is no interference, the law dealing with
who has to solve interference issues is moot. Even were the law to say
that the uncoordinated use must change frequency (which it does not)
there is no interference issue to force a change.

618. TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-12 06:13:43 UTC
From: vshah1010@comcast.net
Message-ID: <db233822-bbad-44c4-9391-32b63560eb40@m36g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2789

In Feb 2009, all TVs will become digital. As a result, analog TV spectrum will become available.

It will be auctioned off. Chances are it will go to big companies, making their monopoly even bigger. These frequencies would be better used if it went to amateur radio, public non-license radio (like FRS and CB is now), and small business (such as letting small business offer commercial radio services).

Alot of innovative applications will result. And it will create jobs and new businesses that would otherwise not exist. Also, it would increase public interest and involvement.

If we do nothing, these frequencies will be lost. Lets lobby now.

619. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-12 10:12:13 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <6bcat6F3bkdalU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2790

In news:db233822-bbad-44c4-9391-32b63560eb40@m36g2000hse.googlegroups.com,
vshah1010@comcast.net <vshah1010@comcast.net> typed, for some strange,
unexplained reason:
: In Feb 2009, all TVs will become digital. As a result, analog TV
: spectrum will become available.

Only in the US. Here in the UK it will be 2012 before all analog(ue) TV
goes off.

If your message is aimed at a specific country or group of countries,
please specify them; don't forget this is a worldwide group.

73 Ivor G6URP

620. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-12 14:20:14 UTC
From: "D. Stussy" <spam@bde-arc.ampr.org>
Message-ID: <g2qt5i$6qf$2@snarked.org>
Source record: 2791

<vshah1010@comcast.net> wrote in message
news:db233822-bbad-44c4-9391-32b63560eb40@m36g2000hse.googlegroups.com...
> In Feb 2009, all TVs will become digital. As a result, analog TV
> spectrum will become available.
>
> It will be auctioned off. Chances are it will go to big companies,
> making their monopoly even bigger. These frequencies would be better
> used if it went to amateur radio, public non-license radio (like FRS
> and CB is now), and small business (such as letting small business
> offer commercial radio services).
>
> Alot of innovative applications will result. And it will create jobs
> and new businesses that would otherwise not exist. Also, it would
> increase public interest and involvement.
>
> If we do nothing, these frequencies will be lost. Lets lobby now.

You're about 4 years too late. The original date for the analog broadcast
TV shutdown was in 2006 - so the auctions were actually held before then.
However, Congress extended the date because few people even knew of it.

621. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-12 14:20:26 UTC
From: 998cc <hrd998cc@yahooo.com>
Message-ID: <uv84k.7943$xZ.5451@nlpi070.nbdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2792

I imagine those frequencies were all spoken for long before now.

Russ W6OHM
<vshah1010@comcast.net> wrote in message
news:db233822-bbad-44c4-9391-32b63560eb40@m36g2000hse.googlegroups.com...
> In Feb 2009, all TVs will become digital. As a result, analog TV
> spectrum will become available.
>
> It will be auctioned off. Chances are it will go to big companies,
> making their monopoly even bigger. These frequencies would be better
> used if it went to amateur radio, public non-license radio (like FRS
> and CB is now), and small business (such as letting small business
> offer commercial radio services).
>
> Alot of innovative applications will result. And it will create jobs
> and new businesses that would otherwise not exist. Also, it would
> increase public interest and involvement.
>
> If we do nothing, these frequencies will be lost. Lets lobby now.
>
>
>

622. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-12 14:21:51 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <JrmdndfvaY_sgszVnZ2dnUVZ_r_inZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2793

vshah1010@comcast.net wrote:

> In Feb 2009, all TVs will become digital. As a result, analog TV
> spectrum will become available.
>
> It will be auctioned off. Chances are it will go to big companies,
> making their monopoly even bigger.

I went looking for discussion on what is likely to happen. Ivor points out that it will be 2012 before the change is made in the UK, yet the first article I found is from the UK. Apparently they're actually thinking about this, studying it, and examining what the best use would be for the resources. (See http://preview.tinyurl.com/3p3uvo)

US organizations are, too. At http://www.afterdawn.com/news/archive/10349.cfm I found this quote: Advocacy groups such as Public Knowledge and Consumers Union say the auction represents the best and last opportunity for large portions of the U.S. to have a third broadband provider that competes with the cable and telecom giants. These groups are asking the FCC to require that part of the auctioned spectrum be sold with so-called open-access rules attached, meaning the winner of the auction would have to sell wholesale access to the network to any company that wants it.

> These frequencies would be better
> used if it went to amateur radio, public non-license radio (like FRS
> and CB is now), and small business (such as letting small business
> offer commercial radio services).

Apparently 24 MHz of the available 84 MHz has already been earmarked for public safety. Is the current allocation of two-way public non-license or amateur-radio-license spectrum sufficiently saturated to justify additional allocation? Personally I don't think so, but maybe in urban areas things are different.

> Alot of innovative applications will result. And it will create jobs
> and new businesses that would otherwise not exist. Also, it would
> increase public interest and involvement.

What innovative applications would you anticipate? I don't see either commercial or amateur radio services expanding just because they have additional spectrum. Where's the demand? Who is going to buy radio service when they already have a cell phone in their hand?

> If we do nothing, these frequencies will be lost. Lets lobby now.

It's probably too late to do any effective lobbying on this issue. But the frequency spectrum won't be "lost"; it will be used somehow. The question is whether it will be used in the "best way".

Problem is, different people have different ideas of what the "best way" might be. I don't envy the FCC the policy task of walking the tightrope between letting market forces decide and placing curbs in place to prevent "big money" from becoming "bigger money".

73, Steve KB9X

623. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-12 14:22:17 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.06.12.14.14.21.814497@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2794

On Thu, 12 Jun 2008 02:13:43 -0400, vshah1010 wrote:

> In Feb 2009, all TVs will become digital. As a result, analog TV
> spectrum will become available.
>
> It will be auctioned off. Chances are it will go to big companies,
> making their monopoly even bigger. These frequencies would be better

This spectrum has already been sold. Except for the 24MHz worth that's being reserved for public-safety communications.

Some of the new uses have already been implemented. For example, Verizon's "V-Cast" (video broadcasts to mobile phones) uses the spectrum formerly occupied by TV channel 55. A number of TV stations have already closed their analog operations on this channel and adjacent channel 56.

624. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1609 - June 13, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-13 09:16:09 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080613021435.0178bc90@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2795
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1609 - June 13, 2008

The following is a closed circuit announcement and not necessarily for air. Hers amateur Radio Newsline's Support Fund administrator, Andy Jaremaa, N6TCQ:

--

We know you prefer to hear the news rather than having to listen to these announcements and we agree. But over the past few months almost all donations have ceased so here we our with our annual spring pitch.

As we have said so many times before, it takes money to gather the news. It takes money to assemble a newscast and it takes money to bring it to you. And as the price of goods and services continue to increase so do our operating costs. The cost of telephone service. The cost of web access.

We do our very best to keep operating expenses to a minimum. Everyone involved in the Amateur Radio Newsline is a volunteer. There is no paid staff. More important, all of the monies you donate go only toward operating expenses and in supporting the Young Ham of the Year Award. And for you, your donation is tax deductible.

We even make it very easy to donate. If you have web access all you need to do is take your web browser to www dot arnewsline dot org. Then click on the words "Make A donation" and use your Pay-Pal account or credit card to transfer into ours.

Or you can use the good old method of writing a check and sending it to Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937, Arcadia California, 91066.

Either way, we thank you for your kindness. For your support and for your trust.

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

--

Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1609 with a release date of Friday, June 13th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. Amateur radio responds as savage weather hits the Mid Western states, the BPL fight continues in South Africa, the FCC reminds us that its O-K to record ham radio and C-B transmissions and hams in the Big Apple are again the communicators for the city's Salute To

Israel parade. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1609 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO RESPONDS TO MIDWEST STORMS

Ham radio was among the first responders as severe weather battered the mid Western United States starting on June 4th. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jack Parker, W8ISH, is in Indianapolis, Indiana, which is one of the states hard hit by Mother Natures fury:

--

From Indianapolis, south to the Kentucky line Indiana residents have been surrounded by fast rising flood waters this past week. Torrential rains from slow moving storms dumped up to 11 inches of water on Hoosier communities across the southern part of Indiana.

Dozens of Amateur Radio operators were activated in response to calls from various county emergency operations centers. Rising waters have closed many county roads across the region.

In Johnson County, just south of Indianapolis, amateur radio operators were asked to report closed roads and bridges damaged by fast moving water. A total of eight bridges were severely damaged and one dam was breached forcing evacuations from a small lake community. By noon Saturday most major highways and county roads were closed due to waist high water. Water rescue units sent to evacuate neighborhoods had a hard time getting equipment to those in need.

Hams in Columbus and Seymour, Indiana provided communications to evacuation shelters. Several times they had to tear down and re-locate as those shelters were closed and moved to higher ground. The rain just kept coming. By Monday weary amateur radio operators were calling for relief as more shelters were opened or continued to operate.

It has been a busy month for Indiana ham radio operators. A week before the floods many of the same areas were raked by devastating tornadoes. Again, Amateur Radio communications was put to the test while providing emergency communications to area shelters and emergency management agencies across the state.

Rescue operations became so numerous local fire departments, the Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana National Guard were swamped with requests. The US Coast Guard dispatched rescue helicopters from Chicago while a contingency of US Marines located at Camp Atterbury near Columbus, Indiana postponed their training mission and began assisting with water rescues in Morgan County. The Marines are from Camp LeJune in North Carolina. They too fell victim to the tornadoes and local flooding. Their large Chinook helicopters flew search and rescue missions for several affected counties.

According to the National Weather Service records this is the worst flooding Indiana has seen since 1913. And it may not be over yet. All those flood waters are now flowing down stream causing new problems to Southern Indiana communities.

Reporting for Amateur Radio Newsline, this is Jack Parker W8ISH.

--

We will have more on this story in upcoming Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (ARNewsline(tm), W8ISH)

**

RESCUE RADIO: RACES ASSITS IN NJ ANIMAL RESCUE DRILL

Emergency service workers handling large animals during an a disaster. That was the theme of a preparedness drill in central New Jersey on Sunday afternoon June 8th. One that involved not only horses, ponies, goats, alpacas, donkey and young cow, but ham radio operators as well.

The exercise consisted of evacuating and registering the animals in a shelter set up at the Hunterdon County Fairgrounds. About 40 volunteer members of a local County Animal Rescue Team took part. Communications for the operation was provided by members of the County's Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service group

The scenario for the exercise was the imaginary collision of a car with a train at the crossroads in Franklin Township. The accident supposedly caused the train carrying hydrochloric acid to derail with the toxic acid leaking out and leading to a general evacuation of the area. The ham radio equipped County Animal Rescue Team had responsibility of evacuating the animals in the affected zone.

By the time the drill had been completed, more than a dozen animals volunteered by their owners, had been transported to the fairgrounds and registered. The complete story s on-line at
http://www.mycentraljersey.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080609/NEWS/806090320/1002/NEWS03
(mycentraljersey.com)

**

RESCUE RADIO: CHECKLISTS AND COMMON SENSE

Checklists, Common Sense and Experience is the title of an excellent article appearing in the July issue of Worldradio Magazine. In it, the magazine's Emergency Communications column author Jerry Wellman, W7SAR, gets away from the nuts and bolts of being prepared to respond in time of crisis. In this column he looks as emergency preparedness from a very personalize point of view.

To quote one key line that stands out, Wellman credits a reader as stating: "The ideal emergency response is a collection of individuals with

skills to improvise and think and not rely on checklists and kits that probably won't be at hand anyway.

Wellman says that he is not advocating abandoning checklists to be sure an emergency responder has what he or she needs. But he indicates that the most important tool in a go kit may not be in the bag a responder carries. Rather, its that persons ability to think on the run as a situation changes.

The article is a must read for hams involved in emergency response work or for any ham who might one day be in the position of having to be an emergency communicator. It begins on Page 24 of the just out July issue of Worldradio Magazine. (Worldradio)

**

THE BPL FIGHT: SARL OBJECTS TO PROPOSED BPL RULES

Broadband over Powerline is in the news again. This with word that the South African Radio League plans to attend an upcoming hearing on the future of BPL Internet access in that nation.

The hearings will be held on June 18th and 19th According to South African telecommunications regulator ICASA the public gathering will discuss the draft regulations published this past February 7th for Technical Standards for Power Line Telecommunications operations.

After the publication of the draft regulations in the Government Gazette, South African Radio League and South Africa's HamNet submitted objections to certain aspects of the draft regulations. The main dissatisfaction is the lack of compulsory notching of amateur radio frequency allocations, limits which are too low to offer adequate protection and the dispute resolution process.

The draft regulations and the ham radio objections to them are available on www.sarl.org.za. Just click on the words PLC slash BPL. (SARL)

**

RESTRUCTURING: EUROPE HARMONIZES 3400 TO 3800 MHZ

The European Union has released its decision on the restructuring or harmonization of 3400 to 3800 MHz. This for use in terrestrial systems capable of providing electronic communications services to the European community.
.
The Commission Decision of May 21st says that no later than six months after the document takes effect that member states will designate and make available, on a non-exclusive basis, the 3400 to 3600 MHz band for terrestrial electronic communications networks. Then by January 1st, 2012 member states will expand the spectrum availability up to 3800 MHz . I both cases the band allocation will be made in compliance with the parameters set out in the appendix to the decision.

In European terms harmonization equates to agreeing on a way to use the spectrum at hand. (Southgate)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W3BN repeater of the Reading Amateur Radio Club and whose charter was signed by none ither than Hiram Percy Maxim, 1 A W.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: YES ITS OK TO RECORD AND DIVULGE HAM AND CB COMMS

Is it legal to record and divulge the content of ham radio and C-B radio communications? That's a question often asked by newcomers to ham radio or by those hams involved in chasing down malicious interference. FCC rules man Bill Cross, W3TN, says that the answer is yes, it is:

--

Cross: "There is an exception in the Communications Act -- I believe it is Section 706 of the Act -- Its called Privacy of Communications -- and it is a ection that was enacted in the early part of the (last) century that basically was designed so that radio operators aboard ships or other people that had to relay a message were not supposed to use that information or divulge it to someone else. But at the very end of it there is an exception and its an exception for the Amateur Service and the Citizens Service.

"The import of it is that it does allow the recording of amateur to amateur communications on the amateur bands. And that's really a part of the whole
mentality we have of self policing and looking after ourselves and being able to report violative communications. But its an exception right there in the Act."

--

The bottom line is that if you hear a major violation of the Part 97 Amateur Service rules, don't be afraid to record it and then send the tape or CD to the FCC. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

ENFORCEMENT: BROOKLYNITE ORDERED TO PAY $1000 FINE FOR UNLICENSED STATION

The FCC has affirmed a $10,000 fine issued against New York resident Trevor Whitley. This, for what the Commuision terms as willfully and repeatedly violating Section 301 of the Communications by providing services and facilities incidental to the unlicensed transmission of communications by radio.

On January 25, 2008, the Commission's New York Field Office issued a Notice
of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $10,000 to Whitley for playing hot to an unlicensed transmitter operating on 102.3 MHz in Brooklyn, New York. To date, Whitley has not filed a response to the N-A-L or paid the proposed forfeiture. So, based on the evidence before it the FCC has ordered Whitley to pay the fine within the usual time period or to file an appeal. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: DON'T OPERATE OUT OF BAND AGAIN

A California ham has been warned by the FCC that future instances of out of band operation will result in enforcement action against his license. In its May 20th letter to Frederick C. Severa, AH8I, of Chico, the FCC notes that back on March 1st 2007 it forwarded to his address of record in Pago Pago a complaint regarding out of band operation. The FCC says the letter was returned unclaimed.

The FCC says that finally a letter was sent to Severa at his Chico, California address on March 27, 2008 reached him. On April 25th AH8I replied. In his letter Severa stated that he had operated out of band only because it was dark in the vehicle and apparently he experienced a problem with improper VFO selection of the transceiver that he was using.

The FCC has accepted this explanation as being reasonable. In addition to warning Severa to not operate out of band the FCC also has instructed him to update his license records indicating the address at which he will receive Commission mail. (FCC)

**

RADIO LAW: CANADA AND MEXICO NOT SWITCHING TO ALL-DTV FOR YEARS

The United States may have next February cast in concrete for the final switchover from analog to digital television broadcasting, but its going to be a while before our neighbors to the North and to the South join us. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has the rest of the story:

--

Canadian telecommunications regulators say that it will be at least another three years before any digital switchover takes place in that nation. And this only after Canada's broadcasting authority ruled that television stations would be forced to switch to ATSC digital broadcasting by August 31 2011. And then then there are a number of minor exceptions to this date. This for broadcast operations in remote areas where analogue transmissions will not cause interference to the new digital services.

As to Mexico? Don't even think digital for another quarter of a century. As of this writing, Mexico has no plans to switch to digital television until sometime in 2022 at the very earliest, and that's just for
a start-up date. It could take many more years before that nations digital

transition is completed. And while Mexico has said that it will likey go with the ATSC system that is prevelent in North America, 25 years gives that nation a lot of time to explore alternative systems such as Europe's OFDM.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Paasternak, WA6ITF, in the studio in Los Angeles.

--

By the way, for those interested, Luxembourg was the first country to complete the move to all digital broadcasting. That happened almost two years ago on September 1st, 2006.

For more information on the DTV changeover worldwide, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_switchover (CGC Communicator, Wikipedia)

**

HAM HAPENINGS: TECH PAPERS SOLICITED FOR DCC

Technical papers are solicited for presentation at the 27th Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference to be held September 26-28, 2008 in Chicago, Illinois. The submission deadline is July 31, 2008. Please send papers to Maty Weinberg, at the ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, Connecticut, 06111.

**

RADIO BUSINESS: KENWOOD AND JVC TO MERGE BY OCTOBER

Kenwood and JVC say that their proposed merger will be completed by this fall. Will this lead to a new high frequency radio from the labs at Kenwood Communications? Jeff Clark, K8JAC tries to provide an answer:

--

While nobody will say for sure, at least one reason that Kenwood has not introduced a new, high end high frequency transceiver to rival offerings from Icom, Yeasu and newcomer Heiberling could have to do with aspects of the companies business that have nothing directly to do with ham radio. Rather some are speculating that it might have been the merger of Kenwood with the Victor Corporation of Japan that may have at least temporarily sidelined any major high frequency Kenwood product introductions this year.

According to a joint news release the two Japanese electronics giants will combine to form JVC Kenwood Holdings. The new corporation will have its headquarters in the city of Yokohama. The new model business will focus on car electronics, home electronics, and professional wireless systems, and will also explore new product segments.

In an earlier statement by Kenwood it was stated that the merger would have no impact on the company's continuing support of the amateur radio

marketplace.

I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC.

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The two companies appear to be combining to reduce operating costs while scaling distribution in the already crowded world-wide consumer electronics market. (News.com, Southgate)

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RADIO BUSINESS: MOBILE CONSUMER ELECTRONIC SALES CONTINUE TO GROW

And speaking about the world of consumer electronics, it looks as if the publics desire to own the latest and greatest in mobile electronics is a thirst that just cannot be quenched. This, even with a the price of gasoline reaching astronomic levels. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, has the details:

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Sales of in-vehicle consumer electronics will grow at a rate of 13 percent in 2008 to more than $12.8 billion. That's the prediction of a study released by the Consumer Electronics Association.

In the study, "Automotive Electronics What Consumers Have and What They Desire," the Consumer Electronics Association said the typical American spends nearly 17 hours a week in a car. As a result, 38% of the driving age population intends to buy and install an in-vehicle product over the next year.

Topping the list at 15% are remote vehicle starters. That's followed by in-dash navigation systems at 13% and car alarms accounting for 12%. But says the Consumer Electronics Association there are also strong purchase intentions for technologies like HD Radio, satellite radio and DVD players.

In Reno, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM

--

The study also predicts that consumers are actually more likely to spend money on products that are not permanently installed in vehicles. They say that this signals a desire for flexibility and multi-location use when it comes to buying consumer electronic products, according to the trade group. (RW)

**

RADIOSPORT: ARDF CHAMPIONSHIP SEPT 2 - 7 IN KOREA

The 14th World Amateur Radio Direction Finding Championships take place September 2nd to the 7th at a location near Seoul, Korea. If your team wants to participate in the event and you have not sent the letter of intent yet, please send it as soon as possible to the sponsoring group.

Full details and the needed form can be found at www.2008ardf.org. You should fill the category, name, callsign, date of birth and passport number of participants in the application and send it back via e-mail no later than July 30th. (Southgate)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: ANTENNA DESIGNER DJ9BV - SK

The changing of the guard in amateur radio continues. This with the sad news that VHF and UHF antenna designer Rainer Bertelsmeier, DJ9BV, has passed away following a long illness.

Well known for his work on VHF Yagi's and other designs, DJ9BV was in charge of the highly respected VHF magazine Dubus until becoming too ill to continue. He was near the top of the 70cms listings, active on modes such as EME and was considered as being a wealth of knowledge that will be missed by all VHF and UHF operators. (Southgate, DJ0QN)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: LIVE HOLOGRAM PRESENTATION DOWN UNDER

Call this one its shades of the fabled star ship Enterprise's Holideck. But in this case its real and its now been demonstrated down-under. Here's Graham Kemp, VK4BB:

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In an Australian first, Telstra has used a hologram to beam its Chief Technology Officer, Dr Hugh Bradlow, live into Adelaide from Melbourne to talk at a major function for senior business executives.

Dr Bradlow addressed and interacted with the audience for around 15 minutes and conducted a real time media conference following the function.

Staging Connections in collaboration with Telstra, Bytecraft Entertainment and in partnership with Musion Australia combined their respective experience and know-how to deliver this exciting industry first, which represents a new generation of video conferencing innovation in Australia.

Group Managing Director for Telstra Enterprise and Government, David Thodey,said "We've all seen this sort of thing in futuristic sci-fi movies, but the reality is that it can be done here and now, as we have just

demonstrated, because of the scope and capability of Telstra's world leading networks.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Graham Kemp, VK4BB, of the WAIA News in Brisbane, Australia.

--

Telstra is Australia's leading telecommunications provider. The hologram was delivered over its high speed network using the Musion Eyeliner System. This is a high definition holographic video projection method that allows three-dimensional moving images to appear within a live stage setting. And you thought it was only Hollywood movie magic. (WIA News, Telstra national media release 146/2008)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: A FREE RIDE TO ORBIT

Cubesat satellites built by students from universities in Belgium, France, Italy, Poland, Romania, Spain and Switzerland have been selected for a free ride to low earth orbit. The launch is scheduled on the maiden flight of the European Space Agency's new Vega booster from the ESA launch facility in Kourou, French Guiana.

Tentative date for the mission is late this year or in early 2009. The cubesat from Belgium is among the most interesting. It proposes to use D-Star as it's communications protocol. This in the hope of bringing digital ham radio voice communications into space.

More is on-line at: http://www.esa.int/esaED/SEM2BPUG3HF_index_0.html (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CUTE 1.7 DIGI IN TEST MODE

The Amateur Radio digital repeater function is now being tested on the Cute-1.7 cubesat. Information supplied to AMSAT by the satellites controllers say that they are currently testing an amateur digital repeater and a test message is being transmitted. FM packets are downlinked on 437.475MHz. Information on the and packet formats is available at http://lss.mes.titech.ac.jp/ssp/cute1.7/fm_mode_apd_e.html (Tokyo Institute of Technology)

**

RADIO NEAR SPACE: AN ALASKAN B.E.A.R. GRANT .

The Alaska Space Grant Program intends to expand a near space project called B.E.A.R. into a larger program. One that will allow University of Alaska Fairbanks students the opportunity to fly payloads of their own design, and to conduct atmospheric research in the spring and fall.

B.E.A.R. is an acronym for the Alaska-based Balloon Experiment And Research Program. It's a joint effort of the Alaska Space Grant Program and the

Arctic Amateur Radio Club have formed December 2007. The program's aim was to launch a high altitude balloon equipped with several amateur radio projects as payload in the spring of 2008. On May 10th the balloon was launched and reached an altitude of 95,327 feet above Fairbanks. The balloon had three payloads in tow, all built and designed by Dan Wietchy, KL1JP. While in flight the balloon's ham radio gear captured more than 100 photos and some video which was returned to Earth.

The balloon parachuted back to Earth. It was found less than seven miles from where it was launched at Poker Flat Research Range.

Faculty from the Geophysical Institute already say that they are interested in designing graduate-level courses. Ones that will take advantage of this new method to bolster hands-on student research into near space. (Eureka Alert)

**

WORLDBEAT PORTUGAL: NEW D-STAR MACHINE ON THE AIR

CT1DQV says over the D-Star remailer that a new D-Star repeater is operational in Portugal at Serra do Leiranc. That's at 1146 meters above sea level at a site is located between Chaves and Boticas, in northeast area of that nation.

The new Portuguese D-Star system uses the call CQ0DCH. Its input is on 430,975 MHz and it transmits on 438,575 MHz with a 7.6 MHz split between its input and output frequencies. Its licensee, ownership and maintenance responsibility is in the hands of the Associano de Radioamadores do Alto Tamega. It will be a while before it joins the world wide D-Star gateway operation. (D-Star Remailer)

**

WORLDBEAT - UK: NEW FAST SCAN ATV STREAMING SITE

The British Amateur Television Club has announced a new amateur television streaming video Web Site. It designed to bring streamed fast scan ATV to the internet and allow cross repeater operation while working from its multi screen display. The site, located at www.batc.tv. will also carry a library of ATV programs and will act as a port for other ATV events to be streamed from around the world. (RSGB)

**

ON THE AIR: MALAYSIA SCOUTING SPECIAL CALLSIGNS

On the air listen out for eighteen Malaysian scouting special callsigns to be on air the rest of this year. This, in conjunction with the centennial anniversary of scouting in Malaysia and the World Telecommunication & Information Society Day 2008.

To help celebrate these events the Scouts Association of Malaysia has been granted eighteen never-heard-before heard special event callsigns with the

9M1CS prefix and suffix plus one other letter in the suffix. The callsigns are valid until December 31st, and will be used for the on air scouting jamborees. The Malaysian Amateur Radio Transmitters' Society will provide QSL Bureau services for most of the stations. Details are available http:\\jota.scouts.my. (Southgate)
**

DX

In DX, word that members of the the Spanish Amateur Radio League are active fro, Timor Leste as 4W6R through June 24th. Operations is on 160 through 6 meters, using CW, SSB and RTTY. The plan is to have two stations on the air at all times. QSL as directed on the air.

M0AEP, will be active from Montserrat signing VP2MDD through June 19th. He will be on 80 through 6 meters using various modes. QSL via home call, direct or via bureau.

Lastly, the special call sign TM4OO will be active from France through June 15th. This, to celebrate the 400th birthday of the city of Quebec. QSL this operation only via the bureau.

(From various DX news sources)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE:: HAMS COMMUNICATE FOR NYC SALUTE TO ISRAEL PARADE

And finally, its one of New York City's cultural events and as in years past, ham radio has again provided a communications network for the annual Salute to Israel Parade. This years event took place on Sunday, June 1st and Amateur Radio Newsline's Mike Lisinco, N2YBB is in the Big Apple with more:

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The ham radio communications nerve center for this years Salute to Israel Parade was in a multi-radio equipped van located at 68th Street and 5th Avenue in Manhattan. According to Steve Ostrove, K2SO, who is the amateur radio Communications Coordinator for the event, the ham radio network began operation at at 9 a.m. and finished at 5 p.m. Ostrove tells Newsline that five hams were assigned to the parade announce locations while others shadowed V-I-P's and event officials. One operator even had had on roller blade skates for his shadow job which K2SO said to proved to be very successful.

Ostrove says that he knows of only one call for medical aid handled by the ham radio network. Most of their job consisted of relaying information for the parade announcers, locating missing materials and all of the other incidental utility communications for an event of this scope.

The Salute to Israel Parade began in 1964 when handful of people walked along Manhattan's West Side Highway in a show of support for the State of Israel. In the mid 1960's the event had grown into a full scale cultural

event on Manhattan's 5th Avenue with thousands of marchers that included bands and floats. It was then that parade organizers approached the late Lou Belsky, K2VMR, to ask his assistance in providing communications for the event after a trial using 11 meter C-B radio gear proved unsuccessful.

In its early years K2VMR built the communications network was on 6 meter A.M. on 50 point 4 Mhz. Ironically that was the old Brooklyn, Kings County ARES net frequency and was chosen only because most hams operating mobile in the New York City area carried it in their radios.

By 1970 the ham radio communications for this event had moved to 2 meter F.M. as that mode became dominant nationwide. The current ham radio communications network is an outgrowth of those early years but refined to use the latest in ham radio communications technology. It's a network that
Steve Ostrove, K2SO, and others have been improving over the years.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, in New York. 73 and Shalom.

--

This years parade also happened to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel and making it the biggest in the events history. There were some 100,000 participants marching up Fifth Avenue cheered on by over one million spectators. And behind the scenes was a small group of ham radio communications volunteers making sure that every detail of the parade was just as it was supposed to be. .

More information on the Salute to Israel Parade is on-line at www.salutetoisrael.com

A article detailing Steve Ostrove, K2SO, life, career and involvement in the parades communications effort can be read at www.njjewishnews.com/njjn.com/052908/njAHamHandle.html (ARNewsline(tm) with information supplied by K2SO and historic information from ex-WA2HVK)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

With Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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625. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-14 00:01:28 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <iq1654ljsd1h98l203rfdtpm2ucpgk3nor@4ax.com>
Source record: 2796

On Fri, 6 Jun 2008 23:05:49 EDT, Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:

>Mark Kramer wrote:
>> Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
>>> Better
>>> to have two or three active repeaters in a metro area than a dozen dead
>>> ones.
>>
>> Until there is an emergency and those two or three repeaters aren't
>> sufficient to support the emergency services operations going on.
>
>If there are a dozen repeaters with zero activity, most will go dead in
>any disaster because it takes real human interest and work to provide
>emergency power. I'd rather have two or three solid repeaters than a
>dozen where the maintenance is hit-and-miss and there's no one who
>really cares whether they are up or not.

An emergency service organization should put up and maintain their own repeaters. For example, in the last 3 years, the Southern Nye County (NV) ARES group put up and maintain four repeaters (2 on 2M and 2 on 70cm) so we will have them in emergencies. We make a point to talk on them at least once a day to make sure they work. But 99% of the time they are idle, and thus may appear to the casual observer to be unused.

73 de Dick, AC7EL

626. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 23 (Friday, June 13, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-14 00:02:19 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080613184744.E0C9D30DF9@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2797
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 23
June 13, 2008
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Hams on Hand as Floods Sweep across Midwest US
* + "We Do That" with Amateur Radio
* + Look for the July Issue of QST in Your Mailbox
* + Get Ready to Ride the Waves during the 2008 ARRL Field Day
* + Spring Frequency Measuring Test (FMT) Results Announced
* + FCC Enforcement Actions
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
+ Firedrake Jammer on the Loose Again in Asia
+ New Extra Class License Manual Now Shipping
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
Jim Veatch, WA2EUJ, Wins May QST Cover Plaque Award
ARRL Announces New DeSoto Cup Winner

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==========================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========================================================

==> HAMS ON HAND AS FLOODS SWEEP ACROSS MIDWEST US

When severe thunderstorms started to threaten the Midwestern United
States with tornadoes, hail, severe lightning and rain starting on June
4, state agencies were quick to call on Amateur Radio operators for
assistance.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) activated ARES
members to help out with communication efforts, providing radios for
those amateurs who offered to help. ARRL Indiana Section Emergency
Coordinator Tony Langer, W9AL, said hams were instrumental in many ways,
including assisting in Emergency Operations Centers, sand bagging,
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helping out in shelters and even aiding in rescue efforts.

This storm brought 12 confirmed tornadoes to 11 Indiana counties, with some communities reporting up to 11 inches of water, Langer said; 20 counties were under a State of Emergency. On June 9, President Bush declared 29 counties in central Indiana a major disaster area, opening up the region to receive federal aid and FEMA assistance. Four people perished in the storms.

In a call put out to Amateur Radio operators on June 8, IDHS said, "The flood waters have impacted several counties here in Indiana severely. Ham Radio operators have been operating continuously since activated and are growing weary. Some counties do not have a vast amount of active hams to relieve these tired operators." Specific areas needing amateur assistance were overnight relief operators at the Bartholomew County EOC, as well as the EOC and three shelters in Columbus County.

Marion County (Indiana) Emergency Coordinator Mike Palmer, N9FEB, called on ARES members in his area to help out. "People might think, 'Why not just use telephones or cell phones?' Well, many phones are not working down there at this time. With the high waters, electric transformers are out all over; even those servicing cell towers are out. Even with today's technology, we find ourselves looking at ham radio to assist. If you can spare a few hours or an entire evening, please consider helping."

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels called in the United States Coast Guard to assist in evacuations and rescues. The Coast Guard responded by sending two helicopters to the state along with boats and personnel. The Indiana National Guard was called out to assist in evacuation and direct traffic and enforce road blocks on the many flooded roads.

Torrents of rain also brought flooding to Wisconsin. On June 9, five counties had requested aid from Amateur Radio operators, ranging from backup communications to disaster assessment and flooding communications. One county called on ARES members to provide patrols of the flooded areas overnight on Tuesday and Wednesday.

According to ARRL Wisconsin Section Emergency Coordinator Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, approximately 90 ARES members responded to the call for assistance. "In Columbia County, ARES members provided dam monitoring communications early in the flooding. These communications gave critical information to public safety officials about two dams that were nearly compromised. Due to falling water levels, this activity has been discontinued, but hams remain on standby due to the threat of additional heavy rain," Niemuth said.

Richland County ARES members remain activated, Niemuth said. "Hams are providing a variety of services, including fielding information calls in the County's Emergency Operations Center and providing specialized communications for disaster assessment by hover craft and airplane. These communications are in addition to providing traditional ham radio

communication links between the EOC and evacuation shelters."

On Thursday, June 12, more rains inundated the state and more counties requested aid from area Amateur Radio operators. Niemuth said Winnebago County ARES members are providing damage assessment assistance in the county and in the City of Oshkosh, while hams in Fond du Lac are helping out with shelter communications. ARES teams in Marquette and Outagamie are providing back-up communications and flooding reports to their respective Emergency Operations Centers. -- Information provided by ARRL Indiana Section Emergency Coordinator Tony Langer, W9AL, and ARRL Wisconsin Section Manager Don Michalski, W9IXG

==> "WE DO THAT" WITH AMATEUR RADIO

The third ARRL Public Relations campaign -- "We Do That - with Amateur Radio" -- celebrates the technology side of ham radio <http://www.hello-radio.org/wedothat/>. According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Amateur Radio means many things to many people. "What is it about Amateur Radio that arouses the interest of people?" Pitts asked. "You have the fun, friendship and hobby side. We showcased this side in 2006 with our 'Hello' campaign <http://www.hello-radio.org/hello/>. You have the emergency service side. We brought this valuable part of Amateur Radio to the public's eye in 2007 with 'Emergency Radio -- Getting the Message through for Your Family and Community' <http://emergency-radio.org/>. And now you have the technology and creative side. In 2008, we are capitalizing on this third prong, getting word out to the public that there is tons of stuff you can do with Amateur Radio."

Unveiled at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention this past May, this new coordinated public relations effort shows the world the technological activities and creative imaginations that Amateur Radio's people love. Like the previous public relations campaigns, Pitts said, this is a campaign with several interlocking parts.

* Public Service Announcements
There are Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that commercial radio stations can utilize, getting word out to the public about the benefits that ham radio operators can provide. Check these out on the ARRL Public Information Officer Web site <http://www.arrl.org/pio/>; more will be coming out as the year unfolds. These mp3 files are easily downloaded and can be taken to local radio stations. "Many radio stations have a public service obligation they need to fulfill, and these PSAs are a great way for them to do so, while showcasing the neat things we do as hams," Pitts said.

* Brochures
ARRL has created an attractive brochure that celebrates ham technology <http://www.arrl.org/brochures/>. This brochure shows hams doing many exciting activities, from Green Radio -- Amateur Radio using renewable energy sources -- to the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) through time and space itself. These brochures, in packs of 25, are

available at no cost except for a small shipping fee.

* WeDoThat-Radio.org
A new special Web site has been created just for this campaign. "Maximizing the strong points of the Hello-Radio and Emergency-Radio Web sites before it, WeDoThat-Radio.org <http://www.wedothat-radio.org/> uses some of the newer technologies similar to the blog format, allowing for easy topic additions and changes, even providing a place for visitors to ask questions," Pitts said.

* Stickers
Let's admit it, hams and kids like free things and stickers are fun. So we made up a bunch to share. If you happen to have a presentation to students, it's a nice touch. These are "free while the supply lasts," Pitts said.

* "Talk on a Disk"
What began as an experiment in 2007 has since become a major success. The ARRL's "Talk on a Disk" was quickly snatched up and used by people making presentations to groups. This CD contains all the materials you need to make a good PowerPoint presentation before a non-ham group, including slides and supportive audio and video. "For 2008, we created a brand new 'Talk on a Disk' highlighting the technology campaign and coordinated with the brochures. It can make almost anyone look good in front of a group. Just follow the script! Or, you can modify it to meet local needs," said Pitts. If you have a presentation to make and want to talk about the technology of ham radio, please e-mail Pitts about it <apitts@arrl.org>.

* "Swiss Army Knife for PIOs"
The 2008 "Knife," Pitts said, is actually a CD with all the basic forms and information a Public Information Officer (PIO) should need -- all in one place. "Last year, we produced more than 1000 of these and they were all snatched up," Pitts said. With audio and video files, documents in computer forms that PIOs can modify to meet local needs, as well as hundreds of pointers and ideas, the "Swiss Army Knife for PIOs" has become a mainstay for public relations work. Disks are available for PIOs by sending Pitts an e-mail <apitts@arrl.org>.

* Every Ham is a PIO
"There is a saying," Pitts said, "that all news is local -- and it is true. If there is not a local or personal 'hook' to a story, it does not make it into the news. Because of this, the Public Information Officers in your area are critical to the local perception of Amateur Radio." When PIOs take these materials and modify them for local use, it affects everything from antenna regulations to club membership levels. But it is not just up to the PIOs to achieve positive publicity for hams, Pitts said. "There is another saying, 'Every ham is a PIO.' When people become curious about Amateur Radio they turn to the first ham operator they find and that conversation is crucial to the future. All the brochures, TV ads, radio and news stories are of no benefit if that initial conversation with a potential recruit is not positive. PIOs can only

'bring the fish to the boat.' It is up to every ham to be ready to bring them in by taking the time and effort to make the initial one-on-one contact a positive experience. In the end, 'It takes a ham to make a ham.'"

* Need Help?
There is a wealth of materials available on the ARRL PIO Web site for anyone to use <http://www.arrl.org/pio/>. Here you can find background information handouts for media, as well as all sorts of helpful files and tips. Each month, Pitts puts out "CONTACT!," an e-zine for ARRL PIOs that contains ideas, information and timely materials. The ARRL Public Relations Committee is also able to aid groups facing unusual problems or situations. These PR veterans have a wealth of knowledge you can draw upon. There is a public relations email reflector where PIOs from around the country share their problems, ideas and successes with other PIOs.

* It's Up to You
The energies that your club -- and you as an individual -- put into positive PR work will pay off for your radio future in many ways, Pitts said. "Go show the world that 'It's not just your grandfather's radio anymore.'"

==> LOOK FOR THE JULY ISSUE OF QST IN YOUR MAILBOX

The July issue of QST is jam-packed with all sorts of things today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments to contesting, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

John Stanley, K4ERO, discusses how looking at signals can improve our ability to listen to them in the second of his two-part article "The Beauty of Spectrum Analysis -- Part 2." Jack Morgan, KF6T, takes a look at a two element 15 meter Yagi that works great in the field. ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, gives her impression on the sights, sounds and smells of the 2008 Dayton Hamvention in her article "Dayton Hamvention 2008: Wow, What a Show!"

Former ARRL Senior News Editor Rick Lindquist, WW3DE (ex-N1RL), reviews FlexRadio System's FLEX-5000A HF/50 MHz transceiver. According to Lindquist, "The FLEX-5000A builds on the success of the SDR-1000, retaining the top-shelf radio performance and adding features. The package is far less complicated, shedding the many wires, cables, boxes and connectors that characterized the SDR-1000. Be prepared to experiment with the software and settings to get the most from this radio."

If it's July, it must be time for the IARU HF World Championships <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/iaru.html>. This is a great opportunity to contact many stations all over the world, especially the headquarters station of IARU Member Societies, including W1AW. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, takes a look at what you can do in the "contest off-season" to spruce up your shack and get those

antennas and feed lines ready for the fall in "This Month in Contesting." The results of the 2007 ARRL 10 Meter Contest, the 2008 ARRL RTTY Roundup and the 2008 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes are in. Did you top your score from last year? How did your closest rival do? Also, find out about upcoming contests in Contest Corral.

Of course, there are the usual columns you know and love in July QST: Hints & Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, How's DX, Old Radio, Technical Correspondence, Hamspeak and more. Look for your July issue in your mailbox. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> GET READY TO RIDE THE WAVES AT THE 2008 ARRL FIELD DAY

The 2008 ARRL Field Day <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday> will be here before you know it, so now is the time to grab your rig, hang ten (a dipole or two will do) and plan to Ride the Waves June 28-29. Field Day packets can be downloaded from the ARRL Field Day Web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2008-packet.pdf>.

ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, reminds clubs and groups that the deadline to order exhibit kits is drawing near. "We need to have all orders for kits and brochures no later than Tuesday, June 17. If we have your order by then, we will be able to package your order and get it to you in time for Field Day. Any orders received after June 17 will be fulfilled and may make it to recipients before Field Day," he warned. Exhibit kits can be ordered online <http://www.arrl.org/brochures/> at no cost; there is a small shipping and handling fee.

If you are looking for a Field Day site to attend, or are looking to publicize your Field Day site, be sure to check out the Field Day Site Locator <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>. For more information on this new service, please check out the Locator Site Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Web page <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/06/03/10021/?nc=1>. "More than 1100 Field Day sites have registered their sites on the Locator, with more being added every day," Henderson said.

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio. On the fourth full weekend in June, tens of thousands of Amateur Radio operators gather for a public demonstration of our service. Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event -- and all about fun!
Amateur Radio is about knowledge and growth. It is a hobby and service that truly offers "something for everyone." Amateur Radio embraces both the old and new. While CW may no longer be a testing element, it is still a strong and favorite operating mode for many. Many operators are embracing digital technologies -- from RTTY, to newer digital modes like PSK31 and Olivia. Phone operation also has new frontiers to be explored

with digitized voice, VoIP and IRLP. And this is why Field Day -- the largest annual on-the-air operating event -- is so exciting. It gives all -- the old timer and the newcomer, the brass-pounder and the computer-assisted operator -- the chance to share and teach the broad range of modes and technologies we find in Amateur Radio.

Field Day is truly the time in which we bring Amateur Radio to Main Street USA <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2006/03/01/1/>. By setting up in parking lots, malls, Emergency Operations Centers, parks and even at home, Amateur Radio operators learn skills that will allow them to better serve their communities. Setting up in these public venues gives added public relations value -- their friends and neighbors can see and experience the fun and public service capability that their "ham radio" neighbors bring to the community.

==> SPRING FREQUENCY MEASURING TEST (FMT) RESULTS ANNOUNCED

The results for the W1AW Frequency Measuring Test (FMT) <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/> held on May 21, 2008 are in <http://www.b4h.net/fmt/fmtresults200805.php>. Announced and reported completely online <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/29/10071/?nc=1>, the spring version of the exercise attracted 81 participants. The object was to measure the frequency of an audio tone, given the frequency of the transmitted signal's carrier. Since digital modes based on frequency-shift keying (FSK) require precise tuning, being able to measure frequency is an important skill.

The actual frequency of the tone was 1240.3 Hz for all of the W1AW transmissions. The majority of the participants reported frequencies within 1-5 Hz of the exact value, a 0.08 to 0.4 percent error. Participants could use a variety of measurement techniques, some of which are described in the November 2004 QST article announcing an FMT with a similar focus <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/2004/04fmtsilver.pdf>. The online results include detailed descriptions from many stations of the methods and equipment used to make the measurements.

W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, plans to run additional FMT exercises on a regular basis, so watch the ARRL Web Site <http://www.arrl.org> for future announcements. If possible, a West Coast station will be added to future FMTs, improving signal quality for participating stations in that region, particularly on the lower frequency bands. Automated results collection and reporting will be supported for all future FMT events.

==> FCC ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

On March 1, Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth sent a Warning Notice to Fredrick C. Severa, AH8I, of Pago Pago, American Samoa, concerning Severa's out-of-band operation.

In the letter, Hollingsworth said he tried contacting Severa at his Pago Pago address (his address of record) about the matter, but the letter was returned unclaimed, as were other letters sent to him at an address listed for the American Samoa DX Society in California; Severa is listed as trustee for the organization. Hollingsworth said that the Commission tried reaching Severa at another address for the American Samoa DX Society in California -- this one in Juneau, Alaska -- but to no avail.

Finally, on March 27, Hollingsworth sent Severa a letter to a Chico, California address. Severa replied to the letter, stating "that [Severa] had operated out of band because it was 'dark in the vehicle and apparently I experienced a problem with improper VFO selection of the transceiver that I was using which caused me to transmit out of band.'" Severa's letter failed to mention, Hollingsworth said, why Severa "failed to respond to mail sent to your address of record."

Hollingsworth advised Severa "that future instances of out of band operation will result in enforcement action against your license. Additionally, you are requested to update your license records within 10 days indicating the address at which you will receive Commission mail. Failure to respond to Commission mail sent to your address of record is a separate violation of Commission rules."

Hollingsworth also sent a letter to residential owners in Phoenix, Arizona, regarding Part 15 devices in their home causing RFI to a licensed Amateur Radio operator.

Direct all questions concerning the Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions Web postings via e-mail only to Riley Hollingsworth <fccham@fcc.gov> in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "I swayed my leaves and flowers in the Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Sunspot 998 emerged this week, another old Solar Cycle 23 sunspot near the Sun's equator. Daily sunspot numbers for June 10-12 were 14, 11 and 13. Last Sunday, June 8, had the lowest 10.7 cm solar flux value I've ever seen -- 64.9 -- at the observatory in Penticton. The noon reading is the official daily sunspot number; the value observed that morning at 1700 UTC was actually a tiny bit lower at 64.8. The only value this low I have in my records was almost a dozen years ago near the last solar minimum, July 19, 1996. The 10.7 cm solar flux is a measurement of energy at 2.8 GHz gathered by an antenna in British Columbia. The facility is the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory (DRAO) that sits 168 miles northeast of my Seattle location at approximately 49.322 degrees north latitude, 119.621 degrees west longitude. The solar flux value is a general indicator of solar activity, but not as useful as sunspot numbers for predicting propagation. Geophysical Institute Prague expects quiet conditions for June 13, quiet to unsettled June 14, unsettled June 15-18 and quiet to unsettled June 19. Sunspot numbers for June 5-11 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 14 and 11 with a mean of 3.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 66.4, 65.9, 65.6, 64.9, 66, 66.2, and 65.7 with a mean of 65.8. Estimated planetary A indices

were 2, 8, 12, 7, 5, 4 and 4 with a mean of 6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 7, 10, 5, 2, 1 and 3, with a mean of 4.4. NASA predicts more of the same quiet conditions, with slight possible unsettled conditions on June 18, with a planetary A index of 12. They expect solar flux to stay below 70 until mid-July. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend is the ARRL June VHF QSO Party on June 14-16. Look for the NCCC Sprint Ladder and the Digital Pentathlon on June 13. The Portugal Day Contest and Asia-Pacific Sprint (SSB) are June 14. Look for the ANARTS WW RTTY Contest, the GACW WWSA CW DX Contest, the REF DDFM 6 Meter Contest and the West Virginia QSO Party on June 14-15. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is June 16, and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (SSB) is June 19. Next weekend, look for the Digital Pentathlon on June 20. The Feld Hell Sprint and the AGCW VHF/UHF Contest are June 22. The All Asian DX Contest (CW) and the SMIRK Contest are June 21-22. On June 25, be sure to check out the SKCC Sprint and the BCC QSO Party. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* Firedrake Jammer on the Loose Again in Asia: Amateur Radio operators throughout the United States have reported hearing an intruder signal -- dubbed Firedrake -- on 20 meters. ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, said he has received reports from Intruder Watch monitors in Texas, Montana, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Colorado, Washington, Nevada and Pennsylvania hearing the jammer on 14.010 and 14.070 MHz. Hams in IARU Region 1 have heard the jammer on 14.000, 14.005, 14.010, 14.030, 14.050, 14.050 and 14.090; Uli Bihlmayer, DJ9KR, Assistant Monitoring Coordinator for Region 1 (IARUMS) <http://www.iarums-r1.org/> said he has had reports of hearing the jammer on three frequencies at the same time. Skolaut said he heard it on 14.070 at 1500 EDT on June 6 from ARRL HQ, but has not confirmed Firedrake on any other frequencies. "We have reported the jammer to the FCC's High Frequency Direction Finding (HFDF) facility in Columbia, Maryland. They have also heard the jammer and have sent a harmful interference report to the Chinese government," Skolaut said. The FCC has no authority to make intruder stations outside the US stop transmitting on Amateur Radio frequencies; such situations typically are dealt with through diplomatic channels. "All three IARU regions are coordinating efforts to collect observations and forward them to the proper authorities to follow up on this," Skolaut said. "As you probably

remember, this jamming occurred almost two years ago <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/08/17/2/> and was primarily heard on 14.260 and 18.160 MHz." According to Bihlmayer, the jammer (whom Region 1 monitors have dubbed Firedrake) plays oriental-type music (click here to hear what Firedrake sounds like - <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/firedrake.mp3>) and originates from the Chinese government in an attempt to block out the Sound of Hope short wave broadcasts <http://sohnews.com/shortwave-broadcasts/>. The Sound of Hope refers to itself as "a Chinese language media network providing an alternative to China's state controlled media with news and cultural programming. Radio Free China (RFC) is Sound of Hope's project to reach listeners in Mainland China with programming beyond the control of China's omnipresent blockade of free information." Information on the Intruder Watch program can be found in the June 2007 issue of QST.

* New Extra Class License Manual Now Shipping: The "ARRL Extra Class License Manual" <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1352#top> and "ARRL's Extra Q&A" <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1379> are your tickets to every privilege granted to Amateur Radio operators. Expert instruction leads you through all of the knowledge you need to pass the exam, including rules, specific operating skills and more advanced electronics theory. Everything you need to know to pass the 50 question Extra class exam is right at your fingertips -- both books contain the latest Extra class question pool and answer key. Study the "ARRL Extra Class License Manual" to understand the theory and applications needed to upgrade your license. With more than 700 questions included in the question pool -- valid from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2012 -- reading the "ARRL's Extra Q&A" is the best way to review for the exam with confidence. The Extra class license is the highest of all three US Amateur Radio licenses. To upgrade to Extra class you must already hold a General class license (or have recently passed all of the exams required for a General class license). Upgrading to an Extra license only requires passing a written examination. As an Extra class licensee, you will have full privileges on all frequencies authorized by the FCC for Amateur Radio.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, June 22, 2008 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, July 4, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010), Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001), Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006), Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009), Analog Electronics (EC-012) and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the

student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Jim Veatch, WA2EUJ, Wins May QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for May is Jim Veatch, WA2EUJ, for his article "The TAK-40 SSB CW Transceiver." Congratulations, Jim! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qstvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the June issue by Monday, June 30.

* ARRL Announces New DeSoto Cup Winner: The ARRL's DXCC Desk announced June 3 that Fausto Minardi, I4EAT, is the winner of the 2007 DXCC Challenge DeSoto Cup <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/DeSoto-Trophy-lrg.jpg>. According to ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, Minardi achieved this honor with 3129 band points. Bob Eshleman, W4DR, placed second with 3124 band points; Leif Ottosen, OZ1LO, holds the third place spot with 3119. The DeSoto Cup was first presented in 2000 to Eshleman; he has received the award each year since. The 2007 race saw the closest point spread -- five points -- since the DeSoto Cup's inception in 2000. Moore said that in 2006, Eshleman was leading the race, but Minardi briefly pulled ahead; Eshleman recovered the lead in time to take the Cup for 2006. He continued: "In 2007, the same thing happened with Eshleman leading the pack, but Minardi pulled ahead again and kept the lead and took the title away from Eshleman for the first time ever. I wonder who will take the Cup in 2008." It looks to be another race this year, Moore said. "Showing no mercy, Minardi recently increased his lead even more by achieving a new level of 3139! Fifteen band points now separate the number 1 and number 2 spots!" The DeSoto Cup is presented to the DXCC Challenge leader as of December 31 each year <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2001/05/08/3/>. The DeSoto Cup is named for Clinton B. DeSoto, whose definitive article in October 1935 QST forms the basis of the DXCC award. Only one cup will be awarded to any single individual. A medal will be presented to a repeat winner in subsequent years. Medals will also be awarded to the second and third place winners each year. The DXCC Challenge Award is given for working and confirming at least 1000 DXCC band-entities made after November 15, 1945 on any of the amateur bands, 160 through 6 meters (except 60 meters).

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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627. Artwork!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-14 00:36:08 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <ddqdnVvg7cM_Rc_VnZ2dnUVZ_sbinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2798

No matter how fast you can beep, you gotta admire this gent! I stand in awe!

----> http://www.wrsmithclocks.com/telegraph.htm

There's a difference between "craftsmanship" and "artistry", and W4PAL is an
artist. I hope there's a museum somewhere waiting for this stuff to show up.
--
73, de Hans, K0HB
--
Homepage:
http://www.home.earthlink.net/~k0hb
Member:
ARRL http://www.arrl.org
SOC http://www.qsl.net/soc
VWOA http://www.vwoa.org
A-1 Operator Club http://www.arrl.org/awards/a1-op/
TCDXA http://www.tcdxa.org
MWA http://www.w0aa.org
TCFMC http://www.tcfmc.org
FISTS http://www.fists.org
LVDXA http://www.lvdxa.org

628. Re: Artwork!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-14 15:49:26 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <zLR4k.18765$cl2.17334@fe099.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2799

Kï¿½HB wrote:
> No matter how fast you can beep, you gotta admire this gent! I stand i
n awe!
>
> ----> http://www.wrsmithclocks.com/telegraph.htm
>
> There's a difference between "craftsmanship" and "artistry", and W4PAL
is an
> artist. I hope there's a museum somewhere waiting for this stuff to sh
ow up.

Wow! W4PAL has combined function, mechanical precision and beauty.

Dave K8MN

629. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-15 06:00:06 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1213509601@panix.com>
Source record: 2800
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.4 2008/03/13 04:38:09
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
```

promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. Crossposts of regular discussion articles between rec.radio.amateur.moderated and other discussion newsgroups are not permitted.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/ announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers, and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header, containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the moderators if one is not already provided.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

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2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns, are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true."

"That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html |

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

630. Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-17 02:24:58 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <hvqdna30jt1sj8rVnZ2dnUVZ_uGdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2701

Thanks for reading this. I've just been through a very confusing antenna trial, and I'd really appreciate some info from hams who know more about them then I.

My brother, W3TDH, called me up yesterday and asked me to help test some 80 and 40 meter antennas that his club is preparing for field day. He told me that the club is going to serve their target coverage area by using two dipoles, spaced 1/2 wave apart and fed in phase, so as to maximize NVIS (Near-Vertical Incidence Skywave)radiation.

I'm not arguing with the design: antennas spaced 1/2 wave apart and fed in phase always have maximum radiation at right angles to a line bisecting both antennas. Ergo, two dipoles, horizontally mounted, etc., will indeed produce their maximum radiation straight up and down.

My question is: why would that be the best design? I thought that NVIS radiation was a byproduct of having a radiator less than 1/2 wave above the ground, and that it wasn't to be sought after, but rather avoided. Leaving aside the losses due to 1/2 the power pointing straight down, why would an antenna on 80 or 40 meters be most effective by radiating almost straight up? Wouldn't the coverage be improved by phasing the antennas so as to maximize radiation toward the horizon?

73,

W1AC

--
Bill Horne, W1AC

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

631. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-17 03:10:31 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g3791d$7sb$1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2702

In article <hvqdna30jt1sj8rVnZ2dnUVZ_uGdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>,
Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:
>Wouldn't the coverage be improved by phasing the
>antennas so as to maximize radiation toward the horizon?

Depends on the coverage you want. You want far away? Aim for the horizon.
You want 100-200 miles? Aim up.

632. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-17 06:07:31 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <duOdnWUebbUMr8rVnZ2dnUVZ_o_inZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2703

Bill,

NVIS antennas are in fact desirable in some applications, where you wish to communicate only with stations nearby, say out to about 250 miles. I can see them useful in emergency communcations scenarious to get good HF coverage of a local disaster area, or for use on a section traffic net, or other similar "local" communications needs. In a "contest" situation like Field Day they'd be tactically useful to have in your bag if your station was located in a high population density area with a lot of nearby stations like the east coast corridor, so that you'd somewhat avoid having a skip-zone, especially if the low bands (40 and 80) "go long" at night.

73, de Hans, K0HB

633. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-17 06:07:43 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <19he54ls9uku51rpb1b2cvno7qibb4di9k@4ax.com>
Source record: 2704

On Mon, 16 Jun 2008 23:10:31 EDT, c28f62@TheWorld.com (Mark Kramer) wrote:

>In article <hvqdna30jt1sj8rVnZ2dnUVZ_uGdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>,
>Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:
>>Wouldn't the coverage be improved by phasing the
>>antennas so as to maximize radiation toward the horizon?
>
>Depends on the coverage you want. You want far away? Aim for the horizon.
>You want 100-200 miles? Aim up.

NVIS is great for in-state communications.

However, the object of Field Day is to contact as many stations as possible.
Using a NVIS antenna will severely limit the number of stations which can be
contacted.
73 de Dick, AC7EL

634. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-17 14:13:13 UTC
From: LA4RT Jon <dev@null.com>
Message-ID: <1m4p7s2xxc.fsf@persaunet.uninett.no>
Source record: 2705

Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> writes:

The goals with NVIS are twofold:
- Avoiding nulls in local area coverage.
- Eliminating distant noise and QRM. If you're, after local coverage,
you also want that.

Local is a relative term. If the reflective layer is 200 km up, ranges
up to 480 km have a takeoff angle of 40 degrees or higher. A dipole a
quarter wave up above average ground is less than 2 dB down at that
elevation. At very low heights, the dipole is 3 dB down at 45
degrees. (It also radiates just a small fraction of the power you feed
it.)

As to why this would be the best design, it won't be for winning the
contest! Your brother may have another goal, like simply wanting to
test the design.

By the way, only part of the power going down is lost. The rest is
reflected. How much depends on height and ground characteristics.

73
LA4RT Jon

> Thanks for reading this. I've just been through a very confusing
> antenna trial, and I'd really appreciate some info from hams who know
> more about them then I.
>
> My brother, W3TDH, called me up yesterday and asked me to help test
> some 80 and 40 meter antennas that his club is preparing for field
> day. He told me that the club is going to serve their target coverage
> area by using two dipoles, spaced 1/2 wave apart and fed in phase, so
> as to maximize NVIS (Near-Vertical Incidence Skywave)radiation.
>
> I'm not arguing with the design: antennas spaced 1/2 wave apart and
> fed in phase always have maximum radiation at right angles to a line
> bisecting both antennas. Ergo, two dipoles, horizontally mounted,
> etc., will indeed produce their maximum radiation straight up and
> down.
>
> My question is: why would that be the best design? I thought that NVIS
> radiation was a byproduct of having a radiator less than 1/2 wave
> above the ground, and that it wasn't to be sought after, but rather
> avoided. Leaving aside the losses due to 1/2 the power pointing
> straight down, why would an antenna on 80 or 40 meters be most
> effective by radiating almost straight up? Wouldn't the coverage be

> improved by phasing the antennas so as to maximize radiation toward
> the horizon?
>
> 73,
>
> W1AC
>
> --
> Bill Horne, W1AC
>
> (Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

635. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-17 14:13:37 UTC
From: Ed Cregger <ecregger@bellsouff.net>
Message-ID: <k0N5k.6981$Nr.1330@bignews6.bellsouth.net>
Source record: 2706

"Bill Horne" <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote in message
news:hvqdna30jt1sj8rVnZ2dnUVZ_uGdnZ2d@speakeasy.net...
> Thanks for reading this. I've just been through a very confusing antenna
> trial, and I'd really appreciate some info from hams who know more about
> them then I.
>
> My brother, W3TDH, called me up yesterday and asked me to help test some
> 80 and 40 meter antennas that his club is preparing for field day. He told
> me that the club is going to serve their target coverage area by using two
> dipoles, spaced 1/2 wave apart and fed in phase, so as to maximize NVIS
> (Near-Vertical Incidence Skywave)radiation.
>
> I'm not arguing with the design: antennas spaced 1/2 wave apart and fed in
> phase always have maximum radiation at right angles to a line bisecting
> both antennas. Ergo, two dipoles, horizontally mounted, etc., will indeed
> produce their maximum radiation straight up and down.
>
> My question is: why would that be the best design? I thought that NVIS
> radiation was a byproduct of having a radiator less than 1/2 wave above
> the ground, and that it wasn't to be sought after, but rather avoided.
> Leaving aside the losses due to 1/2 the power pointing straight down, why
> would an antenna on 80 or 40 meters be most effective by radiating almost
> straight up? Wouldn't the coverage be improved by phasing the antennas so
> as to maximize radiation toward the horizon?
>
> 73,
>
> W1AC
>
> --
> Bill Horne, W1AC

It's just a W.A.G., but most of the old publications reflected the culture of the time and the culture in those days was oriented to working DX, not locals. Today, I enjoy talking out to several hundred miles much more than speaking to someone a continent or two away who is restricted (many times) as to what they can or cannot say by their government. Then throw in foreign accents, my aging hearing, etc., and one understands why speaking with my fellow Americans is a much more pleasant experience - most of the time. I mean no offense to foreign amateur radio ops. I enjoy speaking with them too, when in a relaxed, non competitive atmosphere.

Ed, NM2K

636. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-17 14:14:27 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <gdWdnWEcr_cFWcrVnZ2dnUVZ_oHinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2707

>
> Using a NVIS antenna will severely limit the number of stations which can be
> contacted.
> 73 de Dick, AC7EL
>

Well, maybe and then again, maybe not.

During SS weekends I temporarily rig a very low 75M dipole (25 feet up) to snag the "close in" mults like WI, IA, MB, etc. It's not NVIS per se, but the idea is to get a high take-off angle.

Out here in flyover country it's simply a mult-catcher, but in a dense population area (like the east coast or Ohio valley), having an NVIS choice on the antenna switch can be a great advantage.

73, de Hans, K0HB

637. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-17 16:29:20 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g38ll3$1cfg$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2708

Dick Grady AC7EL wrote:
> On Mon, 16 Jun 2008 23:10:31 EDT, c28f62@TheWorld.com (Mark Kramer) wrote:
>
>> In article <hvqdna30jt1sj8rVnZ2dnUVZ_uGdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>,
>> Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:
>>> Wouldn't the coverage be improved by phasing the
>>> antennas so as to maximize radiation toward the horizon?
>> Depends on the coverage you want. You want far away? Aim for the horizon.
>> You want 100-200 miles? Aim up.
>
> NVIS is great for in-state communications.
>
> However, the object of Field Day is to contact as many stations as possible.
> Using a NVIS antenna will severely limit the number of stations which can be
> contacted.

An NVIS antenna is usually referring to a low dipole. There are a lot of misconceptions about the antenna. They do work on DX (just not as well) and they make a pretty fair Field day antenna.

The reasons are that they radiate fairly equally in all angles, as compared to a similar antenna at a height that would allow it to have a lower radiation pattern. This might sound odd, but if you model an NVIS antenna, then compare it to a higher one you'll see that is the case.

I think that we some times get tricked by terms such as "Take off Angle" or similar terms. That dipole is radiating in all directions. Some just not as much as others. That can get us thinking that the signal comes off the antenna as a "blob" that is heading out at some ideal or non-ideal angle.

People have earned DXCC using NVIS antennas.

To complicate matters, Propagation effects are not static. I performed experiments a few years ago, using a dipole which was NVIS on 80/75 meters, and a Vertical antenna (Butternut HF6V) to answer the perennial question " Which is better, a horizontal or a vertical antenna?" In receive mode, I used a decade attenuator box. To transmit, that has to be removed, lest I get a smokey crunchy attenuator.

Which is better? The answer is a resounding yes! And not always in the way we would think. The propagation effects made the dipole perform better sometimes when I expected the vertical to, and vice versa.

What's more the conditions can change in the middle of a QSO. I had many cases of fading, when the Op would mention how the band was changing.

Switch from vertical to dipole, or vice versa, and it brought the signal back up. Note I'm not saying that this will compensate for the band closing up.

So that NVIS antenna might not be so bad for Field day as we may think. It won't have as much oomph at lower takeoff angles as the low takeoff angle antenna will, but it will have output at those angles none the less.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

638. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-17 16:30:29 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <4857cafc$0$31745$4c368faf@roadrunner.com>
Source record: 2709

Dick Grady AC7EL wrote:
>
> However, the object of Field Day is to contact as many
> stations as possible.

I thought the purpose of Field Day was to serve as a training ground for emergency preparedness. And a time to experiment with new techniques and technology in an "emergency" setting without it being a "real" emergency.

Considering the relative ease of setting up an NVIS antenna system, and the number of other stations on the air, Field Day makes a perfect time to see how it performs and to map it's effectiveness for short range HF communications.

Maybe I'm going blind in my old age, but I just don't see contesting under 47CFR97.1

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

639. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-18 06:18:49 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <k406k.14765$c5.3239@fe101.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2710

Jeffrey D Angus wrote:
> Dick Grady AC7EL wrote:
>>
>> However, the object of Field Day is to contact as many
>> stations as possible.
>
> I thought the purpose of Field Day was to serve as a training
> ground for emergency preparedness.

It certainly does that. It can be a test of how quickly a group can gets stations up and running. It can be a test of which groups are better organized and it can certainly be (and is) a test of how efficient operators can be in copying a message quickly and accurately. They keep and publish scores, do they not? That's a contest as well as an exercise.

> And a time to experiment
> with new techniques and technology in an "emergency" setting
> without it being a "real" emergency.

I'm going to be bold in stating that I believe Field Day is a terrible time to be fiddling with new techniques/technology. It is a simple matter to do that well in advance of Field Day. You certainly wouldn't want to experiment with new techniques/technology in an actual emergency.

> Considering the relative ease of setting up an NVIS antenna
> system, and the number of other stations on the air, Field
> Day makes a perfect time to see how it performs and to map
> it's effectiveness for short range HF communications.

I could have done that last Tuesday. The bands are loaded with stations almost all of the time. The results of installing an NVIS antenna are well known. They work better for working stations within a few hundred miles of your location. Install a low dipole or install a dipole at medium height above ground with a reflector under it and voila!

> Maybe I'm going blind in my old age, but I just don't see
> contesting under 47CFR97.1

You're right. Neither will you see anything about discussing non-functional body parts on 75m, participating in a large roundtable discussion or DXing. There are numerous things not addressed. That does not mean that they are prohibited.

Dave K8MN

640. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-18 12:03:08 UTC
From: Rick <ricknj10@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <4858f88c$0$11642$607ed4bc@cv.net>
Source record: 2711

Put your dipole up between and two (or three, if it is an inverted vee)
connect the coax and start screaming. This idea of two phased antennas
isn't going to make any difference. If it does, please come back and let us
know but I will bet you wont see one iota of difference in your FD
performance.
CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day. One alpha Norhtern New Jersey (or whatever).

641. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-18 16:49:36 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g3b298$1678$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2712

Jeffrey D Angus wrote:
> Dick Grady AC7EL wrote:
>>
>> However, the object of Field Day is to contact as many
>> stations as possible.
>
> I thought the purpose of Field Day was to serve as a training
> ground for emergency preparedness. And a time to experiment
> with new techniques and technology in an "emergency" setting
> without it being a "real" emergency.

I think you are both correct. While the purpose is emergency preparedness, the format seems rather contest like. Keeping score, different classes, posting the scores in QST. It's just a way to inject some fun in the whole process. Get folks on the air, and nothing like a little competition to get a person to improve their skills.

> Considering the relative ease of setting up an NVIS antenna
> system, and the number of other stations on the air, Field
> Day makes a perfect time to see how it performs and to map
> it's effectiveness for short range HF communications.

Let's look at Field day. We're pretty much not DX'ing to begin with. Excepting Alaska and Hawaii, the distances aren't that vast.

So a Low takeoff angle antenna isn't even the best choice, IMO. My experiments show the low angle antenna to have a very strong local signal, then for a few hundred miles out it is not very good, then it starts improving, and for very long distances it tends to be better than the NVIS type.

That was done on 75 meters, and keep in mind that it was not over a long period of time - around 2 weeks, but I'm fairly confident that I'm at least in the ball park.

I worked Field Day once overnight on 75 meters using 100 watts, and an off center fed dipole at 40 feet. I used that setup to work the west coast, and Hawaii and Alaska. I ran and held frequencies the whole night long.

I would recommend if a group was going to put up a "DX angle" antenna, they would be well served to put up an NVIS antenna to complement it.

> Maybe I'm going blind in my old age, but I just don't see
> contesting under 47CFR97.1

Ever since cavemen started rolling boulders around in the woods, they figured out how to turn it into a competition. It seems to be what we humans do best. ;^)

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

642. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-18 19:35:00 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <7cmi541dl1atckba9v9oqu89l8a3q4t92o@4ax.com>
Source record: 2713

On Tue, 17 Jun 2008 12:30:29 EDT, Jeffrey D Angus
<jangus@socal.rr.com> wrote:

>I thought the purpose of Field Day was to serve as a training
>ground for emergency preparedness. And a time to experiment
>with new techniques and technology in an "emergency" setting
>without it being a "real" emergency.

My sole interest in 80 meters is for EmComm data modes, where NVIS is
the desired mode. I hope that my (inefficient) dipole will do what I
want.....
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

643. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-18 23:40:03 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <I62dnQkBXeEj8cTVnZ2dnUVZ_sLinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2714

"Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
news:g3b298$1678$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu...

> I think you are both correct. While the purpose is emergency preparedness, the
> format seems rather contest like. Keeping score, different classes, posting
> the scores in QST.
> - 73 de Mike N3LI -

Must not be a contest then, because contest scores don't get posted in QST under
current management.

73, de Hans, K0HB

644. Candy store near Buffalo NY?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-19 01:06:08 UTC
From: Rich McAllister K6RFM <rfm@pensfa.org>
Message-ID: <874p7q2pzt.fsf@terra.pensfa.org>
Source record: 2715

I'm going to be spending some time near Buffalo NY (SW suburbs,
Orchard Park, East Aurora area.) I'm going to be setting up a
temporary station, and I'm sure I'll forget something since I've never
done that before. Where in the area does one go for radio bits?

Rich, K6RFM

645. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-19 17:20:45 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g3dkfcuje1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2716

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Tue, 17 Jun 2008 12:30:29 EDT, Jeffrey D Angus
> <jangus@socal.rr.com> wrote:
>
>> I thought the purpose of Field Day was to serve as a training
>> ground for emergency preparedness. And a time to experiment
>> with new techniques and technology in an "emergency" setting
>> without it being a "real" emergency.
>
> My sole interest in 80 meters is for EmComm data modes, where NVIS is
> the desired mode. I hope that my (inefficient) dipole will do what I
> want.....

Only it really isn't inefficient - at least not because of it's
radiation pattern.

I'm curious though, what data modes do you use on 80? I do PSK there,
but are you doing handshaking and error correction? This time of year
could be taxing on that.

We can spin this into an other thread if you like.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

646. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-19 17:21:21 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.06.19.14.41.11.303935@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2717

On Tue, 17 Jun 2008 12:30:29 -0400, Jeffrey D Angus wrote:
> Dick Grady AC7EL wrote:
>>
>> However, the object of Field Day is to contact as many
>> stations as possible.
>
> I thought the purpose of Field Day was to serve as a training
> ground for emergency preparedness. And a time to experiment
> with new techniques and technology in an "emergency" setting
> without it being a "real" emergency.

Y'know, I've heard both arguments for a very long time. IMHO you're both
wrong.

Field Day is a party.

(in the non-alcoholic, family reunion sense)

647. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-19 19:52:12 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <489l54prvkcedc6l12vkere68camb5jemh@4ax.com>
Source record: 2718

On Thu, 19 Jun 2008 13:20:45 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

>> My sole interest in 80 meters is for EmComm data modes, where NVIS is
>> the desired mode. I hope that my (inefficient) dipole will do what I
>> want.....
>
>Only it really isn't inefficient - at least not because of it's
>radiation pattern.

The antenna that I am using is a B&W HF Wideband Folded Dipole, best described as a resistor with wires and a balun. It was originally developed for quick-and-dirty erection and has become "the standard" for those Federal agencies that can't afford to install monster HF log-periodic beams. It does cover all frequencies between 160m and 10m equally poorly without the need for an antenna tuner. Mine is mounted with the center about 35 feet AGL and the ends about 25 feet AGL.

>I'm curious though, what data modes do you use on 80? I do PSK there,
>but are you doing handshaking and error correction? This time of year
>could be taxing on that.

PSK and Pactor I. I have been fairly successful with PSK but I haven't heard any P-I signals where they're 'sposed to be. Some of us locals are planning to have a P-I QSO to make sure that we can connect to something. There's 'sposed to be a local CMS (HF relay) station not far from here but we haven't heard it on. So much for 24/7 availability.

--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

648. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-20 03:44:54 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <6c0e1bF3eq81lU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2719

In news:pan.2008.06.19.14.41.11.303935@invalid.nospam,
Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam> typed, for some strange, unexplained
reason:
: On Tue, 17 Jun 2008 12:30:29 -0400, Jeffrey D Angus wrote:
: > Dick Grady AC7EL wrote:
: >>
: >> However, the object of Field Day is to contact as many
: >> stations as possible.
: >
: > I thought the purpose of Field Day was to serve as a training
: > ground for emergency preparedness. And a time to experiment
: > with new techniques and technology in an "emergency" setting
: > without it being a "real" emergency.
:
: Y'know, I've heard both arguments for a very long time. IMHO you're
: both wrong.
:
: Field Day is a party.
:
: (in the non-alcoholic, family reunion sense)

Eh..? Whaddya'mean, non-alcoholic..?! ;-)

73 Ivor G6URP

649. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1610 - June 20, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-20 11:03:40 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080620031217.016f2830@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2720
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1610 - June 20, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1610 with a release date of Friday, June 20th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Hams in the United States mid-West continue their storm relief efforts as hams in India get ready to face their yearly monsoons. Also, a T-Hunting ham prevents an unnecessary search and rescue operation and science comes up with the first self replicating machine. Well, almost. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1610 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: THE RAIN KEEPS FALLING

The rain keep falling and the rivers keep rising in several mid-Western states and ham radio operators continue to volunteer their time to the relief effort. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jack Parker, W8ISH, joins us from Indianapolis, with more:

--

Flood waters that rushed through south central Indiana last week ruined or damaged thousands of homes, affecting the lives of their owners. Amateur Radio Operators from around the state continued to provide critical communications through the following week.

Fourty-two hams, many of them from surrounding counties, assisted in shelter operations in Columbus, Indiana and four other towns.

Bartholomew County was one of the hardest hit by the June floods. According to Noel Taylor N9CJT, the five day operation racked up nearly 15-hundred man hours in Amateur Radio Communications.

Further west, Amateurs in Terre Haute Indiana had problems of their own. Heavy rains dropped nearly a foot of water on Vigo county, pushing the Wabash River over its banks.

Newcomer Jerry Boling, KC6OND, had just become the ARES EC for Vigo County five days before the flood hit. He was working with a new county Emergency Management Director. Both had little experience coping with a major disaster:

..

KC6OND. "When all this took place I was very unprepared. I'm just very thankful I work with a great group of guys there in the Wabash Valley. And I'm gonna tell you something I've lived all over the countr. These guys
in the Wabash Valley really have their stuff together."

..

Vigo county hams maintained an emergency net for four days.

Over in Johnson county Amateur Radio Operators were re-activated the following Friday when torrential rains once again flooded county roads. Local officials feared more homes would be flooded. Several buildings were damaged by high winds as the latest storm left its mark on the flooded landscape.

To date, a total of thirty Indiana counties have been declared disaster areas. Meanwhile, Emergency Management Officials across the Hoosier state are singing praises for the work Amateur Radio Operators have done.

Reporting from Indianapolis, this is Jack Parker W8ISH

--

Meantine the ARRL reports that hams have also been busy in Wisconsin where severe weather starting on June 9th, brought flooding to five counties. One of these county's called on ARES members to provide patrols of the flooded areas overnight on two consecutive nights. According to ARRL Wisconsin Section Emergency Coordinator Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO, approximately 90 ARES members responded to the call for assistance. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS IN INDIA PRAISED IN PRINT

A number of newspapers in India are praising the initiative being taken by hams in the city of Mumbai. This, to be ready when the yearly rains start to fall. Robb Topp, VK5MM, of the WIA News reports:

--

Ham radio is regarded as the best back-up communication system during calamities says an item in the Indian press.

Abhijit Pant and other amateur Ham operators are taking part in a novel initiative they are using Ham radio as a rescue tool during the monsoon season in Mumbai this year

When telephone lines fail and mobile networks get jammed, voices crackling over the airwaves could save citizens caught in waterlogged areas.

When everything fails, we rise. This is a challenge and Ham Radio really works during crucial occasions. Ham radio is better than other means of communication, Abhijit said.

When they receive information about stranded people, mobile Ham stations and Ham operators relay information to a centralized control room which helps those in distress get access to emergency services.

I'm Rob, VK5MM.

--

One newspaper article summed it up this way. It says that it may have started as amateur radio, but with the skills involved, it's far from being
just amateur. (WIA News)

**

RESCUE RADIO: T-HUNT HAM PREVENTS UNNEDED AIR FORCE SEARCH

An unnamed Oregon ham radio operator is being credited with preventing the need for an expensive government search for an Emergency Locator Transmitter. One it turned out that was functioned on by mistake.

According tp KTVZ news, the ham was driving along Interstate5 near the city of Roseburg when he picked up an unusual signal. It turned out to be a beacon from an Emergency Locator Transmitter that was presumably in a downed aircraft.

Sergeant Dave Marshall of the Douglas County Sheriff's office says the ham operator happened to be a volunteer for the Amateur Radio Emergency Services. He used his T-hunt knowledge and followed the source of the signal to a hangar at the Roseburg Regional Airport.

The signal turned out to be coming from the wreckage of a home built plane that crashed on a Roseburg street May 26th. The 70-year-old pilot had amazingly walked away from the wreck. He had returned to the hanger where the remnants was being stored to show it some friends when one of them accidentally triggered the beacon.

As soon as the T-hunting ham showed up it was quickly turned off. If it hadn't been, the Air Force would have launched a search for the wreckage of a plane. (KTVZ.com)

**

RESCUE RADIO: FLORIDA HAM HELPS IN RESCUE AT SEA

A Florida ham is being credited with helping to save those on-board a sailboat stranded in a raging storm.

Dorrain Sawyer, KB4UUA, of Bonifay, tells the N-W-F Daily News that she was recently monitoring the bands when a distress call came in. It was about 9:30 a.m in the morning when she learned that a vessel sailing off the coast of Costa Rica had run into stormy weather and its passengers were calling for help.

The vessel in trouble was the Stravaig, a 42-foot sailboat from Great Britain, was caught in 60-mph winds of what would become Tropical Storm

Arthur. The Stravaig was low on fuel and had ripped sails when it began taking on water in its engine room.

Sawyer did not receive a call directly from the Stravaig. Rather the message was relayed to her from a nearby vessel. When she got it, she promptly called the Coast Guard. A lengthy rescue mission ensued and the Stravaig and its passengers finally reached shore at about 10 p.m.

Sawyer said that she spent about four hours on the phone with the Coast Guard, and it took them nearly 12 hours to bring the Stravaig to shore. Although Sawyer was the first to react to the Stravaig's call, she tells the on-line newspaper that she knows there were other radio operators listening and waiting to help. (NWF)

**

RESCUE RADIO: SOUTH AFRICA ASSISTS CHINA IN SETTING UP RESCUE RADIO GROUP

Hams from South Africa are pitching in to help radio amateurs in China to form a rescue radio organization of their own. Following the recent earthquake in China, that nations ham community realized the value of having an organized amateur radio disaster communication organization and have turned to South Africa's Hamnet for help in forming it.

Hamnet is South Africa's equivalent of RACES in the United States. Its National Director, Francois Botha, ZS6BUU, has already has shared training manuals with Michael Chen, BD5RV, in Nanjing. Botha also provided Chen with details of how to structure a disaster management communication organization.

ZS6BUU says that it is gratifying that South Africa's Hamnet can be of assistance to a nation that has suffered so much in the past few months. (SARL, Southgate)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W3BN repeater serving the city of Reading, Pennsylvania.

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: PLEASE MONITOR THESE NEW BIRDS

The sponsor of a pair of cubesat satellites is inviting hams world-wide to help monitor the tiny birds once they are on-orbit. Students at Santa Clara University are asking radio amateurs to liten out for the beacon signals from PreSat and NanoSail-D which are scheduled to launch on June 23rd from the Reagan Test Site in the Marshall Islands.

Both spacecraft are scheduled to go into Low Earth Orbit as secondary payloads aboard a SpaceX Falcon-1 launch vehicle. PreSat's mission will be to evaluate the performance of a generic biofluidic sample management and handling system for future advanced in situ space-borne biology experiments. It will operate on 437.318 MHz FM, will send an AX.25 packet every 5 seconds.

The NanoSail-D spacecraft will deploy a solar sail that also will be used as a drag sail. This, to demonstrate orbital debris mitigation technology. Its signal will be on 437.269 MHz FM, sending an AX.25 packet every 10 seconds. In both cases hams on the ground are asked to submit received beacon packets through the mission websites in order to receive a web-based QSL card.

The URL's for each bird is: PreSat - http://www.presat.org, NanoSail-D - http://www.nanosaild.org (KE7EGC)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: ARRL FIELD DAY JUNE 28 AND 29

ARRL Field Day takes place June 28 and 29 and this year record level participation is anticipated.

Field Day is the ARRL's flagship operating event that's held each year on fourth full weekend in June. Field Day brings together newcomers and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun while at the same time demonstrating that hams can go anywhere to instantaneously, set up their gear, and provide emergency communications.

One big rules change for Field Day 2008 is that the former Demonstration Mode Bonus category has been eliminated. Its been replaced by an Educational Activity Bonus worth 100 points. This new bonus is intended to encourage clubs and groups to do some more formal educational activity during their Field Day operation. If you have any questions concerning what activities might be appropriate for this bonus, please send an e-mail to ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND and he will get back to you with some ideas.

A complete Field Day Packet can be downloaded from the ARRL Web site. You will find it in cyberspace at www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/fd.html (ARRL)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: ANNOUNCING D-STAR FIELD DAY

If you or your club is planning on participating in this years ARRL Field Day this year, then think about also setting up a D-STAR Field Day station and participating in a parallel event just announced called D-STAR Field Day. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the studio with more:

--

This year D-Star Field Day runs June 28th and 29th which is the same as the long traditional ARRL sponsored Field Day operating event.

According to Ed Woodrick, WA4YIH, posting on a D-Star remailer, the rules for D-STAR Field Day are similar to those of the ARRL Field Day. This, in that the event is to demonstrate ham radio communications capabilities to others including public officials. Only instead of traditional analog operation you use digital D-Star equipment.

Setting up a D-STAR Field Day Station doesn't take much. Ed says that a handheld and a log book may be all that is required. Or go all out and setup a a complete voice, low speed data, and high speed data station.

One big change. Since D-Star Field Day is not associated with the ARRL sponsored Field Day, and because most D-Star contacts will likely be made using repeaters, those contacts will not count toward your ARRL Field Day score. This is because the ARRL does not permit repeater use during Field Day while the sponsors of D-Star Field Day do.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

--

D-Star Field Day comes to you courtesy of the Georgia D-Star group. More information and complete rules are on the web at www.dstarinfo.com/news/DSTAR_Field_Day.html (WB9QZB)

**

EMERGING HAM TECHNOLOGY: ANNOUNCING D-STAR SSTV

And still with the world of D-Star, John Brown, GM7HHB, in Kirknewton, Scotland, has reportedly written a program to send Slow Scan TV type images or webcam captures over the digital data stream over D-STAR radios. The application called D-Star TV runs on Microsoft Windows XP or Vista and requires at least one serial port.

D-Star TV is in its initial testing stage so it has a few bugs. Also, there are some features that still to be implemented. That said, D-Star TV reported to be workable and you can download it free of charge at www.dstartv.com

Oh yes. Its strongly suggested that you read the Frequently Asked Questions or FAQ file before using the program. Its also a free download at www.dstartv.com/faq.htm (QRZ.com)

**

MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE: THE FIREDRAKE IS BACK ON 20 METERS

The so-called Firedrake intruder is back on 20 meter. ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, says that he has received reports from Intruder Watch monitors in Texas, Montana, West Virginia, Massachusetts, Colorado, Washington, Nevada and Pennsylvania hearing the mainland-China based jammer on 14.010 and 14.070 MHz. Hams in IARU Region 1 have heard the jammer on 14.000, 14.005, 14.010, 14.030, 14.050, 14.050 and

14.090 MHz.

According to one Region 1 monitor, the jammer originates from Chinese government transmitters in an attempt to block out the Sound of Hope short wave broadcasts. Skolaut said he heard it on 14.070 at 1500 Eastern time on June 6th from ARRL HQ.

The FCC's High Frequency Direction Finding facility in Columbia, Maryland. also has heard the Firedrake jammer. It has sent a harmful interference report to the Chinese government but has no authority to make intruder stations outside the US to stop transmitting on Amateur Radio frequencies. Such situations typically are dealt with through diplomatic channels. The last time the Firedrake jammer was heard in the ham bands was about two years ago. (ARRL)

**

RADIO EDUCATION: MOTOROLA AND MART TEAM UP TO TEACH HAM RADIO

Motorola and the Malaysian Amateur Radio Transmitters' Society are establishing a network of school amateur radio clubs in Malaysia. This, to instill interest in communications technology and innovation among students.

Motorola Technology managing director Yew Tian Tek said that funds would be invested to equip 40 schools with two-way radio equipment consisting of a base station, and three portable. He said the first school amateur radio club would start in July, adding that equipment would be installed in other schools by the end of the year.

Yew said such clubs would expose the students to amateur radio which could encourage them to explore the technology further. The radio club network involving 40 schools nationwide will also serve as response teams in emergencies or disasters. (IZ8FTW)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: HAMVENTION PLEDGES NO MORE FLEA MARKET WAITING LINES

The outgoing president of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association says that that this years one big problem at the Hamvention will be solved long before next years event. That being the extrodinarilly long waiting times for sellers to get into the Flea Market area.

Writing in the clubs newsletter, Jim Simpson, WB8QZZ, acknowledged that there were more than a few disgruntled Flea Market participants. This, after a computer glitch managed to make for long waiting lines for Flea Market vendor to getting in to set up shop.

Simpson say that several changes will be made to system over the summer months. He says that October 1st is the groups deadline to have all sales and data collection tools on line, checked out and ready for use.

WB8QZZ says that this must get done in a timely manner and a team of information technology proficient individuals has been selected for this

process. (DARA RF Carrier)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: HAM RADIO 2008 IN GERMANY

The countdown has begun for HAM RADIO 2008. That's Europe's answer to the Dayton Hamvention that has taken place for the past 33 years at Lake Constance near Friedrichshafen, in Germany. .

This years dates are June 27th to the 29th and the main focus of HAM RADIO 2008 is Amateur Radio and the Satellites.

There will also be a special programs for youngsters. Arrangements have been made for tomorrow's hams can participate in the gathering where 17 different stations will permit participants to experience the excitement of Amateur Radio on their own. Also, a special training course for school teachers will focus on Amateur Radio projects in school.

Last year's HAM RADIO had over 18,000 visitors, and 500 exhibitors from over 30 countries. (Southgate)

**

ON THE WEB: PICKMYRIG.COM

U-K hams M3PHP and M-Zero-TZO have launched their newest site called PickMyRig.com. This is a simple cyberspace location where you input a few details you wish to have on a new radio and PickMyRig.com will display matching ham radio gear for you.

PickMyRig.com is from the team who brought you Hamtests.co.uk and HamRadioForum.net. M0TZO says that the new site is still in its earliest incarnation but it is ready for use. Again the U-R-L is www.ickMyRig.com (M0TZO)

**

HAM RADIO MARKETPLACE: FIRST SDR TRANSCEIVER FROM INDIA

The first software defined all mode transceiver covering H-F and 6 meters from India has been brought to the ham radio marketplace. Priced at $599 in U.S. dollars, the transceiver from WonderRadio appears to be a kit based on an article from QEX Magazine titled "A Software Defined Radio for the Masses." More information is on-line at sdrtec.com. (Southgate)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: HOWARD SHEPHERD, W6US - SK

Its with the deepest sympathy that we report the passing of former ARRL Southwestern Division Director Howard Shepherd, W-6-U-S.

Shepherd served as Southwestern Division Director from 1965 through 1967, when he held the callsign W6QJW.. He was a record-setting contester, an Elmer to countless up-and-coming young hams and a volunteer leader. In his professional capacity as an attorney he was an adviser on antenna zoning issues and club incorporations.

Howard Shepherd, W6US, died on Friday, June 13th. Services were scheduled for Saturday, June 21st at the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Los Alamitos, California. (ARRL Southwestern Division News)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: NEW MODEL VoIP CALLING LAUNCHED

German telephone company Deutsche Telekom AG, the parent of T-Mobile, says that it has invested in Jajah, an upstart firm that lets customers bypass long-distance fees by connecting their calls over the Internet.

Founded in Austria in 2005, Jajah has emerged as the third model of Internet calling, also known as Voice over Internet Protocol, or VoIP. Users go to the company's Web site and enter two phone numbers -- their own and the number they want to call. The company calls both numbers. If the calls are answered, Jajah connects them. Calls are free between Jajah users in many countries. Other calls cost about 3 cents a minute.

Most VoIP businesses, like Skype service and Vonage generally don't involve the user's wired or wireless phone. Instead they rely on a broadband connection to carry the call to the outside world.

So far Jajah has more than 2 million registered users around the world with 40 percent in the United States.. The company is headquartered to Mountain View, California. (Press release)

**

PROPAGATION: SUNSPOTS ARE UNSPOTS

Mr. Sun is going longer than normal without producing sunspots. So say those attending the International Solar Conference held at Montana State University from 1st to the 6th of June.

About 100 scientists from around the world attended the conference to talk about Solar Variability, Earth's Climate and the Space Environment. According to an article on the event by the Montana State Univeristy news service, scientists say periods of inactivity are normal for the sun, but this period has gone on a lot longer than usual.

You can read the full article at www.montana.edu/cpa/news/nwview.php?articleY82 (University News Services)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: UK TO LAUNCH STUDENT CUBESAT

In ham radio space related news, students at Leicester University in the U-K have begun a project to design, build and launch a satellite into space. Twenty undergraduates in the department of physics and astronomy are involved in the mission to detect space dust. The main body of the satellite was donated this week by an engineering company based in Loughborough. G7HIA and G0SFJ are the amateur radio mentors to this satellite project You can read the full BBC News story at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/leicestershire/7453497.stm) (Southgate)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AO-16 MALFUNCTION UPDATE

AMSAT-North America Vice-President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, says that the AO-16 ham satellites on-going malfunctions continue. According to Glasbrenner, AO-16 continues to spontaneously shut off and controllers suspect it is a watchdog timer that is not operating properly. Also that the problem is temperature related.

The resets on the satellite began shortly after the satellite re-entered periods of eclipses after a long period of full sun. Both Glasbrenner and Mark Hammond , N8MH, have, at various times, have re-commanded the bird on. It will remain operational for anywhere from just a few seconds to a few minutes before shutting down. They also have experimented with doing the reset operation automatically, but with not much success.

The current plan is to wait a little bit until the eclipses start getting shorter. At that point in time the overall temperature of the satellite rises some, and controllers will then see if the frequency of the resets goes down enough to make some sort of day-to-day operation of the aging bird feasible once again. (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT SPACE SYMPOSIUM CALLS FOR PAPERS

This is the first call for papers has gone out for the 2008 AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual Meeting. This years dates are October 24th to the 26th in Atlanta, Georgia. Proposals for papers, symposium presentations, and poster presentations are invited on any topic of interest to the amateur satellite program.

An emphasis for this year is an educational outreach to middle and high school students. Another topic if interest is using amateur satellite tracking systems to monitor deep space network objects.

Camera ready copy on paper or in electronic form will be due by September 1st for inclusion in the printed symposium proceedings. Papers received after this date may not be included in the printed proceedings.

A one-page abstract as soon as possible. Abstracts and papers should be sent to n8fgv@amsat.org (AMSAT, AA4RC)

**

ON THE AIR: THE HOLYLAND IN OCTOBER

Hal Turley, W8HC, and Jerry Fish, K8OQL, have announced plans to return to Israel in October for another CQ World Wide Phone Contest from the Holyland. In commemoration of Israel's 60th Anniversary in 2008, the two have been granted permission to operate as 4Xï¿½C as a special event and contest station from atop Israel's historical Masada National Park.

Hal and Jerry will be hosted and joined by Ruben Alon, 4Z5FI, for their Multi operator Single station operation during the contest. Direct QSLs to W8HC or via the buro. All 4Xï¿½C QSO's will also be uploaded to the ARRL's Logbook to the World and Hal will QSL 100% via GlobalQSL.com.

For those not awate, Masada was built during the years 37 to 31 BC by Herod the Great. It served as a nearly impenetrable stone fortress and palace.

The site is located in the remote Judean desert and is situated on a table-top plateau rising nearly 450 meters. However Masada's actual elevation is near-sea level since the Dead Sea below it is over 400 meters below sea level.

Additional information can be found at www dot w8hc dot com. (W8HC)

**

DX

In D-X, a team of operators will use the special callsign 7Y46ND from Algeria during the month of July. They plan to operate from the city of Djelfa on 80 through 10 meters. QSL via 7X2DD

The Hungarian Traveling Amateur Radio Team will be active from Liechtenstein between June 23rd to the 29th. Operators are HA0HW, HA4DX and HG4GBE all operating portable H-B-Zero on 40 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, and maybe some digital modes. QSL via the HA Bureau or direct via each operator's QRZ.com address.

DL4AO will be active portable Oh Zed from Bornholm Island until June 26th. He will operate in his early morning and late afternoon hours, mostly on 20 meters. He will also operate on 6 meters using CW and SSB. All of the QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau.

The Spanish operation from East Timor continues through the 24th of April signing 4W6R. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via EA4URE.

Lastly, DK7LX will be operating portable FH from Mayotte will be operational until June 23rd of. Activity is holiday style on the H- F bands using mainly CW. QSL direct to DK7LX as his callbook address.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: MACHINES THAT MAKE MORE MACHINES

And finally this week, as biologists are busy working on cloning living organisms, engineers are similarly at work on a mechanical counterpart. That being to create non-living things that can replicate themselves. And now they have built one. Well, kind of. John Williams, VK5BUI, of the WIA News says that they are at least on their way:

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New Scientist have reported how more than 100 researchers from around the world have been working on a project called Rep-Rap or Replicating Rapid Prototyper.

Rep-Rap the world's first 3D printer can print pieces which can be assembled by hand to make an exact copy of the original printer. The replica is no mule, either - it can also print another copy of itself.

So far, Rep-Rap can only reproduce its plastic parts, and not its metal or electronics. It takes a human a few hours to assemble the copied pieces into another printer.

Besides replicating itself, it can also print plastic 3D objects including coat hooks, water-filter insects, children's sandals, and much more.

People already "run their own CD burners, printing presses and photographic laboratories", said Adrian Bowyer, the University of Bath mechanical engineer who launched the RepRap project. "There's no reason they shouldn't run their own factories as well."

Now if only Rep-Rap could replicate my voice when I get the croaks!!

I'm John VK5BUI bui bui bui bui

--

Don't look for self replicating machines to replace humans in all aspects of manufacturing very soon. While scientists have succeeded in the area of small simple plastic parts, self replicating completed devices is likely a long, long ways away. (WIA News)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is

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Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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650. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 24 (Friday, June 20, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-20 20:09:58 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080620200840.205AA30DCF@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2721
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 24
June 20, 2008
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* + Hams Ready to Respond to Iowa Floods
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+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> HAM RADIO VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE SUPPORT DURING SANTA CRUZ FIRE

Ham radio volunteers from Santa Cruz ARES
<http://www.ares.santa-cruz.ca.us/> provided a vital layer of
communications to support firefighters, law enforcement, Red Cross and
even animal control during the Martin fire in the hills above Santa Cruz
over Father's Day weekend. As of Tuesday, June 17, the fire, which
covered more than 500 acres, was completely contained. Four people were
injured in the fire. Three homes were destroyed and another one was
damaged, while eight outbuildings burned down. Santa Cruz, home to
University of California, Santa Cruz, is a town of about 55,000 people
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located on the northern edge of Monterey Bay.

During the blaze, ARRL Santa Clara Valley Section Public Information Coordinator Bill Moffitt, AE6GS, said the radios in the Santa Cruz County Emergency Operations Center were "crackling with traffic as hams across the area transferred information, made requests and made sure the various agencies -- from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's department -- were kept abreast of the progress in fighting the fire and the needs that arose in the area." Yet, Moffitt said, even with all this going on, "ARES volunteers remained completely professional, ensuring the accuracy and effectiveness of the flow of traffic."

"Our group got some valuable practice during the Summit fire a few weeks ago," said ARRL Santa Cruz County District Emergency Coordinator Cap Pennell, KE6AFE, who manned the radio room in the Santa Cruz EOC. "Our people were much more ready for this fire, and the quality of the response shows." The Summit fire burned more than 4200 acres in both Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties, destroying 31 homes and 63 outbuildings. Both the Martin and Summit fires remain under investigation.

Helping to evacuate people in the fire's path was an immediate priority, and the ARES teams facilitated communications between the various agencies who were notifying people about their evacuation status. But pets and livestock, including a multi-hundred pound pig, also needed to be moved from harm's way. That's when Santa Cruz County Animal Control organized volunteers from Equine Evacuation, a local animal evacuation organization, to help transport animals out of the fire zone. Several hams are also members of the group, and with their help, Equine Evacuation safely and efficiently removed more than 50 animals, including horses and other livestock, to safe locations.

"I slept about four hours last night," said Hap Bullard, KQ6YV, as he stood next to his ham radio-equipped pickup hooked up to his empty horse trailer at the staging area for the animal evacuation. Bullard is a ham radio operator who also serves with Equine Evacuation. "I'm here to ensure the animal control people can stay in touch with the Emergency Operations Center, but I'll be going to pick up horses if I'm needed," he said. -- ARRL Santa Clara Valley Section Public Information Coordinator Bill Moffitt, AE6GS

==> HAMS READY TO RESPOND TO IOWA FLOODS

News of the flooding in Iowa has been leading the nightly newscasts for days. But according to ARRL Iowa Section Emergency Coordinator Jim Snapp, NA0R, "While flooding here in Iowa is a disastrous event to individuals and business affected, only a very small percentage of Iowa's land mass is directly affected by actual river flooding. Thanks to advance warnings from government agencies, loss of life has been very low." Only one fatality has been reported in the Iowa floods.

Snapp said that Iowa amateurs were active in SKYWARN events over several weeks prior to the start of flooding events. On the morning of June 12, the Iowa State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) requested activation of the Amateur Radio station in the SEOC (KC0EEC) to provide alternate communications with Linn County EOC (Cedar Rapids area) and Jones County EOC. KC0EEC was manned around the clock, but Snapp said he knows of only one piece of traffic that was passed.

"We have access to the SEOC e-mail program, since that is where we would enter messages coming in by Amateur Radio," Snapp said. "Many, many requests came in and were handled by SEOC staff. Jones County closed their EOC Saturday and the Linn County EOC dismissed the Amateur Radio operations late on Saturday, June 14 and the KC0EEC station was closed."

Snapp said that on June 16, Iowa SEOC requested information on Amateur Radio communication abilities in southeastern Iowa "in case of communication breakdown in that area. Currently, there is no widespread Amateur Radio activity in Iowa dealing with the floods."

About 20 years ago, Snapp said that Iowa installed a fiber optic backbone to all 99 Iowa counties: "This system has been updated and refined over the years, and is very robust redundant system. All the Iowa County Homeland Security and Emergency Management coordinators have e-mail access directly to the Iowa SEOC for requests or to get questions answered."

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency at the SEOC has supplied the amateur community with ham equipment: an HF transceiver, an HF/VHF transceiver and tri-band VHF/UHF and dual band VHF/UHF transceiver. "If the Iowa SEOC needs Amateur Radio communications, they will contact us," Snapp said.

==> CALIFORNIA HANDS-FREE LAW TO GO INTO EFFECT JULY 1; HAM RADIO NOT AFFECTED SAYS COUNSEL

A new California hands-free cellular telephone law goes into effect July 1, 2008. It, like many others around the country, prohibits using mobile telephones while driving, unless a hands-free device is utilized. ARRL has received numerous questions about its application to the use of mobile Amateur Radio stations by licensed amateurs. The law, in relevant part, states as follows:

"23123. (a) A person shall not drive a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone unless that telephone is specifically designed and configured to allow hands-free listening and talking, and is used in that manner while driving."

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, advises that "The definition of prohibited behavior in California's recent statute does not include a prohibition of operating a mobile, licensed Amateur Radio station while driving, because Amateur Radio transceivers are not telephones. While ARRL cannot guarantee that this statute will not be interpreted by law enforcement officers or the courts of California more broadly than that, it is our view that a fair reading of the statute excludes mobile

operation of Amateur Radio equipment by licensed radio amateurs.

"That said, it is obvious that drivers should pay full time and attention to driving. To the extent that operating their amateur stations while mobile is a distraction to them, they should consider, if possible, pulling over safely to the side of the road and conducting their amateur communications while stationary."

ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, adds that while the statute on its face does not apply to Amateur Radio mobile operation, problems could still arise: "Law enforcement officers are not telecommunications experts and may not understand or be concerned about the difference between a cellular telephone and a ham radio. If you do get stopped, be polite and state that you were operating a mobile Amateur Radio transmitter as specifically authorized by the FCC and not a wireless telephone. Don't engage in an argument if the officer issues a citation -- that won't help your cause. If cited, you will need to follow the instructions about contesting the citation in traffic court. As ARRL General Counsel Imlay notes, the language of the statute does not appear to include amateur mobile operation. Unfortunately, you could have to go through the inconvenience of appearing in court to contest a citation."

ARRL will continue to monitor the application of this statute relative to radio amateurs.

==> GERMAN HAM CLAIMS FIRST DXCC ON 432 MHZ

The world of Amateur Radio DXing has passed a new milestone: On Friday, June 6, Jan Bruinier, DL9KR, of Niedernhausen, Germany, worked his 100th country on 432 MHz (70 cm) via moonbounce (EME) and CW.

Samek Zdenek, OK1DFC, and Hofbauer Zdenek, OK3RM, were getting ready to go on an EME DXpedition to Macedonia. Before they left, Samek asked Bruinier to help test out the equipment; Bruinier gave him a beacon, aiming a signal off the moon. According to VHF guru and conductor of QST's "World Above 50 MHz" column Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, this is done by transmitting a series of CW dashes and then stopping to listen for the signal to return a little more than a second later. The moon averages 384,000 km from the Earth; radio waves travel at ~300,000 km/sec.

After one of these transmissions, Bruinier was excited to hear Samek appear on frequency with a 549 signal. Thus, after an exchange of calls and reports, Bruinier's 100th country on 432 MHz was in the log. Once his QSL cards are confirmed in the near future, he will become DXCC #1 on 70 cm.

Bruinier's 70 cm EME operations began in 1977. He had followed the exploits of the early EME pioneers in QST, operators like KH6UK, W4HHK, W3GKP and W1FZJ who was conductor of the "World Above 50 Mc" during much of the 1960s. Jan and his family moved to a semirural location in Germany in 1976 where he could put up decent VHF antennas. Working initially on his own, he built an array of 16 ten-element quagis

(antennas with single quad loop driven elements and reflectors and 8 Yagi directors) following the design described in QST by Wayne Overbeck, K6YNB (now N6NB). After a few false starts with other tubes, he obtained an Eimac 8938 and built a near-legal limit amplifier. The station exciter was a set of Drake twins as an IF strip using homebrew transverters with an increasingly sensitive group of GaAsFET preamplifiers, always working at the state-of-the-art.

As time progressed, Bruinier built a bigger amplifier capable of running 1500 W continuously to deal with the high duty cycle found in EME operation -- long, slow CW with two minute transmissions at a time -- and receiver systems that yielded noise temperatures of 60 kelvins that could detect 7 dB of noise when he pointed his array into the ground. He eventually transitioned from the quagis to an array of DL6WU design Yagis fed with 1-5/8 inch Heliax, currently having a gain of 28.4 dBd. For comparison, this is slightly more gain than the 28 foot Kennedy parabolic dish has at 432 MHz.

According to Zimmerman, the range of contacts covered by the 70 cm band is less than 1000 km; even under the most enhanced conditions, it is less than double that. "To work the 100 entities needed for DXCC, EME communications are essential. EME is the most demanding form of operation there is in Amateur Radio," he said. "Every single aspect of the station must be optimized: The equipment, the antennas, the feed lines and most particularly, the talent of the operator. Even 1 dB may make the difference between a contact and no contact. Bruinier's achievement was accomplished the old fashioned way -- by dint of hard work, excellent equipment, big antennas and many, many hours on the air looking for new countries and not missing many, if any, DXpeditions to the many countries where there is no 432 MHz EME activity."

Bruinier told Zimmerman that many people going to many countries on all continents made this award possible: The Five Bells Group, the Yota Sawe Group, Michale Kohla, DL1YMK, and Monica; Bernd Mischlewski, DF2ZC; Mark De Munck, ON5FF (now EA8FF); Bernhard Dobler, DJ5MN; Mart Sakalov, SM0ERR; Dimitris Vittorakis, SV1BTR; Gudmund Wannberg, SM2BYA; Frank Hobelmann, DL8YHR; Joachim Werner, DL9MS, and Allen Katz, K2UYH, among others, as well as groups from Russia, Spain, France and Denmark.

If you would like to read more details about Bruinier's career as an EMEer, please look for his story in his own words in the "World Above 50 MHz" column in the September 2008 issue of QST.

==> WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DIRECTION FINDING (ARDF) CHAMPIONSHIPS FAST APPROACHING

Have you ever thought about competing on the world stage? ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, reports that there are some openings available to compete for the USA this September at the ARDF World Championships in Korea. "All of this year's USA gold medalists plus those from last year and other competitors who did well have been offered positions on ARDF Team USA for the 14th ARDF World

Championships," he said. "Many are unable to go this year for a variety of reasons, so at this time there is at least one opening remaining in every category except M50 (males age 50-59). This makes it possible for relatively inexperienced radio-orienteers to join the team. It is also possible to attend as a non-competing visitor, but all visitors must be listed on the national team roster."

Moell notes that those interested in traveling to the 2008 ARDF World Championships as a member of Team USA (or a USA visitor), to please contact him immediately via e-mail <homingin@aol.com>. Do not contact the Korean organizers directly. If you have not been on Team USA before, please include your full name, call sign, mailing address, home phone number and date of birth in your e-mail. If you wish to participate as a citizen of another North or South American country (non-USA), please e-mail IARU Region 2 ARDF Coordinator Dale Hunt, WB6BYU <wb6byu@arrl.net>. Canadians should also contact RAC ARDF Coordinator Joe Young, VE7BFK <ve7bfk@rac.ca>.

To be safe at the World Championships, Moell said participants must be capable of solo navigating with a map and compass in the forest for several miles. IARU rules limit Team USA membership to US citizens and legal residents. Each member is responsible for his or her own travel arrangements and entry fees. For more information, go to the Championship Foxhunting News page of Moell's Web site <http://www.homingin.com/farsnews.html#korea> where prospective participants can get team status reports and download the latest bulletins from the organizers.

Moell also reports that he is looking for hosts and organizers for 2009 ARDF events. "USA ARDF Championships have taken place in New Mexico, Georgia, Ohio, California, North Carolina and Texas so far. Almost every state has an area of forest that is suitable for the sport. Excellent orienteering maps may already be available, because there are US Orienteering Federation clubs in 40 states. Besides maps, these clubs can assist with scoring systems, flags, site acquisition, insurance and so forth," he said.

"Don't worry too much about the transmitters," said Moell. "There are plenty available for loan from active groups. Instead, concentrate on the site and the hospitality aspects, such as where people will stay, what they will eat and how they will get from place to place. If your club or ham group has put on a big hamfest or ARRL convention, you probably have the skills and resources to organize the USA ARDF Championships. The optimum months will be July and August." If you or your club is interested, please contact Moell via e-mail <homingin@aol.com>.

==> W1AW ANNOUNCES 2008 FIELD DAY BULLETIN SCHEDULE

Stations active during ARRL Field Day -- June 28-29 -- are eligible to receive 100 bonus points for copying the special Field Day bulletin transmitted by W1AW (or K6KPH on the West Coast) according to the

schedule below. You must include an accurate copy of the message in your Field Day submission. The Field Day bulletin must be copied via Amateur Radio; it will not be included in Internet bulletins sent out from Headquarters and will not be posted to Internet BBS sites.

W1AW will operate on the regularly published frequencies. The special PSK31 bulletin will be transmitted on the regular W1AW teleprinter frequencies. CW frequencies: 1.8175, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675 and 147.555 MHz. Teleprinter frequencies (includes PSK31): 3597.5, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095 and 147.555 MHz. Phone frequencies: 1.855, 3.990, 7.290, 14.290, 18.160, 21.390, 28.590 and 147.555 MHz.

Friday
CW: 5 PM PDT, 6 PM MDT, 7 PM CDT, 8 PM EDT
Teleprinter: 6 PM PDT, 7 PM MDT, 8 PM CDT, 9 PM EDT
Phone: 6:45 PM PDT, 7:45 PM MDT, 8:45 PM CDT, 9:45 PM EDT
CW: 8 PM PDT, 9 PM MDT, 10 PM CDT, 11 PM EDT

Saturday
CW: 7 AM PDT, 8 AM MDT, 9 AM CDT, 10 AM EDT
Phone: 8 AM PDT, 9 AM MDT, 10 AM CDT, 11 AM EDT
CW: 5 PM PDT, 6 PM MDT, 7 PM CDT, 8 PM EDT
Teleprinter: 6 PM PDT, 7 PM MDT, 8 PM CDT, 9 PM EDT
Phone: 6:45 PM PDT, 7:45 PM MDT, 8:45 PM CDT, 9:45 PM EDT

Sunday
CW: 7 AM PDT, 8 AM MDT, 9 AM CDT, 10 AM EDT
Phone: 8 AM PDT, 9 AM MDT, 10 AM CDT, 11 AM EDT
PSK31: 9 AM PDT, 10 AM MDT, 11 AM CDT, 12 PM EDT

The Maritime Radio Historical Society's K6KPH <http://www.radiomarine.org/> will transmit the 2008 W1AW Field Day message for the benefit of West Coast stations on 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475 and 21.0675 MHz, CW only. The frequencies for K6KPH Teleprinter (RTTY and FEC AMTOR) will be 7.095 and 14.095 MHz. The K6KPH schedule is accurate as of June 17, 2008.

Saturday
CW: 7:30 AM PDT, 8:30 AM MDT, 9:30 AM CDT, 10:30 AM EDT
CW: 5:30 PM PDT, 6:30 PM MDT, 7:30 PM CDT, 8:30 PM EDT
Teleprinter: 6:30 PM PDT, 7:30 PM MDT, 8:30 PM CDT, 9:30 PM EDT

Sunday
CW: 7:30 AM PDT, 8:30 AM MDT, 9:30 AM CDT, 10:30 AM EDT
Teleprinter: 9:30 AM PDT, 10:30 AM MDT, 11:30 AM CDT, 12:30 PM EDT

More information on ARRL Field Day is available on the ARRL Field Day Web site <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Blazon sky blue and endow the Sun with gold" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: We are lucky to see sunspot activity this week, although it is only one. Sunspot 999 is currently in its most geo-effective position -- near the center of the Sun -- as we see it. This is another old Solar Cycle 23 spot. The sunspot number for the last few days has been 11, which is the minimum non-zero sunspot number. A value of 10 is assigned because there is just one cluster of sunspots, although in this case it is a cluster of just one; a value of one is added to that for the single spot. A week ago, the sunspot number was 13, which means one cluster, three spots, although the judgment of the number of spots inside sunspot 999 is somewhat subjective. Sunspot numbers for June 12-18 were 13, 13, 0, 0, 11, 11 and 11 with a mean of 8.4. The 10.7 cm flux was 67.1, 66.5, 67.1, 66.5, 65.3, 65.9 and 65.4 with a mean of 66.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 3, 16, 20, 13, 9 and 9 with a mean of 10.4. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 1, 16, 14, 10, 8 and 8, with a mean of 8.4. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, look for the Digital Pentathlon on June 20. The Feld Hell Sprint and the AGCW VHF/UHF Contest are June 22. The All Asian DX Contest (CW) and the SMIRK Contest are June 21-22. On June 25, be sure to check out the SKCC Sprint and the BCC QSO Party. Next weekend is ARRL Field Day on June 28-29. The Digital Pentathlon is June 27. The Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest, His Majesty King of Spain Contest (SSB), the Marconi Memorial HF Contest and the ARCI Milliwatt Field Day are all June 28-29. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, July 6, 2008 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, July 18, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002), Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2), Antenna Modeling (EC-004), HF Digital Communications (EC-005), VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions,

reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARRL to Close in Observance of Fourth of July: ARRL Headquarters will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Friday, July 4. There will be no W1AW bulletin or code practice transmissions that day. The ARRL Letter and ARRL Audio News will be posted a day early on Thursday, July 3. ARRL Headquarters will reopen Monday, July 7 at 8 AM Eastern Daylight Time. We wish everyone a safe and festive holiday weekend.

* First Image from CUTE-1.7 +APD II Satellite: The ground control station at the Tokyo Institute of Technology has downloaded the first color image taken by the CUTE-1.7 +APD II Amateur Radio satellite <http://lss.mes.titech.ac.jp/ssp/cute1.7/howtoreceive_e.html>. The satellite was 620 km above the Earth at 28.905 degrees North and 146.040 degrees East when the image was captured. CUTE-1.7 +APD II was one of several CubeSats carried to orbit this year in April by an Indian PSLV-C9 rocket launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Center <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/28/10067/?nc=1>. The satellite transmits packet radio data at 9600 baud at 437.475 MHz. -- Our thanks to Mineo Wakita, JE9PEL, for this story.

* Howard Shepherd, W6US (ex-W6QJW), SK: Former ARRL Southwestern Division Director Howard Shepherd, W6US, passed away on Friday, June 13, 2008. He was 87. Shepherd, who served as Southwestern Division Director from 1965-1967, when he held the call sign W6QJW, was active and accomplished in many facets of Amateur Radio. According to current Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, Shepherd was a record-setting contester, an Elmer to countless up-and-coming young hams, a volunteer leader and, and in his professional capacity as an attorney, an adviser on antenna zoning issues and club incorporations. Positions he held included Army Amateur Radio System DNC2, Los Angeles Section Emergency Coordinator, Deputy Chief of LA County Disaster Authority, California State Office of Emergency Management Net Control Station, Chairman of Los Angeles Area Council of Radio Clubs, Volunteer Instructor and Examiner, Explorer Scoutmaster, Radio Physics Instructor at Yale University Technical School and Senior Instructor at USAAF Technical Training Command. Shepherd was an Honorary Member of the Southern California DX Club with 352 countries confirmed, member of the San Diego DX Club, past chairman of the 50 Club and prime mover in the Leisure World Radio Club of Seal Beach. An ARRL member for over 70 years, "Howard gave back to Amateur Radio, his community and his country in many ways. We will miss him greatly," Norton said. Services will be held on Saturday, June 21 at 11 AM at the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Los Alamitos, California.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL

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651. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-20 20:33:14 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <J86dnfw139u8bsbVnZ2dnUVZ_g6dnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2722

"Doug Smith W9WI" <w9wi@invalid.nospam> wrote in message
news:pan.2008.06.19.14.41.11.303935@invalid.nospam...

> Field Day is a party.
>
> (in the non-alcoholic, family reunion sense)

How do you survive a family reunion without alcohol?

Beep beep,

de Hans, K0HB

652. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1610 - June 20, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-21 00:55:54 UTC
From: c28f62@TheWorld.com
Message-ID: <g3hh9dpkv1@vulture.killfile.org>
Source record: 2723

In article <5.2.0.9.2.20080620031217.016f2830@popd.ix.netcom.com>,
William M. Pasternak <newsline@ix.netcom.com> wrote:
>RESCUE RADIO: T-HUNT HAM PREVENTS UNNEDED AIR FORCE SEARCH
>
>An unnamed Oregon ham radio operator is being credited with preventing the
>need for an expensive government search for an Emergency Locator
>Transmitter. One it turned out that was functioned on by mistake.
...
>As soon as the T-hunting ham showed up it was quickly turned off. If it
>hadn't been, the Air Force would have launched a search for the wreckage of
>a plane.

Ummm, in Oregon, downed aircraft searches are the responsibility of the
county sheriff.

Even had it not been turned off quickly, the Air Force would not launch
anything. They'd have to ignore the known signal until it was, but launch,
no. There is no reason to launch anything once an ELT has been found
and someone is on site.

If it hadn't been found, the state OEM duty officer would have been
called, who would have called the emergency services duty officer in
the county the sarsat hit plots to, who likely would have called his
ARES people. If his ARES people are on the ball, that is.

At worst, the county official would have punted to CAP, but not the Air
Force. (Yes, an auxilliary is not the same as the parent organization.)
Since CAP is volunteer, the cost would be the same as for ARES.

653. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1610 - June 20, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-21 07:34:10 UTC
From: nospam@w6yx.stanford.edu
Message-ID: <g3i5elcti1@news.stanford.edu>
Source record: 2724

In article <5.2.0.9.2.20080620031217.016f2830@popd.ix.netcom.com> "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com> writes:

>RESCUE RADIO: T-HUNT HAM PREVENTS UNNEDED AIR FORCE SEARCH

>An unnamed Oregon ham radio operator is being credited with preventing the
>need for an expensive government search for an Emergency Locator
>Transmitter. One it turned out that was functioned on by mistake.

This gets one named? Gee, I did much the same thing in Auburn California sometime back in the 1980's. The difference was that I was driving a cessna (on the ground) at the time. I was able to identify the aircraft and spot it was parked at the airport, and call in the information to flight service who passed the information on to get it shut off.

The useful trick was that the cessna radios would still pick up the ELT signal if one was close enough when you tuned them off-channel. I was at least a MHz away in frequency when I peaked the signal up right in front of the source airplane. With an AM signal, it was a pretty good attenuator, built right in my receiver.

Alan
wa6azp

654. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-22 06:00:05 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1214114400@panix.com>
Source record: 2725
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

655. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-22 06:05:03 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1214114701@panix.com>
Source record: 2726
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

656. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-22 20:21:05 UTC
From: Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
Message-ID: <fast-7F4298.08484922062008@netnews.worldnet.att.net>
Source record: 2727

In article <J86dnfw139u8bsbVnZ2dnUVZ_g6dnZ2d@earthlink.com>,
"K&#65533;HB" <groupk0hb@earthlink.net> wrote:

> "Doug Smith W9WI" <w9wi@invalid.nospam> wrote in message
> news:pan.2008.06.19.14.41.11.303935@invalid.nospam...
>
>
> > Field Day is a party.
> >
> > (in the non-alcoholic, family reunion sense)
>
> How do you survive a family reunion without alcohol?
>
> Beep beep,
>
> de Hans, K0HB

Don't Go..... Or if you really can't stand Sleeping on the couch
for the rest of your days..... There is always Earplugs, and an iPod...

--
Bruce in alaska
add <path> after <fast> to reply

657. Disruption in usenet news service.

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-24 20:22:24 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <g3qvrn02mmu@news4.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2728

Thank you Time Warner for dropping usenet news completely.
http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-9964895-38.html

I switched to newsguy.com so we're back.

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

658. Re: Antennas - Is NVIS a good thing?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-25 20:28:03 UTC
From: Tom Horne <hornetd@veriqrmzon.net>
Message-ID: <6Gu8k.11$x65.1@trnddc01>
Source record: 2729

Kï¿½HB wrote:
>> Using a NVIS antenna will severely limit the number of stations which
can be
>> contacted.
>> 73 de Dick, AC7EL
>>
>
> Well, maybe and then again, maybe not.
>
> During SS weekends I temporarily rig a very low 75M dipole (25 feet up)
to snag
> the "close in" mults like WI, IA, MB, etc. It's not NVIS per se, but t
he idea
> is to get a high take-off angle.
>
> Out here in flyover country it's simply a mult-catcher, but in a dense
> population area (like the east coast or Ohio valley), having an NVIS ch
oice on
> the antenna switch can be a great advantage.
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB
>
>
>

Congratulations, You spotted the strategy involved on the first pass.
We are in Maryland about twenty miles north of the District of Columbia.
This is a very contact rich environment. The antenna in question is
one of many we plan to deploy.
--
Tom Horne, W3TDH

"This alternating current stuff is just a fad. It is much too dangerous
for general use." Thomas Alva Edison

659. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1611 - June 27, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-27 12:40:08 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080627013633.016d1a10@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2730
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1611 - June 27, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1611 with a release date of Friday, June 27th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T.

China's TV networks praise ham radio for assisting after the May earthquake, 4 Meters is expanded in Denmark, a state grant buys new rescue radio gear for ARES in Oregon and the United States at the 2008 World A-R-D-F championship games. Joe Moell, K0OV, has a special report on the Field Day weekend 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1611 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: CHINA PRAISES ITS HAM COMMUNITY FOR QUAKE RESPONSE

Chinese television has heaped praise on that nations ham radio community. This for its volunteerism following that nations recent earthquake. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has the details:

--

Reports on the Chinese national T-V network news said that when all other communication means failed, amateur radio operators came out to provide valuable first hand information from the center of the earthquake disaster. This included an High Frequency link for the Red Cross from the disaster area back to the nation's capital city of Beijing, enabling that aid agency to do its essential humanitarian work.

Other reports said that BY8AA continuously coordinated VHF and UHF communications for a 100 km radius from the capital of southwest China's province of Sichuan. Additional repeaters were set up in two other cities that were among the worst hit areas outside the epicenter. This formed an effective amateur radio relay communication network to provide an Amateur Radio respone.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Im Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the studio in Los Angeles

--

In another report, two ham radio operators are reported to have driven to the center of the earthquake disaster area and had a repeater set up by the

morning of May 13th. That was just hours after the disaster hit. That repeater enabled the transmission of rescue instructions, status reports and was a main communication channel for public use when telephone services were down. (WIA News, BA1RB)

**

WORLLDBEAT: CHINA OLYMPIC SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS ON THE AIR

Amateur Radio Special Event stations for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games are now on the air. The Southgate news says that the stations began operating May 18th with five special event calls representing the five rings of the Olympic flag.

The calls are BT1OB, BT1OJ, BT1OH, BT1OY and BT1ON with the last letter of the callsign corresponds to the color of each of the rings of the Olympic flag . BA4EG will be the QSL manager for all stations. QSL's can be sent either direct or via the bureau and will begin to be answered in October.

There is a website set up that includes an on-line log search, a QSL card receive and sent status, and other information. Its in cyberspace at at www.bj2008ses.com.cn. (Southgate)

**

RESTRUCTURING: 4 METERS EXPANDED IN DENMARK

Access to the European 70 MHz band in Denmark has been expanded. Writing on the 70 MHz remailer, OZ2M says that the new Danish 4 meter band allocation has been extended with three new segments of which two are a direct extensions to existing ones. These are 69.9875 to 70.0000 MHz, a new distinct segment from 70.2375 to 70,2875 MHz and another expanded segment from 70.4875 to 70.5125MHz.

The 4 meter or 70 MHz band I a Region 1 only allocation. Its not available elsewhere so QSO's when that band I open internationally are usually made crossband. Hams outside Region 1 operate 6 or 10 meters while those in counties with the region that have 70 MHz privileges transmit in the 4 meter band. (Southgate)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: FIELD DAY ON SHORTWAVE

In Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, with word that Ted Randall, WB8PUM, of Lebanon, Tennessee, will be "Live from Field Day" on Field Day Saturday, June 28th. But his operation will be over shortwave radio station WBCQ on 7.415 MHz.

According to the ARRL. Randall will broadcast from 2 PM to 5 PM Eastern, then from 11 PM to 2 AM Eastern on Saturday, June 28th and he is inviting Field Day sites nationwide to dial into the program. The number to call during broadcast times is 931-528-0133. WB8PUM says that the line will not be answered prior to Field Day.

Randall says that this is a chance for Field Day locations to call in and be part of a special live remote broadcast from your own Field Day site. He says that the show will have a potential international audience of more than 200 million people

Again the phone number is 931-528-0133. He adds that as far as he knows, nothing like this has ever been done before. He hopes to hear from your Field Day location during the show.

More information is on-line at http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/06/26/10185/?nc=1 (ARRL)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Riverside County Amateur Radio Association net serving Riverside California.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: $250,000 GRANT TO OREGON ARES BUYS NEW RADIOS

Jackson County Oregon ARES, is using state grant money award to it earlier this year to purchase digital communication equipment for ARES chapters in each Oregon county. This, according to the on-line edition of the Southern Oregon Mail Tribune that previously reported the state awarded the Jackson County group $250,000.

According to the news article the award was due to the work of ARES operators last December when they provided backup communications to coastal communities during the winter storms really saved the day last December.

Those storms were some of the worst in decades. They knocked out both landline and cellular phone service to a number off coastal communities for several days. The tiny community of Vernonia was entirely cut off from the rest of Oregon by flooding and landslides. It fell to radio amateurs to direct rescue crews to residents stranded in Vernonia and other hard hit areas. This, while informing hospitals that patients were on the way.

Don Montgomery, WB7Q, is the Emergency Coordinator for Jackson County. He told the Mail Tribune that the group has established some 20 ARES stations throughout the county. He also noted that a company called Mercy Flights recently donated a retired ambulance to the group. WB7Q says its in the process of being converted into an emergency communication vehicle with a full complement of radio equipment on board. The complete story is on-line at www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080623/NEWS/806230320 (Oregon Mail Tribune.com)

**

RESCUE RADIO: THE ARRL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CD

If you are involved in any way in the emergency communications aspect of amateur radio you will want to get a copy of the Emergency Communications Library CD now being published by the American Radio Relay League. The CD is billed as a quick access source for information and software that every emergency communicator should have on hand. Among the items included are documents and presentations on many aspects of emergency communications operations, the ARRL Field Resource Manual and Public Service Communications manuals, software for APORS and Winlink and a copy of the Bob Doherty, K1VV, Simulated Emergency Test movie. For ordering information and pricing please visit www.arrl.org/shop on the World Wide Web. (ARRL)

**

ENFORCEMENT: YOU CANT SELL PHONE JAMMERS IN THE USA

The FCC has issued an Official Citation to Phonejammer.com. This for allegedly marketing unauthorized radio frequency devices in the United States in violation of the Communications Act, and for failing to respond to Enforcement Bureau directives to provide certain information and documents. Bon Wilbanks, AE5DW, has the details:

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In an earlier Letter of Inquiry or L-O-I to Phonejammer dot com dated November 6, 2007, the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's that company was marketing radio frequency jammers in the United States. Specifically units capable of disrupting communications on cellular and Personal Communications Service frequencies.

At the time of that letter and again on, May 20, 2008, the FCC said that it observed on its website, www.phonejammer.com, advertisements for the sale of multiple radio frequency jammers. The FCC says that the advertisements for the phone jammers listed shipping costs to the United States and displayed product prices in United States dollars. In addition, the website provided testimonials from United States residents who had purchased the phone jamming devices.

In its response the company claimed that it is based in the United Kingdom and that it doe not distribute, market, or advertise the phone jammers in the United States. In a response the FCC instructed Phonejammer.com to answer each question in the Letter of Inquiry. Though Phonejammers reply e-mails indicate that the comopany received the FCC's Letter of Inquiry, it has failed to respond to the questions set forth in it.

Now in its May 22nd Citation the FCC say that it appears as if Phonejammer has violated Commission orders by failing to respond to Enforcement Bureau directives to provide certain information and documents. It says that no party may ignore the directives in a Bureau inquiry letter. It has directly ordered Phonejammer to provide the information sought by its November 6, 2007 Letter of Inquiry.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Wilkbanks, AE5DW, in the Southern Bureau not far from New Orleans.

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Phonejammer dot com was given 20 days to respond or face the prospect of being fined up to $11,000. It was also warned that future violations of the Commission's rules may subject your company to further monetary forfeitures. (FCC)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: ARRL TEMPORARILY SUSPENDS PHONE DELIVERY OF AUDIO NEWS

The ARRL says that it is temporarily suspending telephone distribution of its Audio News service and will rely only on Internet distribution from its website. In its announcement the League did not explain the reason for suspending telephone distribution but did note this is only temporary and that it is sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

The ARRL statement added that the League hopes to be able to return telephone access to the ARRL Audio News at 860-594-0384 fairly soon. Meantime you will continue to find it on-line every week at www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio. (ARRL)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: NEW RAIL MUSEUM TO FEATURE AMATEUR RADIO

The Feather River Rail Society has begun a new project at the Western Pacific Railroad Museum in Portola, California. Dubbed the "Western Pacific Telegraph and Experimenters Society," the project aims to research and interpret early means of telecommunication on the Western Pacific Railroad.

An integral part of the project will include amateur radio operation from the museum. Matt Parker, N7TOD, is the trustee of the organization's newly acquired amateur radio-club station license. He says that through public interaction via ham radio, an aura can be created of an old-time telegraph office that will include the transmission of public service messages through the National Traffic System,

For more information about the Feather River Rail Society, the Western Pacific Railroad Museum at Portola or the Western Pacific Historical Society, take your web browser to www.wplives.org. (plives.org release)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: CELEBRATING PRESIDENT REAGAN ON FIELD DAY

Turning to news about Field Day, word that special Events Station, N6R, was scheduled to once again operate from the grounds of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, California during this years outing. The Ventura County Amateur Radio Society was to be joined by Simi Settlers Amateur Radio Club and the Ventura County Amateur Radio Club for the 24 hour event. Operations planned for most bands between 80 Meters and 24GHz. The call sign N6R commemorates the lives of former United States President Ronald Reagan and his wife Mrs. Nancy Reagan. (N6ZE)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: FIELD DAY INCENTIVE VIDEO ON YOUTUBE

A celebration of Field Day is the theme of a new two minute video posted to YouTube dot com. With pictures and text cut to music Kevin Pauley, kb9wvi, tells the story of Field Day as it was and as it is today. This is an excellent piece of video to use as an incentive to get your club to rally around the concept of what Field Day is and get them to attend. You will find it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=varHL752Odk (ARNewsline(tm))

**

WORLDBEAT - GERMANY: THE GIANT HAM RADIO CONVENTION

As hams in the US operated ARRL Field Day, Europe's giant Ham Radio Show opened in Freidrichshafen, Germany. Held this year from June 27th to the 29th, more than 18,000 visitors were expected to take advantage of the fair to find out about the latest offerings in the world of amateur radio and electronics.

This year, the focus of the show is on cultivating the interest of a younger generation of operators. Youngsters were to be able to spend two days using Morse, using radios, making things electronic and generally gathering their first experience of the new, 21st century world of amateur radio. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF WOMEN IN SPACE

In ham radio space related news, word that special event station R45VT is on the air. This, to commemorate the 45th Anniversary of Valentina Vladimirovna Tereshkova becoming the first woman in space.

Tereshkova flew to orbit on June 16th 1963 as pilot onboard Vostok 6. Her call sign during the flight was Chaika. She spent 71 hours in space orbiting the Earth 48 times.

Since that time women have made a significant contribution to space exploration and many of them have been licenced Radio Amateurs. A few of the many notable women space explorers since Valentina Tereshkova include American Sally Ride and the United Kingdom's Helen Sharman to mention only a few.

Sharman was also the first UK woman to be issued a ham radio call for her flight. She operated from the Mir Space Station as GB1MIR

And very apropos for this type of commemorative operation. At least one UK ham resports that he recently worked R45VT through the VO-52 amateur radio satellite. (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT - UK: AN AROUND THE UK CRUISE FOR CHARITY
Turning to news from around the globe, a British radio amateur is sailing around the United Kingdom in a bid to raise money for charity. Practical Wireless and the Southgate News say that Ray Oliver, G3NDS, plans to raise money for a worthy cause while operating maritime mobile from his yacht Christine-Marie.
Oliver set sail from Lymington at the end of April. He is operating with an Icom IC 706 that end feeds a 40 ft wire, sloping from the stern of the vessel to the top of the mast. He's mainly been operating on 80m SSB with some activity on top band, but will also operate on other bands and on CW from time to time.
G3NDS says that he will be sending a special QSL card to stations contacted that gives a summary of his challenge. He is also looking for hams to join him on legs of the passage, if anyone would like to crew or operate maritime mobile.
Contact information along with details of how his cruise came about, the charities he's supporting and his progress to date can be found on his web. The URL is quite simple. Its www.roundtheukcruise.org.uk. (PW, Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT - JAPAN: JARL TO CELEBRATE IARU HF CHAMPIONSHIP CONTEST

The Japan Amateur Radio League will establish 10 headquarters stations in various regions of Japan during the 2008 IARU H-F Championship. The dates are July 12th to the 13th but station may be heard on other bands outside of the contest during the week of July 7th. All QSO's will be QSL'ed automatically via the bureau. (JARL)

**

ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING THE USCG

On the air, all U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary members that are Amateur Radio operators are invited to operate as Special Event Radio Stations on Saturday October 18th on the High Frequency ham bands. This to commemorate the Anniversary of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Official Coast Guard Auxiliary special event amateur radio stations will be operating with a special 1 X 1 calls to contacting amateur radio operators and other U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary stations. Special event QSL cards will be used to commemorate the event.

Those interested in becoming an Official Special Event Radio Station should send an e-mail to nnn0abp@navymars.org. The last day to register as an

official station is September 15th. More information is on-line at
http://uscgauxduluth.blogspot.com/2008/06/calling-all-uscg-auxiliary-amateur
.html
(IZ8FTW)

**

DX

In DX, a 6 meter DXpedition to Sable Island is scheduled to remain on the air through Monday, July 7th. The fixed station in grid FN93 will use the callsign CY0X and will be transmitting on 50.117 MHz. Operation will be on CW and SSB. They will also try to activate rare grid GN03 if there is a solid opening using a portable station with a 5 element yagi with the callsign CY0RA. The team also plans on being on 20 and 40 meters using CW and SSB and the HF operation will always take lower priority over the 6 meter operation. QSL via VE3IKV

Lastly, G3RWF will be active from Uganda as 5X1NH through August 15th. His operation will be from Fort Portalin Western Uganda. QSL via G3RWF. He was last active from that location during February and March this year and made over 11000 QSO's during his stay.

(From various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE USA IN THE 2008 WORLD ARDF CHAMPIONSHIP

Finally, you may recall that two weeks ago we put out a reminder to all nations to send their Letters of Intent to participate in the upcoming Amateur Radio Direction Finding World Championships. If you're pondering what hams here in the United States are doing about this event, then wonder no more. Amateur Radio Newsline's Joe Moell K0OV, is here with the answers. Joe:

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Members of Team USA are now in training for the 14th World Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding, or ARDF, which take place near Seoul Korea in the first week of September. This will be the sixth time that USA has fielded a team for the World Championships, which take place in even-numbered years and draw over 300 radio-orienteers from about 30 countries. At the last World Championships in Bulgaria, Nadia Scharlau of Cary, North Carolina was the first North American to win a World Championships medal, and she's hoping to repeat this year.

ARDF is an all-on-foot transmitter hunting sport that usually takes place in large forests, with orienteering maps and compasses, but not GPS, to help the competitors find their way to the locations where their direction finding gear tells them the transmitters should be. A successful competitor may travel 7 or 8 kilometers to track down all of the required radio foxes. He or she must do it on two consecutive days, one on two-meter AM and the other on 80-meter CW.

Team USA 2008 has been selected from the medal winners at our last two national championships. The 2007 event was at South Lake Tahoe, California last September and this year's was at Bastrop, Texas in May. Two weekend training camps for team members will take place during July and August on Mt. Pinos in southern California.

Unfortunately, not everyone who was selected will be able to travel to Korea, so a few openings remain on our team roster. If you or someone you know is skilled at radio-orienteering and would like the opportunity to compete against and learn from the best in the world, please contact me right away.

Also, I'm looking for individuals or clubs to host upcoming USA national ARDF championships. If you your club has put on a major hamfest or ARRL convention, you probably have the skills and resources to put on an ARDF championships.

You'll need a well-mapped forested site for the competitions and your local orienteering club will probably be able to help you with that.

For more information about championship ARDF, Team USA, and the training camps, as well as contact information for the team, point your Web browser to www.homingin.com -- that's homingin, as one word, homingin.com.

From sunny southern California, where we can practice ARDF all year long, this is Joe Moell, K0OV, for Amateur Radio Newsline.

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The 2008 World ARDF Championship takes place September 2nd through the 7th in South Korea. The United States has been represented at the Amateur Radio Direction Finding World Championships since way back in 1988 (K0OV, ARNewsline(tm))

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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660. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 25 (Friday, June 27, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-27 16:32:57 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080627163156.08DD230A38@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2731
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 25
June 27, 2008
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* + IARU Administrative Council Meets in Germany
* + 2007 ARRL Annual Report Now Available
* + Global EmComm Conference in Germany This Week
* + Get Ready for a Summer of E-Skip
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+ ARRL to Close in Observance of Fourth of July
+ ARRL Audio News via Phone Back On Line

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> STRONG SUPPORT FOR AMATEUR RADIO WEEK AS ARRL FIELD DAY APPROACHES

ARRL Field Day -- June 28-29 -- <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday> is many
things to many people. It ranges from a contest to a picnic to an
emergency drill and more. But according to ARRL Media and Public
Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, it is also a public relations
event and groups can score more than 500 points for working the public
relations angle before the weekend even begins.

Instead of just telling your fellow hams and club members about Field
Day, why not tell your local newspapers and radio and television
stations? Having a media hit or link is good for 100 points.

Instead of manning only the radios, how about manning a public
information table with brochures, signs and a smile? That's another 100
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points. The ARRL offers publicity materials <http://www.arrl.org/brochures/> at no charge except a small shipping fee. It is too late to receive these brochures and handouts if you have not already requested them, but go ahead and order them -- you or your club will never know when the opportunity to tell the world about Amateur Radio will pop up next.

When you invite your elected local officials to visit your Field Day site, you can earn 100 points when they come. "This is easier than many folks might expect, especially with election season looming. All you have to do is ask!" Pitts said.

Having an official proclamation helps, too, he said; many communities and states have named June 23-29 as Amateur Radio Week. "ARRL Public Information Officers around the country were encouraged to begin work on obtaining these many weeks ago, and hundreds of local proclamations by city and county leaders -- as well as six state proclamations -- have been made, with more expected. Proclamations from the governors of Texas, Ohio, Kansas, North Carolina, Michigan, West Virginia, Washington and Alabama, along with a letter from the California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger are not just recognitions of the past, but keys for future political actions such as PRB-1 <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/local/prb-1_program.html> and legislative issues."

Pitts said that if your state is one of the 24 states without a PRB-1 statute on the books, "Why not start the process now by inviting your elected officials to your Field Day site to see what Amateur Radio is all about. Chances are, they will see the importance of what we do, giving you an inroad into discussing how they can help you get antennas in your community or even across the state. It's amazing to think that a simple invitation could lead to so much, but it's happened before -- why not make your Field Day the next success story."

For a list of the many ways you or your club can earn bonus points this Field Day, please be sure to check out the ARRL Field Day packet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2008-packet.pdf>. To find a Field Day site near you, check out the ARRL Field Day Locator <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>.

==> IARU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETS IN GERMANY

The Administrative Council (AC) of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) held its Annual Meeting on June 24-25, 2008 in Konstanz, Germany. Topping the agenda was the consultative process leading to nominations for IARU President and Vice President for the five-year term beginning on May 9, 2009. Current IARU President Larry Price, W4RA, announced in 2007 that he was not available to serve an additional term. The AC agreed that Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and Region 1 President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, are suitably qualified to serve as IARU President and Vice President, respectively. Their nominations will be offered to the Member-Societies for ratification. The ARRL serves as the International

Secretariat of the IARU.

The AC conducted a comprehensive review and updated the working document that defines the additional spectrum requirements of the Amateur and Amateur Satellite Services. Requests from the amateur satellite community for support of additional allocations were considered and referred to the IARU Satellite Adviser for additional information.

IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communications Hans Zimmermann, HB9AQS/F5VKP, presented his report in person to the AC. He noted the outstanding performance of radio amateurs in China who responded to the recent tragic earthquake emergency <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/05/27/10125/>. The Council also received reports of the other IARU international coordinators and advisers, including International Beacon Project Coordinator Peter Jennings, AB6WM/VE3SUN; Satellite Adviser Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV; EMC Adviser Christian Verholt, OZ8CY, and Interim Monitoring System International Coordinator Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG. The AC also heard a progress report from an ad hoc committee that is investigating the future role and structure of the IARU. Work since the previous AC meeting last year in Boston has refined the structure and identified the remaining issues to be resolved.

Region 1 representatives offered a resolution seeking to improve the operating standards of radio amateurs; this was adopted by the Council. The AC endorses and recommends the principles set out in the booklet "Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur" by John Devoldere, ON4UN, and Marc Demeuleneere, ON4WW, and encourages each IARU Region to consider this booklet, with a view to adopting it, including any Regional variations that might be felt appropriate.

The Council also commissioned a study of the international QSL bureau system. The study will seek input from Member Societies on the problems they face in light of escalating postage and other expenses, as well as the anticipated impact of electronic confirmation systems such as the ARRL's Logbook of the World <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>.

The AC reviewed and renewed the three-year strategic plan for the development of support for Amateur Radio frequency allocations for the period 2008-2011. The principal focus is on preparations for the 2011 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-11) <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/index.asp?category=conferences&rlink=wrc-11&lang=en>, especially the attainment of an amateur allocation in the vicinity of 500 kHz.
The Council identified the upcoming International Telecommunication Union (ITU) meetings where IARU representation will be required and plans for such representation were reviewed. The plans of Region 3 for the IARU presence at Telecom Asia 2008 (Bangkok, September 2-5) and of the International Secretariat for Telecom World 2009 (Geneva, October 5-9) were also reviewed.

The AC reviewed the 2009-2011 budget, as presented by the International Secretariat (ARRL). It includes provision for financial contributions from the three regional organizations to defray a portion of the expenses, in accordance with previously adopted policy.

The upcoming implementation of the worldwide exclusive allocation of 7100-7200 kHz that was adopted at the 2003 WRC and set to begin on March 29, 2009, was noted, and the many contributors to this achievement were recognized.

The Council selected "Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication" as the theme for the next World Amateur Radio Day, April 18, 2009. The theme for 2008 was "Amateur Radio: Allowing Youth to Connect the World."

Each of the three IARU Regions presented status reports that the AC received and discussed. The next regional conference will be that of Region 1, to be held in Cavtat, Croatia in mid-November.

Attending the Konstanz meeting were IARU President Larry Price, W4RA; Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA; Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ; regional representatives Ole Garpestad, LA2RR; Don Beattie, G3BJ; Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T; Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AMH; Ramon Santoyo, XE1KK; Rod Stafford, W6ROD; Michael Owen, VK3KI, and Gopal Madhavan, VU2GMN; ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, on behalf of the International Secretariat, and recording secretary Paul Rinaldo, W4RI. IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communications Hans Zimmermann, HB9AQS/F5VKP, attended a portion of the meeting.

The next scheduled meeting of the IARU Administrative Council will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand in October 2009.

==> 2007 ARRL ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The ARRL Annual Report for 2007, now available online <http://www.arrl.org/announce/annualreport/> and in print, reviews the League's major events of the year and documents the renewed growth of both the ARRL and the activities of the Amateur Radio Service. Just 50 years ago, there were fewer than 90,000 ARRL members; in 2007, ARRL achieved its highest level of membership growth since 1993. By the end of 2007, there were 153,535 ARRL members -- a single year increase of 3.3 percent. In this period of growth, ARRL has upheld its commitment and mission as the leading representative of active radio amateurs.

"As it played out, 2007 was a great year for ARRL and Amateur Radio," said ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN. "We experienced growth in the Amateur Service, growth in ARRL membership, the League is in good fiscal shape and hams are excited about getting on the air. Our headquarters staff is more excited and pumped about our mission than I've ever seen and that enthusiasm is being reflected in our membership numbers."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, concurred: "The mentoring of newcomers by a friendly, welcoming, and supportive community of experienced amateurs is an essential part of 'service after

the sale.' It's what turns license-holders into active, lifelong radio amateurs. It's what will ensure our success as a radio service and as a national and community resource for public service communications. The ARRL and its 2100 affiliated clubs are working to meet the challenge."

According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, "The Annual Report is not only useful for showing members the strength of the organization, but it is also a valuable tool in presentations to major public officials. At times they may know little about Amateur Radio, but when they see the quality of the annual report, even before they open it up, they know this is an organization to be taken very seriously. We are indeed a national association and very active."

==> GLOBAL EMCOMM CONFERENCE IN GERMANY THIS WEEK

The fourth annual Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (GAREC) Conference <http://www.iaru.org/emergency/GAREC2008Program.pdf> is this week, June 26-27, in Friedrichshafen, Germany. It is scheduled just prior to HamRadio 2008 <http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/html/en/>. That event, called "the Dayton of Europe," is scheduled for June 27-29.

IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communications Hans Zimmermann, F5VKP/HB9AQS, will present the opening remarks at GAREC 08; Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, President of IARU Region 1, is scheduled to join Zimmermann on the stage, along with representatives from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC), the hosts of HamRadio 2008.

GAREC will take a look at the state of EmComm preparedness in each of the IARU regions, as well as discuss experiences of the 2006 and 2007 EmComm Parties-on-the-Air and the future of the Global Simulated Emergency Test (SET). Delegates will also discuss implementation of the WRC-03 modifications to Article 25 of the Radio Regulations <http://www.iaru.org/rel030703att2.html>, in respect to third-party traffic during emergencies and exercises. The part of Article 25 concerning Emergency Communications says "Amateur stations may be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties only in case of emergencies or disaster relief. An administration may determine the applicability of this provision to amateur stations under its jurisdiction" (RR 25.3), and "Administrations are encouraged to take the necessary steps to allow amateur stations to prepare for and meet communication needs in support of disaster relief" (RR 25.9A).

GAREC delegates will also have the opportunity to look at and discuss the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) and the International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), as well as the MOU between the IARU and the ITU. IARU Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, with assistance from Hugh Peterken of the IFRC and Zimmermann, as well as a representative from the ITU, will lead the discussion.

ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, will present a session on how Emergency Communications are handled in the US. Each of the three IARU regional leaders -- Region 1 President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR; Region 2 President Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AMH, and Region 3 Chairman Michael Owen, VK3KI -- will speak on the status of EmComm in their respective regions. Seppo Sisatto, OH1VR, and Juha Hulkko, OH8NC, will present on the possibility of Emergency Communication Centers around the world. There will be a talk on D-STAR in Emergency Communications, and case studies of Emergency Communication practices around the world will also be presented.

==> A SUMMER OF E-SKIP

Tired of the lousy conditions on the HF bands? Come join the crowd on the "Magic Band." Each summer regardless of where the sunspot cycle is, sporadic E -- or E-skip -- blooms on 6 meters and sometimes even on the bands above that. What often appears to be a dead band jumps to life with signals -- some relatively close, only hundreds of miles away -- but some representing worldwide DX on 6 meters.

This year is no different. After a slow start, the 6 meter band came into its own in May and has been open in some direction from almost every location in the US almost every day. Sporadic E peaks around the summer solstice, on or around June 21, with a minor peak around the winter solstice, on or around December 21.

Each summer season has unique characteristics that are not predictable, but make the band so fascinating to follow. This year, the emphasis has been on paths to the west and northwest, extending much further east and south than normal. According to VHF expert and conductor of QST's "World Above 50 MHz" column Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, there have been several strong openings from Hawaii to the mainland that have included many areas other than the West Coast. Stations in the Mid-Atlantic, the Southeast and the Midwest have had good shots at KH6 in both May and June.

Zimmerman said that summer has brought a nice surprise: "The highlight of this season has been repeated openings to Japan that have mostly bypassed the West Coast and settled in the Southwest, the Southeast (especially Florida) and the Midwest; Japanese stations have even been heard, but not worked, on the East Coast. The latter is a very rare occurrence indeed."

Calling conditions to the Caribbean "outstanding," Zimmerman said that stations in that part of the world have been working the US and Canada, as well as many stations in Europe. "Ted Jimenez, HI3TEJ, in the Dominican Republic has even worked Japan, a tough path even on 10 meters. Inside the US, stations up to 1500 miles away have been easy to get, and there have been lots of openings where the West Coast and the Pacific Northwest worked the East Coast and the Southeast."

Six meter operators should be alert for very short E-skip that indicates a rare increase in the maximum usable frequency (MUF) to a point where 2

meter E-skip -- or very, very rarely 222 MHz E-skip -- is possible. Zimmerman said there have been several 2 meter sporadic E openings and one 222 MHz E-skip opening this summer: "On May 29-30, 2 meter contacts were reported from Maine to Ohio, south to the Mid-Atlantic, to the Northeast, to South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana in the south and Michigan, Western Tennessee and Southern Illinois to the West. The longest was 1477 miles from Maine (David Olean, K1WHS) to Louisiana (William Kemp, K5EMP)."

After small 2 meter E-skip openings on June 3-4 from the Northeast to the Midwest, Zimmerman said the bands blew wide open during the ARRL VHF QSO Party on June 15 with a report of two 222 MHz contacts: John Butrovich, W5UWB (EL17), of Orange Grove, Texas, to Vince Pavkovich, N0VZJ (EN35), of Big Lake, Minnesota; and Paul Trotter, AA4ZZ (EM96), of Charlotte, North Carolina, to David Rush, W5DDR (EM84), McAlister, New Mexico. "This extremely rare event has happened less than half a dozen times in the last 60 years," Zimmerman said. "Two meter E skip was everywhere: Texas; all over the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic; New Mexico to West Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee; Colorado to Florida, West Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Mississippi, Arkansas; Idaho, Oregon and Washington to the Midwest; Wyoming to Illinois, and Nevada to Iowa, North Dakota and Minnesota."

Zimmerman said that conditions are likely to continue to be very good until the middle of July when the E-skip traditionally begins to wind down. "Most areas of the country have not had good conditions to Europe, so that may still be something to look forward to," he said. "Two DXpeditions to rare Caribbean countries are coming up later in June -- to San Andres (HK0) and to St Barts (FJ). If you have an HF/VHF radio that covers 6 meters, put up a dipole or try your 80 meter antenna -- it should work on 6 meters as well -- and have some fun. You never know what you may work next."

==> GO LONG ON SHORTWAVE FOR ARRL FIELD DAY

Have you ever dreamed about being able to broadcast with hundreds of thousands of watts and talk about Amateur Radio to a worldwide audience? Ted Randall, WB8PUM, of Lebanon, Tennessee, will be "Live from Field Day" on 7.415 MHz on WBCQ -- a shortwave radio station -- from 2 PM EDT to 5 PM EDT, then from 11 PM EDT to 2 AM EDT on Saturday, June 28 <http://www.wbcq.com/>.

"This is a chance for all ARRL Field Day locations to call in and do a special live 'remote' broadcast from your Field Day site," Randall said. "This international broadcast has a potential audience of more than 200 million people." Randall, who will be "in the field" but connected to a radio studio, said he will be prepared to take calls from any ARRL Field Day location, "so line up your best chatterbox that likes to rag chew and call in."

The number to call during the broadcast times to get on-the-air -- or any time during Field Day for information -- is 931-528-0133 (the phone

will not be answered prior to Field Day). "As far as we know," Randall said, "nothing like this has ever been done before, so be sure and call in and do your 'broadcast' from your ARRL Field Day site -- listeners will love to hear from you."

Shortwave broadcasting -- the common term for HF broadcasting -- is an FCC-licensed radio service operating between 5.950-26.100 MHz. Shortwave is an international broadcast service intended to be received by the general public in other countries and remains the only medium capable of direct communication from one country to listeners in another country without governmental intervention. With more than 1.5 billion shortwave receivers in use worldwide, the BBC estimates that at any given moment, more than 183 million people listen to shortwave broadcasts each week. Especially in developing countries, shortwave remains the dominant mass communications medium.

"Just remember -- major networks and news services all monitor shortwave," Randall said, "so you never know who will be listening to you tell the world about Field Day and Amateur Radio."

More information concerning this event is available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/06/26/10185/?nc=1>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "My Sun sets to rise again" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Recent days graced by sunspots were short lived. June 10-June 13 saw a single sunspot group, followed by two days with no spots then a week of spots from June 16-22. During that week, the sunspot number was 11 every day, the lowest non-zero sunspot number. The four days since have had no spots at all. This weekend is ARRL Field Day, and while there are no sunspots, E skip is a possibility and conditions should be quiet, meaning no geomagnetic disturbance is expected. Predicted planetary A index for June 27-July 3 is predicted at 10, 8, 5, 5, 5, 5 and 5. Geophysical Institute Prague expects unsettled conditions June 27-28, quiet to unsettled June 29 and quiet June 30 to July 3. Sunspot numbers for June 19 through 25 were 11, 11, 11, 11, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 6.3. The 10.7 cm flux was 64.9, 65.2, 64.8, 65.4, 65.3, 65.8 and 65.9 with a mean of 65.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 11, 5, 4, 3, 4 and 12 with a mean of 6.4. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 5, 8, 4, 2, 2, 3 and 10 with a mean of 4.9.. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend is ARRL Field Day on June 28-29. The Digital Pentathlon is June 27. The Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest, His Majesty King of Spain Contest (SSB), the Marconi Memorial HF Contest

and the ARCI Milliwatt Field Day are all June 28-29. Look for RAC's Canada Day Contest next week on July 1. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, July 6, 2008 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, July 18, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002), Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2), Antenna Modeling (EC-004), HF Digital Communications (EC-005), VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the Continuing Education course listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARRL to Close in Observance of Fourth of July: ARRL Headquarters will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Friday, July 4. There will be no W1AW bulletin or code practice transmissions that day. The ARRL Letter and ARRL Audio News will be posted a day early on Thursday, July 3. ARRL Headquarters will reopen Monday, July 7 at 8 AM Eastern Daylight Time. We wish everyone a safe and festive holiday weekend.

* ARRL Audio News via Phone Back On Line: The ARRL Audio News is now accessible via phone at 860-594-0384, as well as on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call
860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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661. Field Day Plans....

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-28 03:33:28 UTC
From: "Pat Cook, KB0OXD" <kb0oxd@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <8cd94bee-c512-461d-b159-43584b80de4f@z72g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2732

Hi everyone:

Yep! If you see LIVE video on my newly-created Field Day page @ http://www.qsl.net/kb0oxd/fieldday/ that means I'm working the bands. The broadcast is powered by BlogTV (Their URL is http://www.blogtv.com/ for those who don't know and are looking for a good home for their cam BTW). You can also see the video COMPLETE WITH LIVE CHAT simply by going to http://www.blogtv.com/People/kb0oxd and following any onscreen instructions there.

In addition, I will be monitoring SEVERAL Internet-based DX Clusters on the computer for any activity which is headed for my QTH (Denver, CO USA - DM79). This will be done to avoid wasting bandwith unneccessarily and making futile CQ calls.

I will primarily be on 6M USB, though I will be more than happy to work locals on 144 & 432 as well. I'll also be logging contacts and will post them here for your convience and so you may use that to cross-reference my information with what you have.

IF THE DX IS ROLLING IN - I'm looking at being on cam from 10:00 AM till 2:00 PM in 90 minute increments. I'll then return on cam once I get the first four parts downloaded and moved off BlogTV so that I can archive anything in the evening on Saturday. I may be on cam on Sunday, then again, I may not. It all depends on how things go down.

The reason I will be breaking the archives down into 90 minute archives is because BlogTV only allows up to 500 minutes (That's not quite 4.5 hours, but close enough) of disk space before you have to delete a show/segment, which of course I'm NOT about to do. :)

IF THE DX IS NOT ROLLING IN - I will start broadcasting at 11:00 AM since some Field Day stations will begin operating at that time and will go from there as above (Just one hour later).

I'll also be on EchoLink, but I will be in BUSY mode with Conferencing disabled with a "CQ FD 6M USB" or similar message in the dialog box. This way, if the DX is rolling in on 6M USB, all EchoLink stations will need to do is find me on the band. :)

So....That's what I'll be doing this weekend. :)

This video feed will also be used for other Ham-Related events as well (Info. on those events will be posted as warranted).

Cheers & 73 :D

Pat Cook, KB0OXD
Denver, Colorado
WEBSITE - http://www.qsl.net/kb0oxd/
**NEW VIDEO SECTION - http://www.qsl.net/kb0oxd/cybershacktv/

662. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-29 07:24:59 UTC
From: Rick T <rickw7rt@yahoo.com>
Message-ID: <48671ca5$0$33228$815e3792@news.qwest.net>
Source record: 2733

Doug Smith W9WI wrote:
> On Thu, 12 Jun 2008 02:13:43 -0400, vshah1010 wrote:
>
>> In Feb 2009, all TVs will become digital. As a result, analog TV
>> spectrum will become available.
>>
>> It will be auctioned off. Chances are it will go to big companies,
>> making their monopoly even bigger. These frequencies would be better
>
> This spectrum has already been sold. Except for the 24MHz worth that's
> being reserved for public-safety communications.
>
> Some of the new uses have already been implemented. For example,
> Verizon's "V-Cast" (video broadcasts to mobile phones) uses the spectrum
> formerly occupied by TV channel 55. A number of TV stations have already
> closed their analog operations on this channel and adjacent channel 56.
>

The 50s and 60s channels have already been auctioned. (The
36 MHz of 60s auctioned recently brought about $650M/MHz)
However, the analog turn-off will vacate most of TV Ch 2-6,
and most of 7-13. This is the truly valuable channel space,
and will be fought over tenaciously. (174-216 MHz) There
is also a proposal to allow devices to selectively "seek"
out vacant channels in any given locality to use for low
power applications, without interfering with television.
This works OK with digital TV channels which may be
adjacent, but the problem is that analog LPTV and translator
stations are being allowed to stay on the air indefinitely,
which means that adjacent channels with strange digital
signals filling the bandwidth could spill over causing
interference to an analog TV signal.

The odds of the FCC "giving" any of this spectrum to hams,
or other so-called "citizens" uses are slim since the FCC is
mandated by Congress to auction off all non-public-safety
spectrum recovered from other services.

Rick T. - W7RT

663. Field Day Results & Stories

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-30 13:05:13 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <8108fbfd-2fcd-446d-8c89-e7403a4bc152@m3g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2734

How did folks do on Field Day this year?

Any good stories?

I participated at K3TU, in class 2A (+VHF/UHF). We made 949 QSOs (509 CW, 440 'phone). Condx were good (20 meter QSOs at 2 AM!) the weather was tolerable and no major breakdowns. Saw lots of old friends and made some new ones.

Just 363 days to the next one!

73 de Jim, N2EY

664. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-06-30 13:06:22 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.06.30.11.29.38.691235@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2735

On Sun, 29 Jun 2008 03:24:59 -0400, Rick T wrote:
> However, the analog turn-off will vacate most of TV Ch 2-6,
> and most of 7-13. This is the truly valuable channel space,
> and will be fought over tenaciously. (174-216 MHz)

There will be 40 full-power digital TV stations remaining in channels 2-6
,
not to mention low-power and Class A stations. There has been some talk
of expanding FM radio broadcasting into this band but I don't think it's
very likely.

This band isn't very appealing to other services, because of the large
antennas necessary for effective operation and the prevalence of noise an
d
interference.

Channels 7-13 are solidly TV territory and will not be going to other
services. There will be 452 full-power digital TV stations on these
channels post-transition, and again some number of low-power and Class A
stations. Most TV stations that had the option of running their permanen
t
digital operation in channels 7-13 chose to do so, even if it meant
obsoleting a perfectly good UHF transmitter/antenna. Coverage is better
for a given amount of power than on UHF, and transmitters are more
efficient. (i.e., lower utility bills)

> is also a proposal to allow devices to selectively "seek"
> out vacant channels in any given locality to use for low
> power applications, without interfering with television.
> This works OK with digital TV channels which may be
> adjacent, but the problem is that analog LPTV and translator
> stations are being allowed to stay on the air indefinitely,
> which means that adjacent channels with strange digital
> signals filling the bandwidth could spill over causing
> interference to an analog TV signal.

"...works OK with digital TV channels which may be adjacent..." is under
dispute, with some engineers arguing otherwise. Especially given the
potentially high U/D (undesirable-to-desirable) signal strength ratios.
In an FCC test earlier this year, they also found the devices did a
really poor job of detecting which channels were vacant!
(understandable as these devices are likely to have far poorer antennas
than are commonly used on TV sets, especially in the more rural areas
where the TV signals are weaker and larger antennas are more likely to be
in use)

Analog low-power stations do not have a current deadline for digital
conversion. However, the FCC has announced that there *will be* a
deadline. I doubt it will be more than two years into the future. (and
even if it they do get a lot more time, I think many are going to find
themselves forced to convert as fewer viewers are willing to deal with
analog signals)

> The odds of the FCC "giving" any of this spectrum to hams, or other
> so-called "citizens" uses are slim since the FCC is mandated by Congres
s
> to auction off all non-public-safety spectrum recovered from other
> services.

Very true.

665. Waveform portability?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-01 06:23:26 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <nZudnZjk17GLqvTVnZ2dnUVZ_rXinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2736

In the context of the news release quoted below, what does the term "waveform portability" mean?

"FT. WAYNE, Ind. - PrismTech Solutions Americas, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of PrismTech Corporation, has been selected to provide waveform portability support to the U.S. Navy's software-defined radio (SDR) systems. The work will be conducted through a support services contract overseen by the U.S. Navy's Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR). Scientific Research Corporation (SRC) serves as the prime contractor."

--
73, de Hans, K0HB
--
Homepage:
http://www.home.earthlink.net/~k0hb
Member:
ARRL http://www.arrl.org
SOC http://www.qsl.net/soc
VWOA http://www.vwoa.org
A-1 Operator Club http://www.arrl.org/awards/a1-op/
TCDXA http://www.tcdxa.org
MWA http://www.w0aa.org
TCFMC http://www.tcfmc.org
FISTS http://www.fists.org
LVDXA http://www.upstel.net/borken/lvdxa.htm

666. Re: Field Day Results & Stories

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-02 01:03:49 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <Ga6dnbKi-4jYTPfVnZ2dnUVZ_jOdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2737

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> How did folks do on Field Day this year?
>
> Any good stories?
>
> I participated at K3TU, in class 2A (+VHF/UHF). We made 949 QSOs (509
> CW, 440 'phone). Condx were good (20 meter QSOs at 2 AM!) the weather
> was tolerable and no major breakdowns. Saw lots of old friends and
> made some new ones.

I participated at WB1NHL, which is our club call, in either class 1B or 1D: we had about a fifteen minute debate about which was the right choice. The club president said that since we were hooked up to a power outlet at the edge of an airport parking ramp, we were class "D", and I decided that since we weren't at home, it must be class "B".

Since the prez was flying demos for the crowd there at the airshow, I got to run the only rig by myself - thus the "1" part - and I also got to try and figure out the very few and extremely complicated controls of an ICOM rig the size of a paperback book, powered by box the size of the congressional manual of ethics, and connected to a 20 meter dipole which I was assured was a perfect match for the rig and didn't need the tuner.

I went to look at the dipole, and quickly realized it was a new type of NVIS radiator: Not Very Intense Skywave. It was strung between the tongue of a trailer hitch and a tent pole, averaging about four feet off the ground: we did, to my surprise, make some contacts on 20 meter SSB, but I attribute that to the reflections from the various aircraft buzzing by at 200 knots.

I gave up on finding ways to delineate the various prefixes on the dup sheet: I started out with nothing for "W", an underline for "K", a circle for "WA", and a box for "WB". Over the course of the two days, I went to single and double under- and over-lines for "KA", "KB", "KD", and "AA", with a dash on each side for "N". For 1x1 special event calls, I just wrote the whole thing.

I would much rather have done it on a laptop, and I have a nice one, but it wasn't there, and the one that WAS there had a display so dim that it couldn't have put a gleam in the eye of a black cat even if the feline was looking to get lucky at midnight in the garden of good intentions and evil static.

There were some high points: the last time I was out on field day, I assembled a gallery of mosquitoes who took turns mapping my face into a perfect copy of my acne-riddled high school Junior class picture. This

time, I came prepared, with a gallon of new age sensitive guy soft skin insect distractor, guaranteed to gently persuade carnivorous bloodsuckers that I wasn't their type without offending their sensibilities at the same time it acknowledged their need for sustenance, with the result that...

Nadda. Nothing. Not a one. None to be seen, none heard, no bites. I never even took the cap off the bottle. So, with my complexion intact and two logsheets filled, I come to the subject of - the tent.

If I had wanted to take a steam bath, I could not have designed a more effective or better insulated cauldron than the tent I sat in during two days totally, completely, absolutely without so much as a zephyr, without a single hint of an intimation that a single molecule of air could move.

It wasn't warm. It wasn't hot. It wasn't steaming (you need water for that). It was an inferno that would have given Dante religion. It was akin to the surface of a minor dwarf star. I gave up on the napkins and my handkerchief, and just alternated between shaking my febrile head and taking short sprints out the tent flap in an effort to outrun my own sweat. At Twelve-thirty on Sunday, I threw in a towel that was so damp it couldn't have dried a gnat.

I'd say I had a lot of fun, but I guess it's obvious. Next year, I'll try CW.

73,

Bill W1AC

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

667. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-02 20:35:34 UTC
From: Rick T <rickw7rt@yahoo.com>
Message-ID: <486bdbac$0$89870$815e3792@news.qwest.net>
Source record: 2738

Doug Smith W9WI wrote:
> On Sun, 29 Jun 2008 03:24:59 -0400, Rick T wrote:
>> However, the analog turn-off will vacate most of TV Ch 2-6,
>> and most of 7-13. This is the truly valuable channel space,
>> and will be fought over tenaciously. (174-216 MHz)
>
> There will be 40 full-power digital TV stations remaining in channels 2-6
> ,
> not to mention low-power and Class A stations. There has been some talk
> of expanding FM radio broadcasting into this band but I don't think it's
> very likely.
>
> This band isn't very appealing to other services, because of the large
> antennas necessary for effective operation and the prevalence of noise an
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> interference.
>
> Channels 7-13 are solidly TV territory and will not be going to other
> services. There will be 452 full-power digital TV stations on these
> channels post-transition, and again some number of low-power and Class A
> stations. Most TV stations that had the option of running their permanen
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> digital operation in channels 7-13 chose to do so, even if it meant
> obsoleting a perfectly good UHF transmitter/antenna. Coverage is better
> for a given amount of power than on UHF, and transmitters are more
> efficient. (i.e., lower utility bills)
>
>> is also a proposal to allow devices to selectively "seek"
>> out vacant channels in any given locality to use for low
>> power applications, without interfering with television.
>> This works OK with digital TV channels which may be
>> adjacent, but the problem is that analog LPTV and translator
>> stations are being allowed to stay on the air indefinitely,
>> which means that adjacent channels with strange digital
>> signals filling the bandwidth could spill over causing
>> interference to an analog TV signal.
>
> "...works OK with digital TV channels which may be adjacent..." is under
> dispute, with some engineers arguing otherwise. Especially given the
> potentially high U/D (undesirable-to-desirable) signal strength ratios.
> In an FCC test earlier this year, they also found the devices did a
> *really poor* job of detecting which channels were vacant!
> (understandable as these devices are likely to have far poorer antennas
> than are commonly used on TV sets, especially in the more rural areas

> where the TV signals are weaker and larger antennas are more likely to be
> in use)
>
> Analog low-power stations do not have a current deadline for digital
> conversion. However, the FCC has announced that there *will be* a
> deadline. I doubt it will be more than two years into the future. (and
> even if it they do get a lot more time, I think many are going to find
> themselves forced to convert as fewer viewers are willing to deal with
> analog signals)
>
>> The odds of the FCC "giving" any of this spectrum to hams, or other
>> so-called "citizens" uses are slim since the FCC is mandated by Congres
> s
>> to auction off all non-public-safety spectrum recovered from other
>> services.
>
> Very true.
>

Hi Doug.....thanks for your comments.

Well, I count about 60 stations licensed for high-power digital TV operations nationwide on 7-13.....not a huge number by any means. Here in Arizona, there are very few remaining after the transition. The public safety folks, having failed to take any of the 138-174 spectrum from the military here (Mainly because of the Army base at Ft. Huachuca) are now looking at the possibility of getting some of that 174-216. I doubt that it will happen though.

Yes, there is no deadline yet, and the Commission hasn't indicated if they will eventually set a firm deadline for LPTV and Translators. There are a huge number of translators in northwest Arizona.....at a cost of over $3,000 each to convert the translators times about 50, plus the LPTV stuff in the Phoenix and Tucson metro areas. I think the FCC will allow at least 5 years, if not more, unless they're in the 60's spectrum. However, they're mostly already chased out of that area.

Because of the reasons you mentioned, I don't support allowing other services to access the "white space" between channels....just too many things that can go wrong and mess up a signal.....particularly a weak rural signal, and especially an analog translator channel.

I think the best we hams can hope for is some additional HF spectrum as shortwave broadcasting slowly dies. Sure would like to see 30M expanded, as well as a full band at 5 MHz, and an expanded 20 and 17 M bands. Of course, we still need to clear 7200-7300 worldwide. Good Luck :>)

73,
Rick T. - W7RT

668. Re: Waveform portability?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-03 01:19:26 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <g4h9e701anm@news5.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2739

Kï¿½HB wrote:
> In the context of the news release quoted below, what does the term "wa
veform
> portability" mean?

http://www.prismtech.com/section-item.asp?id□0

Anyone for another round of "buzzword bingo"?

Briefly, it means interoperability. The running joke of course is
that "Analog has always been inter operable". In context to the
various divergent digital encoding (not encryption) schemes out
there.

Sort of like a properly designed Java(tm) application working
properly regardless of what operating system you're running it
on.

The military has traditionally been a closed environment with
"this project uses this system" which makes passing information
between the systems difficult at best.

But then, the tower of babel was the original solution to the
one world government issue. ;-)

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

669. Re: Waveform portability?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-03 03:40:26 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <38io64pgifv241k6alplb2e0mv1oivlpr9@4ax.com>
Source record: 2740

On Tue, 1 Jul 2008 02:23:26 EDT, "Kï¿½HB" <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
wrote:

>In the context of the news release quoted below, what does the term "wav
eform
>portability" mean?

Hans, as a retired Senior Master Chief, and with your experience in
the civilian side of the industry, you are undoubtedly aware that that
is a buzzword to justify awarding a contract to some "favorite son"
consultant/manufacturer who will deliver equipment that the guys "on
the street" so to speak will beta test and find all the bugs and come
up with practical solutions that the contractors couldn't think of -
stuff that ham operators used to do "back in the day".....

There, I've had my rant.....
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

670. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-03 03:46:50 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <pjio64lbq4dj7pa41u5aqac87mslacmtgh@4ax.com>
Source record: 2741

On Wed, 2 Jul 2008 16:35:34 EDT, Rick T <rickw7rt@yahoo.com> wrote:

> The public safety folks,
>having failed to take any of the 138-174 spectrum from the
>military here (Mainly because of the Army base at Ft.
>Huachuca) are now looking at the possibility of getting some
>of that 174-216. I doubt that it will happen though.

You and I both know, Rick, that one of the main reasons will be that "The Big M" (ham content: owner of Yaesu) will not be interested in producing two-way radio equipment in that band because of the relatively small sales volume as compared to their new whiz-bang 700 MHz systems that will require ten times as many sites for the same coverage.

Another rant expelled....
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

671. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-03 03:54:38 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <7vio64huek306memqni99qdpev4n4v2611@4ax.com>
Source record: 2742

On Wed, 2 Jul 2008 16:35:34 EDT, Rick T <rickw7rt@yahoo.com> wrote:

> There are a huge number of
>translators in northwest Arizona.....at a cost of over
>$3,000 each to convert the translators times about 50, plus
>the LPTV stuff in the Phoenix and Tucson metro areas.

I have very little sympathy for the LPTV folks in that regard. They wanted to play with the "big dogs" by running a TV station but don't want to do what the "big dogs" have to do to stay on the air. Don't even get me started on LPFM......

I wish that the ham community had as much clout with The Congress and the FCC as the LPTV people have - maybe we'd get the legislation that we need to solve important problems, like pre-emption of CC&Rs for antenna towers and better protection from interlopers, be they primary users or not (my two hot buttons).
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

672. Kenwood PB-13 NiCd Battery Pack

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-03 09:40:23 UTC
From: T0M <viepriv&#65533;e@fra.news.free.fr>
Message-ID: <7egk6493m4qer6qdpsuhjdt60varl5h7c0@4ax.com>
Source record: 2743

Hi and tnx for reading my message.

I've a Kenwood TH-27 but unfortunatly its NiCD Battery Pack (ref.
Kendwood PB-13, DC 7.2V 700mAh) don't recharge well at all.

Where can I find a new one or something equivalent ?
Any suggestion are more than welcome.

tnx in advance

T0M
--
Sorry if I don't answer quickly but I can't be online each day

673. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-03 09:40:57 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.07.03.06.54.35.486962@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2744

On Wed, 02 Jul 2008 16:35:34 -0400, Rick T wrote:
> Well, I count about 60 stations licensed for high-power
> digital TV operations nationwide on 7-13.....not a huge
> number by any means.

I think you're working from a very early table. I count 137 stations currently licensed to operate DTV stations on these channels. Those are interim operations. Another 300 or so stations will be moving their DTV operations to 7-13 from other channels, usually UHF.

Here in Arizona, there are very few
> remaining after the transition. The public safety folks,
> having failed to take any of the 138-174 spectrum from the
> military here (Mainly because of the Army base at Ft.
> Huachuca) are now looking at the possibility of getting some
> of that 174-216. I doubt that it will happen though.

I count eight. There are nine analog stations currently operating in tha
t
spectrum in the state.

To pick two more states more or less at random:

Kansas: 11 analog stations in 7-13 today.
2 interim DTV operations in 7-13 today.
13 permanent DTV operations in 7-13 after transition.

Pennsylvania:
7 analog stations in 7-13 today.
4 interim DTV operations in 7-13 today.
9 permanent DTV operations in 7-13 after transition.

> Yes, there is no deadline yet, and the Commission hasn't indicated if
> they will eventually set a firm deadline for LPTV and Translators. Ther
e
> are a huge number of translators in northwest Arizona.....at a cost of
> over $3,000 each to convert the translators times about 50, plus the
> LPTV stuff in the Phoenix and Tucson metro areas. I think the FCC will
> allow at least 5 years, if not more, unless they're in the 60's
> spectrum. However, they're mostly already chased out of that area.

>From a FCC document dated February 11th:
"While the February 17, 2009 deadline for ending analog broadcasts does not apply to low-power, Class A, and TV translator stations, the FCC will require these stations to convert to digital broadcasting sometime thereafter. ... The FCC is currently considering the remaining issues inv
olved with the

low-power digital transition and will make decisions regarding these stations in the future. "

I read that as meaning that they *will* set a firm deadline.

My two-year figure, on the other hand, is just my gut feeling. Your five year + figure could well be right. (but I doubt it)

674. Re: Kenwood PB-13 NiCd Battery Pack

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-03 17:03:34 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <g4it8u01440@news5.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2745

T0M wrote:
> I've a Kenwood TH-27 but unfortunatly its NiCD Battery Pack (ref.
> Kendwood PB-13, DC 7.2V 700mAh) don't recharge well at all.

Most NiCad batteries stop working properly after 2-3 years.

> Where can I find a new one or something equivalent ?
> Any suggestion are more than welcome.

http://www.atbatt.com/product/7951.asp

http://www.hamcity.com/detail.aspx?ID=686

http://search.ebay.com/search/search.dll?from=R40&_trksid=m37&satitle=kenwood+pb-13&category0=

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

675. Re: Kenwood PB-13 NiCd Battery Pack

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-03 17:48:53 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <heidnYZVnNdvjfDVnZ2dnUVZ_rfinZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2746

"Jeffrey D Angus" wrote

> Most NiCad batteries stop working properly after 2-3 years.

I wonder what you mean by "properly." I've had NiCads last over 10 years,
working quite well.

676. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 26 (Thursday, July 3, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-03 21:17:32 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080703211619.0D89730A73@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2747
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

****
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 26
July 3, 2008
****

IN THIS EDITION:

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* + Philadelphia Area Hams Nail Rogue Radio Signals
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+ ARRL to Close in Observance of Fourth of July
+ ARRL Audio News Returns to Phone Lines
USI to Host Special Event Stations
ARRL Contest Update Offers Valuable Information for All

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========

==> ARRL TELLS RED CROSS OF REMAINING BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY CONCERNS

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has written to Armond T. Mascelli, Vice President for Domestic Disaster response for the American Red Cross (ARC) to identify the ARRL's remaining concerns over the background check policy for ARC partners. Harrison emphasized that the commencement of negotiation of a replacement Statement of Understanding (SOU) between the two organizations should not be further delayed while these concerns are resolved and that he looked forward to signing a new SOU once additional edits to the background check Disclosure Form and clarifications of the background check Authorization Form are in place for those radio amateurs who volunteer their service to the Red Cross.

Harrison first wrote to Mascelli on November 28, 2007, setting out the ARRL's concerns with the background check procedures recently implemented by the ARC. ARC now requires a background check for Amateur Radio volunteers seeking to support a Red Cross disaster relief response for more than a seven day period. In the ARRL's view, Amateur Radio volunteers were being asked to consent to a more intrusive background check than was necessary or appropriate.

Mascelli's reply on May 8, 2008, addressed some of the ARRL's concerns and Harrison's latest letter to the ARC -- sent on June 30, 2008 -- recognizes considerable improvement in the forms related to the background check procedures that are linked via the ARC's Web site; however, Harrison also states that analysis of the forms has revealed two continuing problems:

* The Authorization for Background Investigation consent form still contains "some highly equivocal and broad language which, because of its ambiguity, will inevitably discourage substantial numbers of radio amateurs from participating in the background check process." This form was not included with Mascelli's reply and was not seen by the ARRL until later.

* The "Disclosure Regarding Background Investigation" can still be construed as overly broad, although this can be corrected by fairly simple edits.

Harrison told Mascelli, "We do not want the implementation of these additional changes to further delay the negotiation of the terms of a replacement SOU. A new SOU is, in my view, a critical and urgent matter. Because the old SOU expired on September 16, 2007, the vacuum thereafter has served neither ARRL nor ARC well." ARRL and ARC staff are ready to work on a draft replacement SOU, the text of which will be reviewed by the ARRL's Programs and Services Committee and approved by either the Executive Committee or the Board prior to completion.

Harrison concluded, "We look forward to continuing to provide seamless disaster response communications by Amateur Radio and to enhancing and expanding ARRL's proud partnership with the American Red Cross. I look forward to meeting with you and executing the new SOU once additional edits to the Disclosure Form, and adequate clarifications are included in the Authorization Form that appears on your web site for partner organizations are made, and when the new SOU terms are agreed upon."

==> AN ERA COMES TO A CLOSE AS RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH, K4ZDH, RETIRES

On Thursday, July 3, Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH -- the man who has come to embody Amateur Radio Enforcement -- said goodbye to the FCC as he retired and began his life as a private citizen. In May, Hollingsworth announced he would definitely retire; he had contemplated retiring in January 2008, but cited "several issues on the table that I want[ed] to continue to work through with the amateur community." While his successor has not yet been named, he was quick to

point out that the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program will continue.

Hollingsworth said that he has "loved" working for the FCC and has "always had great jobs, but this one involving the Amateur Radio Service has been the most fun and I have enjoyed every day of it. I've worked with the best group of licensees on earth, enjoyed your support and tremendous FCC support and looked forward every day to coming to work. The Amateur Radio Enforcement program will continue without missing a beat, and after retirement I look forward to being involved with Amateur Radio every way I can. I thank all of you for being so dedicated and conscientious, and for the encouragement you give us every day."

Saying it has been a "privilege to work with and for the Amateur Radio licensees and the land mobile frequency coordinators," Hollingsworth said that he is "extremely fortunate to work for two wonderful groups of people: Those at headquarters in the Enforcement Bureau, and for the Amateur Radio operators."

Before joining the FCC, Hollingsworth, a South Carolina native, graduated from the University of South Carolina and Wake Forest University School of Law. While in high school, he worked as a disc jockey for WRHI, an AM station in Rock Hill, South Carolina. "It's a funny thing," Hollingsworth said. "They once held a beauty pageant in Rock Hill and nobody won!" In the mid-1970s, he was a "Nader's Raider" and worked on brown lung disease in the North and South Carolina textile mills.

"Basically I'm just an ordinary guy caught in the cross-hairs of radio history," Hollingsworth said. "But I am proud of the fact that the digital clock on my VCR has been blinking for 4 years."

Hollingsworth told the ARRL he was "so very impressed" with the young people who are involved with Amateur Radio: "To the very young Amateur Radio operators I have met who have dreams of being scientists and astronauts and communications engineers, we will be pulling for you; I have a strong feeling we won't be disappointed."

Calling the Amateur Radio Service a part of the American heritage, Hollingsworth explained that he is "going to stay as actively involved in it as I possibly can. Thank you all for working tirelessly to provide the only fail safe communications system on Earth and for helping this country keep its lead in science and technology. What an incredible gift it has been to work with you every day, and how fortunate we are to love the magic of radio! Every gift of lasting value comes with responsibility. We must never forget what we owe for our spectrum privileges. I will continue working with you in every way I can to ensure that Amateur Radio lasts a thousand years. "

==> PHILADELPHIA AREA HAMS NAIL ROGUE RADIO SIGNALS

When residents of a Philadelphia suburb complained <http://www.nbc10.com/investigators/16701097/detail.html?dl=mainclick>

to an area television station about how their remote car door entry devices wouldn't work in the parking lot of a local department store, an investigative reporter for NBC-10 (WCAU) called everyone she could to help her discover why. No one knew anything -- until she called on some local ham radio operators.

"Many people lock and unlock a car by remote and don't even give it a second thought unless it doesn't work," said NBC10 reporter Lu Ann Cahn. "The mystery problem repeatedly occurs outside the Kohl's store in Royersford. When I went into Kohl's [to ask about this], they told me they had no idea [about this]."

Cahn said that shoppers told her that this has been going on for more than a year, and that some shoppers don't realize they might have to manually lock their doors: "One woman reported her laptop was stolen from her car after she thought she had locked it."

Shoppers theorized that it was the local power plant causing the interference, but Cahn said that officials at the plant said it wasn't them. Others thought that cellular telephone towers might be the culprit, but there are no cell towers in the area. "Police tell us that they can't figure it out either," Cahn said.

So after calling numerous places to help her out with this mystery, Cahn happened upon Reggie Leister, N3KAS, and Bob Rex, K3DBD, of the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club <http://www.paarc.net/>; Rex is Vice President of the club and Leister is the club's Public Information Officer (PIO). And as hams do, they were quick to volunteer to help out.

Leister and Rex accompanied Cahn to the parking lot in question. Rex built an antenna out of aluminum tubing and hooked it up to a spectrum analyzer. "Somewhere in the vicinity of this parking lot," Leister said, "there is a big source of radiation, some sort of signal." When Leister aimed the antenna in the direction of the Kohl's store, he hit pay dirt. "There are actually two signals there. It looks like [they're] coming from the building," Rex said when he read the analyzer.

Leister and Rex moved in closer to the building and pinpointed that one signal was coming from one set of doors, while the other signal emitted from another set of doors. Rex, an engineer, said that the thing that bothers him about this is that the signals "are running constantly." When Cahn approached Kohl's management with their findings, she was told that "they will look into it."

"The FCC licenses radio signals and these ham radio operators say the fact that some signal is interfering with remote locks isn't good," Cahn said in her report. Rex concurred, saying, "The FCC rules are pretty clear on that. It might be something that's broken." Leister and Rex agreed that the store security sensors located at each set of doors might be the culprit.

Three days after Leister and Rex located the source of the interference, remote car door lockers worked again. "Kohl's will only say that they're

working on it," Cahn said. "The FCC says it does sound like something malfunctioned and they have had reports of similar incidents in New York City and Tampa, Florida."

A few days after they found the signals, Leister explained that he and Rex did not think the anti-shoplifting detectors were the problem: "What we are guessing here is that they are probably connected to some kind of device that triggers a security camera to come on if there is a breach. Except instead of just sending out a quick 2-5 second (Part 15) blip, these seem to be on continuously and exceeding the permissible signal levels."

Cahn was quick to give on-air credit to the local hams who stepped up to the plate and helped crack this mystery: "We here at NBC10 were so curious as to why these remote car locks would just stop working, so we thought we should really try to solve this mystery. I have to give kudos to Reggie Leister and Bob Rex with the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club. They were so great and so excited. You don't know how many people we called -- police, Triple A, car dealerships -- we called so many people trying to figure this out and nobody knew anything until we talked to these ham radio operators. They were so wonderful and they knew all about radio signals. They created their own gadgets to help us figure this out. We really want to thank them for their help with this."

==> GET READY FOR THE IARU HF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP NEXT WEEKEND

HF Contesting usually hits a dry spell during the summer months, but the weekend of July 12-13 brings a summer bright spot for HF contesters -- the IARU HF World Championship.

According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, the IARU contest is a little different from most major HF contests. "For starters, it's only 24 hours long (instead of the normal 48). This leaves you plenty of time over the weekend to have fun in the contest and participate in other activities. Another difference is that you can combine modes. While most HF contests are either CW or SSB, IARU allows you to operate CW, SSB or a mixture of both. Lastly, the IARU contest exchange is a signal report and your ITU zone." ITU zones are different than CQ zones, Kutzko said. For a map of ITU zones, you can visit the IARU Web site <http://www.iaru.org/ituzonesc.gif>.

One of the features of the IARU contest is the highlighting the IARU member Amateur Radio organizations from all around the world. These organizations often participate in the contest with a special call (often ending in "HQ," designating a national headquarters station) and can be worked as special multipliers in the contest. Kutzko said that IARU Administrative Council members from around the world will also be on and can also be worked for special multiplier credit. "If you hear a station giving R1, R2, R3 or AC as their contest exchange, that station represents part of the IARU Administrative Council or regional Executive Committee."

The IARU HF World Championship runs from 1200 UTC Saturday, July 12 to 1200 UTC Sunday, July 13. For complete rules and forms, you can visit the IARU Contest Web page <http://www.iaru.org/contest.html> or the ARRL Contest Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests>.

==> CHECK OUT THE JULY/AUGUST NCJ

NCJ, The National Contest Journal is what everyone interested in radiosport needs to have in their shack. Filled with the latest news from the contesting world, NCJ is the voice of radiosport. Whether you are new to contesting or are a seasoned pro (or somewhere in the middle), you will find something in NCJ just for you.

In the July/August issue, Paul Mackanos Jr, K2DB, remembers "Remote Operation and Contesting at K2NNY/K2DB." Ed Muns, W0YK, provides "A Contester's View of Visalia," and Tom Taormina, K5RC, looks at "The Next 3 dB." Calvin Darula, K0DXC, gives "A 13-Year-Old's Perspective on Amateur Radio and Contesting."

If you've been waiting to see how you did in the January and February contests, you definitely don't want to miss this issue! Shelby Summerville, K4WW, give readers the rundown on the February 2008 NAQP RTTY Contest. Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, looks at the results of the January 2008 NAQP CW and SSB Contests. Jim Stevens, K4MA, gives his take on the February 2008 North American Phone Sprint and Tree Tyree, N6TR, ponders the February 2008 North American CW Sprint.

Of course, there are all the regular columns and features you expect from NCJ: "Workshop Chronicles," by Don Daso, K4ZA; "Contest Tips, Tricks & Techniques," by Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT; "Propagation," by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA; "VHF-UHF Contesting," by Jon Jones, N0JK; "Contesting on a Budget," by Paul Schaffenberger, K5AF; "DX Contest Activity Announcements," by Bill Feidt, NG3K; "RTTY Contesting," by Don Hill, AA5AU; "Contesting 101," by Kirk Pickering, K4RO, and "Contest Calendar," by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM.

All this and more in the July/August issue of NCJ. NCJ is published six times a year by the ARRL; it is edited by Al Dewey, K0AD. Subscribe today <http://www.arrl.org/ncj/>!

==> FCC ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth sent a Warning Notice to William G. Aber, Sr, N2JAI, of Green Creek, New Jersey, alerting him that "[t]he control operator of the KC2JPP repeater, operating on 449.875 MHz, has requested in writing that [Aber] refrain from use of the repeater." These requests, the Commission, noted, were due to Aber's "failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee/control operators of the repeater system for its users." Aber had been issued verbal requests to refrain from using the repeaters in the past, but he has, according to the Warning Notice, "apparently ignored both verbal and written requests."

Saying that Aber refused delivery of the letter from the repeater owners, Hollingsworth reminded Aber of the FCC's rules that require that "repeaters be under the supervision of a control operator and [the FCC] not only expects, but requires, such control operators and licensees to be responsible for the proper operation of the repeater system. Control operators may take whatever steps are appropriate to ensure compliance with the repeater rules, including limiting the repeater use to certain users, converting the repeater to a closed repeater or taking it off the air entirely."

Aber was warned to stay off the KC2JPP system and any other such request by a repeater licensee, control operator or trustee. If he chose to ignore this request, the FCC would initiate enforcement action against his license -- which can include revocation, monetary forfeiture or a "modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies on which [he] may operate N2JAI." Fines normally range from $7500-$10,000.

Hollingsworth also sent a Warning Notice to Gateway Coal Mine in Coulterville, Illinois concerning that company's unlicensed radio operation. Citing a complaint made to the FCC, Hollingsworth stated that "your company has been using unlicensed radio equipment. The frequency is 146.400 MHz and is an Amateur Radio Service frequency, not a business or public safety frequency."

Hollingsworth advised Gateway Coal Mine that operation of radio transmitting equipment without a license is a violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. Section 301 "and will subject you to fine or imprisonment, as well as an in rem seizure [forfeiture of physical assets] of any non-certified radio transmitting equipment, in cooperation with the United States Attorney for your jurisdiction. Monetary forfeitures normally range from $7,500 to $10,000." Hollingsworth recommended that Gateway Coal Mine contact their radio service technician in order to correct the situation.

Direct all questions concerning the Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions Web postings via e-mail only to the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division <fccham@fcc.gov>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "I am too much in the Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: The weeks seem to drag on with no sunspots in sight. An image from helioseismic holography on Tuesday shows a spot on our Sun's far side. We hope it emerges in a week or 10 days on our side and hasn't died out by then. Spots emerge from time to time, but they are all old Solar Cycle 23 spots and they seem to fade quickly without much activity. Sunspot numbers for June 26-July 2 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 65.4, 66.1, 65.9, 66.6, 66.7, 65.6 and 65.9 with a mean of 66. Estimated planetary A indices were 16, 8, 7, 8, 6, 5 and 3 with a mean of 7.6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 17, 7, 6, 7, 5, 4 and 1 with a mean of 6.7. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this

week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, the Digital Pentathlon is on July 4 and the MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint is July 4-5. The VK/Trans-Tasman 160 Meter Contest (Phone) is July 5. On July 5-6, be sure to check out the Venezuelan Independence Day Contest, the WLOTA Contest, the DL-DX RTTY Contest, the Original QRP Contest and the PODXS 070 Club 40 Meter Firecracker Sprint. The DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest is July 6 and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (CW) is July 7. Next weekend, the NCCC Sprint Ladder is July 11 and the FISTS Summer Sprint is July 12. The IARU HF World Championship is July 13, as are the SKCC Weekend Sprintathon and the ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint. The RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (SSB) is July 16 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is July 17. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, July 6, 2008 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, July 18, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002), Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2), Antenna Modeling (EC-004), HF Digital Communications (EC-005), VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the Continuing Education course listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARRL to Close in Observance of Fourth of July: ARRL Headquarters will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Friday, July 4. There will be no W1AW bulletin or code practice transmissions that day. The ARRL Letter and ARRL Audio News will be posted a day early on Thursday, July 3. League Headquarters will reopen Monday, July 7 at 8 AM Eastern Daylight Time. We wish everyone a safe and festive holiday weekend.

* ARRL Audio News Returns to Phone Lines: We are pleased to report that ARRL Audio News can once again be accessed via telephone at 860-594-0384; it had been down for a few days due to equipment failure. Compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter, ARRL Audio News is available on the League's Web site for two weeks and via telephone for one week after publication. We are sorry for any inconvenience the outage may have caused

* USI to Host Special Event Stations: The United States Islands (USI) awards program will host a series of special event stations -- including their main club station KL7USI -- from all over the US, Alaska and the Yukon celebrating 15 years on HF. Starting summer 2008 throughout 2009, look for USI activities on 14.260 MHz and other bands. USI is the premiere state island collecting program. Check USI website for further details <http://www.usislands.org>.

* ARRL Contest Update Offers Valuable Information for All: Every two weeks, H. Ward Silver, N0AX, produces the ARRL Contest Update. Each issue is jam-packed with information for all operators, be they involved in radiosport or not, such as operating and technical tips, propagation information and a focus on a technical Web site each issue. Of course, everything you need to know about upcoming contests is right there at your fingertips. Since the ARRL Contest Update is available in HTML, there is a link to the rules for each individual contest listed, as well as pictures. ARRL members can subscribe the ARRL Contest Update on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/about.html#get>.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call 860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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677. Re: Field Day Results & Stories

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-03 22:52:37 UTC
From: Art Harris <n2ah@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <3a7b3ca7-9b10-4835-957b-53700ec84a52@s50g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2748

Jim wrote:
> How did folks do on Field Day this year?
>
> Any good stories?
>

Ain't it amazing how 10 and 15 meters are "open" when people get on
the air? I was working lots of short skip (sporadic E?) on both bands.

Art, N2AH

678. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-03 22:53:44 UTC
From: "D. Stussy" <spam@bde-arc.ampr.org>
Message-ID: <g4jhh5$36u$1@snarked.org>
Source record: 2749

"Doug Smith W9WI" <w9wi@invalid.nospam> wrote in message
news:pan.2008.07.03.06.54.35.486962@invalid.nospam...
On Wed, 02 Jul 2008 16:35:34 -0400, Rick T wrote:
> Well, I count about 60 stations licensed for high-power
> digital TV operations nationwide on 7-13.....not a huge
> number by any means.

I think you're working from a very early table. I count 137 stations
currently licensed to operate DTV stations on these channels. Those are
interim operations. Another 300 or so stations will be moving their DTV
operations to 7-13 from other channels, usually UHF.

Here in Arizona, there are very few
> remaining after the transition. The public safety folks,
> having failed to take any of the 138-174 spectrum from the
> military here (Mainly because of the Army base at Ft.
> Huachuca) are now looking at the possibility of getting some
> of that 174-216. I doubt that it will happen though.

I count eight. There are nine analog stations currently operating in tha
t
spectrum in the state.

To pick two more states more or less at random:

Kansas: 11 analog stations in 7-13 today.
2 interim DTV operations in 7-13 today.
13 permanent DTV operations in 7-13 after transition.

Pennsylvania:
7 analog stations in 7-13 today.
4 interim DTV operations in 7-13 today.
9 permanent DTV operations in 7-13 after transition.

Well, here in Southern California (Los Angeles + San Diego), each of 7-13 is
actually occupied with a full-power TV station and will continue to be. The
odd channels are for LA and the evens for SD (12 for Tijuana, Mexico).

The best grab we could hope for is perhaps "Channel 2" - at 54-60 MHz and
being adjacent to our 6 meter band.

679. Re: Candy store near Buffalo NY?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-04 06:44:12 UTC
From: Rich McAllister K6RFM <rfm@pensfa.org>
Message-ID: <871w2aywrh.fsf@terra.pensfa.org>
Source record: 2750

Answering my own question: the folks at Hirsch in Williamsville had what I needed and were very helpful. 219 California Drive, and you won't believe it until you go there.

Rich K6RFM

680. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-04 14:54:02 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.07.04.05.02.12.458552@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2651

On Thu, 03 Jul 2008 18:53:44 -0400, D. Stussy wrote:
> Well, here in Southern California (Los Angeles + San Diego), each of 7-13 is
> actually occupied with a full-power TV station and will continue to be. The
> odd channels are for LA and the evens for SD (12 for Tijuana, Mexico).

At least the interim channel for the Tijuana station is 32 - it's unclear to me as to whether Mexican stations will be allowed to return their DTV operations to their current analog channels.

681. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1612 - July 4, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-04 14:55:28 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080704014829.016bfea8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2652
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1612 - July 4, 2008

Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1612 with a release date of Friday, July 4th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The numbers are in and ham radio is growing once again. Also, China's hams stand down from their post earthquake communications effort and 17 year old Emily Stewart, KC0PTL, is named 208 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year. Learn all about her on this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1612 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO HONORS: EMILY STEWART, KC0PTL, NAMED 2008 ARNEWSLINE YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR

A 17 year old from Leavenworth, Kansas, with interests as diverse as astronomy, pharmacy and public service theough amateur radio has been named as the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year. Mark Abramovich, NT3V, who happens to chair the award committee is here with the story of Emily Stewart, KC0PTL.

--

"This is really, really awesome. I'm really shocked!"

Those the words of the 2008 Young Ham of the Year, Emily Stewart after learning at the end of a finalist telephone interview that she had been chosen from among more than two dozen nominees for the prestigious award.

And, there is more. "I feel really, really honored," Emily says. "I think, oh, man. This is like such an awesome opportunity for, I don't know.

"I was talking with my dad about it and he said, you know, 'How would you feel if you won it?

"And I told him: Well, it would be because it would be a great opportunity to show kids that like even though people in the general public may not know what it is, if you work hard with radio and if you make a true commitment to it and if you take it and run with it that you really can get recognized for your achievements."

Emily is the daughter of Mike and Sharon Stewart. Mike is K0MDS. She is heading into her senior year at Leavenworth High School where she's a member of the National Honor Society, vice president of the Fellowship of

Christian Athletes, and is a copy editor for the school yearbook.

Emily is an only child and says she has lived in Kansas for eight years. Prior to that, home was Germany where her father was serving in the military. She credits her dad for sparking interest in amateur radio when they moved back to the United States.

"I thought it was really cool when he started talking to people overseas in Europe," Emily recalls. "And, Germany was still kind of home to me so when he started talking to people in Germany I said I wanted to do that too."

Emily earned her Technician license in August 2003. Emily says she was so excited about her new hobby that she wanted to share it with others and made presentations at school during her sixth-and seventh-grade years. That led to getting active in her local radio club and even contributing articles to the club newsletter. Emily's activity also led to her an appointment as the first Assistant Section Manager for Youth in the Kansas section, a job she has held since 2006.

She upgraded to General in April 2007. Last August, while attending the Kansas state convention, Emily asked how many had persuaded their children or grandchildren to get involved in amateur radio. The slim response of the attendees led her and Brian Short, KC0BS to develop the Kansas Legacy Project. The purpose: Encouraging hams to get the younger members of their families to get a ham license and get involved. The project has netted good results in the Kansas Metro area, including one of the youngest hams in the region to be licensed - 7-year-old Lucie Goodhart, KD0DMO, who took a license class with her dad and passed her Technician test last March.

Emily's path has also crossed that of another former Young Ham of the Year, Andrea Hartlage KG4IUM at the Dayton Hamvention where she helped run the youth lounge and ran the youth dinner for young hams. But Emily says her other passion is public service and storm spotting.

"My dad would sometimes take me out with him to go storm spotting and I decided that I wanted to have some training so I took a couple of online courses in emergency communications, " Emily says. "And, either I will go out with my dad when we get called out to do some storm chasing.

"Or I will stay at home and do spotting from home just in case something really nasty does happen then that way I'm home with my mom."

Emily says she also enjoys checking out the satellites: "I really like listening to satellite communications," Emily says. "We have this little satellite antenna and we use a program to track the satellites.

"And we follow the satellite with the antenna and listen to what people are talking to and who they're talking to and where they're from.

"And, we heard all the way from California. And that's one of my favorite things to do.

"I also really like packet. It's pretty cool."

Emily is a member of the Kickapoo QRP Amateur Radio Club and the American Radio Relay League. She's also a regular participant in Field Day, Kids Days and QRP events.

Emily was nominated by Susan Backs KC0JCR, XYL of Paul Backs KC0JCQ, Leavenworth's Emergency Coordinator for ARES activities. Susan summarizes Emily this way:

"Her leadership, her outreach, technical and public service achievements mark her as an outstanding example to other young amateurs."

The Young Ham of the Year Award Committee wholeheartedly agreed.

Congratulations, Emily, from all of us.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz NT3V, chairman of the Young Ham of the Year Committee, reporting from Philadelphia.

--

Please join us in congratulating Emily Stewart, KC0PTL, on being named the 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year (ARNewsline(tm))

**

HAM RADIO STATES: THE LATEST NUMBERS FROM K3UD

According to George Mc Couch, K3UD, it looks like the overall number of licensed radio amateurs numbers have increased by 873 from April through June 2008.

George says that the Technician and Technician Plus category had large increases while General had a smaller increase. On the downside, Novice license holders declined by 299 and Advanced declined by 2,134.

Further breaking down the numbers, George says that the Technician license had gains of 1,856 over the reporting period and is still the most popular license for newcomers. He says that it is continuing to make good gains over the last 3 quarters. However, it also seems that the large movement from hams upgrading to General has slowed to trickle over the last 9 months.

On the other hand K3UD says that we are seeing very good movement in upgrading to the highest class with increases of 1,447 hams earning the Extra Class. He says that this increase about matched the last quarter in terms of growth.

George says that his figures are based on a comparison of two snapshots of the numbers taken at two different times. He says that the numbers do change every day, sometimes increasing and sometimes decreasing. He say that he always uses the last day of previous reporting period and the last day of the present reporting period as his points in time.

K3UD unofficially took over reporting ham radio license statistics at about the same time that Fred Maia stopped publishing his W5YI Report newsletter. George provides a truly valuable service to the nations ham radio community. You can see his actual figures on the news pages at

www.qrz.com. (K3UD, QRZ.com)

**

RESCUE RADIO: CHINA'S HAMS STAND DOWN FROM QUAKE COMMUNICATIONS

The emergency communications provided by China's radio amateurs in the aftermath of the devastating magnitude 8 Sichuan earthquake has now ended, although some remain on standby for rapid re-activation if needed. Jim Linton, VK3PC, has a wrap up on this great ham radio humanitarian ham radio effort:

--

IARU Region 3 Chinese Radio Sports Association disaster communication liaison Fan Bin BA1RB reports that several hundred hams took part to help the disaster recovery and relief efforts.

This began almost immediately after the huge ï¿½quake on the 12th of May and it continued through until the 13th of June.

A number of radio amateurs traveled into the epicentre area, a difficult task due to earthquake damaged roads, to set up communications.

In the early days long distance telephone lines were either cut or congested and this is where amateur radio HF links including one in the provincial city of Chengdu to give the Red Cross a link to Beijing.

VHF and UHF repeaters were in heavy use, both those which survived the quake and others pressed into service to provide much needed local communications including front line rescue and recovery activity.

Amateur radio was used to provide coordinating communications for cars that were used to ferry supplies and transport the wounded immediately after the quake.

Amateur radio operators across the country made donations of equipment and supplies and the CRSA thanks them and all international radio societies and individuals for the support given.

The CRSA has produced a powerpoint slide presentation to give an overview of the role emergency communications provided during the disaster, and what it proposes for the future.

The slide show was presented at the fourth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference in Friedrichshafen, Germany, by the IARU Region 3 Chairman, Michael Owen VK3KI.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton VK3PC, Chairman of the IARU Region 3 Emergency Communications Committee.

--

As we reported last week, China's radio and television networks have heaped praise on that nations amateur radio community for their life saving post

earthquake effort. (VK3PC)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Pikes Peak FM Association repeaters serving Colorado Springs, Colorado.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH COALITION GROWS

The United State Department of Homeland Security has announced that more than 1,200 national, regional, state and local businesses and organizations have pledged their support and joined the 2008 National Preparedness Month Coalition.

Sponsored by the department's Ready Campaign, National Preparedness Month was created to help to raise awareness and promote action by Americans, businesses, and communities on the issue of emergency readiness.

Launched in 2003 in partnership with The Advertising Council, the Ready campaign is designed to educate and empower Americans. This, to prepare for and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

This past February marked the Ready Campaign's fifth year at the Department
of Homeland Security. For more information on it and on National Preparedness Month, please visit www dot ready dot gov on the World Wide Web. (DHS Release)

**

RESCUE RADIO: FIELD DAY PLANE CRASH AND FIRE IN NEVADA

Members of the Frontier Amateur Radio Society and guest hams operating the N7V Field Day station on Mt. Charleston, Nevada likely will not receive any bonus points for what they experienced. But it was a real-life lesson in why we do Field Day in the first place.

Just hours after Field Day began last Saturday, in a canyon near the station site a singe engine Piper Cherokee en route to California, crashed. All for people on board were killed. The crash sparked a fire, which quickly spread in the wilderness area. Neither crash site nor the flames were visible at the nearby Toiyabe National Forest campground where N7V was on air.

Soon the N7V operators and other campers began receiving conflicting information as to whether they had to evacuate. With spotty cell phone coverage in the national forest, ham radio was the quickest way to

ascertain whether everyone needed to leave. .

Field Day operations were suspended as Steve Herman, W7VOA, contacted Dudley Emer, KK7IF on two meters. He telephoned the park service emergency operator to get more information. At the ame time, John Bigley, N7UR, headed down the mountain to get direct word from police. The remaining hams and campers began packing, preparing for a quick departure in case they had to make a quick retreat. But word soon reached them that the evacuation order had been lifted. Operations resumed for N7V after the equipment was connected for a second time.

And heres the kicker. Steve Herman, W7VOA, is an international newsman. He also holds the call VU3USJ and currently lives in New Delhi, India. He was on a trip home when this incident occurred. (W7VOA)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC PROPOSES CREATING FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS NATIONWIDE

Free high speed Internet for all. The FCC has released a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in docket item FCC 08-158. One that proposes public access to free, nationwide, high-speed wireless broadband Internet services using a portion of the winning bidder's network for the 2.1 GHz Advanced Wireless Services or A-W-S spectrum. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, reports:

--

The FCC's June 20th Further Notice of Rule Making proposes requiring the licensee for the 2155 to 2180 MHz spectrum to provide using up to 25 percent of its wireless network capacity free. It would be a two-way broadband Internet service at engineered data rates of at least 768 kilpbits per second downstream.

An additional obligation associated with the licensee's free broadband service would include a requirement to provide a network-based filtering mechanism for the free Internet service. This, in order to protect children and families from unwanted content. There would also be a requirement that the network would allow for the use of open devices.

The build-out requirements for the licensee, as proposed, would be to provide signal coverage and offer service to at least 50 percent of the total population of the U.S. within four years. It would also have to reach at least 95 percent of the U.S. population by the end of the 10-year license term.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

--

The Notice also proposes permitting both downlink and uplink transmissions throughout the entire 2155 to 2180 MHz band. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: UNLICENSED BROADCASTER ON EMERGENCY FREQUENCY DINGED $18000

The FCC has issued a Forfeiture Order in the amount of $18,000 to someone identified only as a John Doe. This for what the Commission terms as a willful and repeated violation of Sections 301 and 325 of the Communications Act involving the operation of radio transmission equipment without a license in Largo, Florida. He or she is also accused of making these transmissions on the International Distress, Safety and Calling Channel l3 and of the transmission of false signals of distress.

Back on April 30th the Commission's Tampa Office of the Enforcement Bureau
issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $18,000 to the unidentified alleged offender. The FCC says that this John Doe has not filed a response. So based on the information before it, the FCC in a June 26th action affirmed its earlier forfeiture order. And as in other cases, our John Doe was given the customary 30 days from the June 30th the release of the order to pay or to file an appeal.

Why the FCC is withholding the actual name of the alleged offender has not been stated, but doing so is usually the case when a minor is involved or there are other extenuating circumstances. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC TO NJ HAM - STAY OF THAT REPEATER

The FCC has issued a Warning Letter to William G. Aber, Sr., N2AJI, that in essence orders him to stay off of a local New Jersey repeater. This after he allegedly failed to heed the written request of the control operator of the 449.875 MHz KC2JPP repeater to refrain from use of the machine.

According to the FCC, that letter was issued to Aber as a result of his failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee or control operators of the repeater system for its users. The FCC says that Aber was previously requested verbally to refrain from using the system, but that he apparently ignored both verbal and written requests and that he refused delivery of the letter.

In its June 11th Warning Notice to Aber, the FCC says that it expects him to abide by the request to stay off the KC2JPP system and any other such request by a repeater licensee, control operator or trustee. If he uses the repeater again after receipt of its warning letter, that the FCC will initiate enforcement action against your license, which may include revocation, a fine or a modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies on which he may operate. Fines normally range from $7,500 to $10,000. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: KEEP THE COAL OFF 2 METERS

The FCC has issued a Warning Notice to the Gateway Coal Mine of Coulterville, Illinois. This, after receiving a complaint that the company had been using unlicensed radio equipment operating on 146.400 MHz.

In its June 26th letter to Gateway Coal Mine, the FCC said that 146.400 MHz is an Amateur Radio Service frequency, not a business or public safety frequency. It advised the company that operation of radio transmitting equipment without a license is a violation of Section 301 of the Communications and will subject its owners to a fine or imprisonment, as well as an seizure of any non-certified radio transmitting equipment. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC FINES FACILITIES PROVIDER $10000

The FCC has affirmed a $10,000 fine issued earlier to to Frank Rodriguez of Patterson, New Jersey. This, for willfully and repeatedly violating Section 301 of the Communications Act by providing services and facilities
incidental to the operation of an unlicensed radio transmitter on the frequency 90.5 MHz.

Back this past April 9th, the Commission's New York Field Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $10,000 to Rodriguez. This, after the FCC found an unlicensed station not under Rodriguez ownership but operating from his property.

Now in its June 30th release, the FCC says that to date that Rodriguez has not filed a response to the proposed fine. Therefore, based on the information before it ,the Commission had now affirmed the forfeiture and given Rodriguez the usual 30 days to pay or to file an appeal. (FCC)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: 200TH LIGHHTHOUSE REGISTERS FOR LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND

The 200th lighthouse to register for this summers International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend is GB4KAY, the Kay Kendall Memorial Lighthouse, at Yorkshire, in the U-K. Built in the early 1890's due to a large number of shipwrecks nearby, it was later named in memory of the glamorous 1950s actress Kay Kendall who was born in the town.

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend is conducted annually by the Ayr Radio Club of Scotland. The webmaster of its official website at WWW.ILLW.NET is Kevin Mulchay VK2CE. He says it's shaping up to be a big year and he would not be surprised if registrations topped 400 before the event gets underway (VK3PC)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: INDIA TO HAVE LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVE LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND

The first Indian lighthouse has also registered for International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. Bangalore Amateur Radio Club Secretary, Lion Ajoy, VU2JHM, says permission has been received to activate a lighthouse in southern India. A callsign is pending but it will be activated from the Indian Independence Day of the 15th of August through to the 18th which happens to include the International Lighthouse Weekend. (VK3PC)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: STEREO TV INVENTOR CARL EILERS - SK

The electronic engineer who helped develop production of high-fidelity stereo sound over the airwaves has died. 83 year old Carl G. Eilers, Friday at his home in River Forest, Illinois, on June 26th of an apparent of a heart attack.

A 50-year employee of Zenith Electronics, Eilers joined Zenith in 1948 as an engineer in the research department working on a subscription television system called Phonevision. In 1977, he became manager of research and development and led the team that in 1961developed FM stereo broadcasting. Eilers was also co-developer of another key industry standard known as MTS or multi-channel television sound for stereo TV. Zenith's MTS system was adopted by the industry in 1984.

Eilers also worked on development of remote controls, laser-disc recording and supplemental audio programming. He also contributed significantly to high-definition television and was granted 21 U.S. patents.

Eilers retired in 1997 but returned as a consultant for the company, which is based in the Chicago suburb of Lincolnshire. He is survived by his wife of Sandra; his son John and a daughter Janet Ames. (Published reports)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: SBE NEEDS RF VOLUNTEERS AT THE DNC

Its not exactly amateur radio but hams are the ones with the skill to help. This, as the Denver Colorado chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers puts out a call for skilled radio frequency volunteers for the upcoming Democratic National Convention. Amateur Radio Newsline's Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, has the details:

--

According to the June 13th issue of TV Technology Magazine, broadcast engineering leaders in Denver are looking for volunteers to assist with wireless coordination and enforcement at the convention. Qualifications are knowledge of R F and broadcasting. Tasks will include meeting radio and TV crews and checking in their wireless equipment, monitoring for interference and evidence of non-coordinated equipment, and resolving problems. Test gear will be available, and the organizers hope to have their own 450 MHz channel for communication.

If you think that this sounds a lot like what ham radio coordinators do to keep repeaters on the amateur bands from interfering with one another, you are right. More information on how to volunteer is available at www.tvtechnology.com/pages/s.0018/t.13999.html

I'm Fred Vobbe, W8HDU.

--

As far as we know this is a non-partisan volunteer effort. The Society of Broadcast Engineers is not endorsing any party or candidate by this action. Its just providing solid R-F engineering practices to both conventions. (TV Technology, KN4AQ, WB9QZB,)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: SATELLITE INTERFERENCE GROWING

The problem of interference to the satellite signals of broadcasters and other space relay communications is getting worse. So says a high ranking executive of the satellite transmission company Intelsat.

According to a report carried by the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, Khalid Chaudhry, Intelsat's Vice President of network operations recently made the comments during a meeting of the World Broadcasting Unions International Satellite Operations Group at in Atlanta. He said that interference is coming in all shapes and sizes, and the problem is becoming more critical because of global demand for the Internet, including services for ships and aircraft.

The account of Chaudhry's remark also quotes him as saying that while most interference is not intentional, a small amount is deliberate, some of it is possibly politically motivated. (RW)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: FINAL CALL FOR COLLOQUIUM PRESENTERS

AMSAT U K has issued its final call for speakers and papers for its 23rd Space Colloquium. This event is slated to be held at the University of Surrey in Guildford, England, from Friday July 25th to Sunday July 27th. Offers of talks should be submitted as soon as possible. The final date for full documents to be received is July 16th in order that the printed "Proceedings" document be available to participants.

Submissions should be sent only to G4DPZ, by e-mail to david dot johnson at blackepper dot co dot uk mor via reguular mail to his address in Q-R-Zed dot com. Full details of this and previous events can be found on-line at www.uk.amsat.org/Colloquium (AMSAT-UK)

**

DX

In DX, word that PE9PE will be operating from SI9AM, which is the King Chulalongkorn Memorial Amateur Radio Society in Ragunda, Sweden. This,

through July 11th. Listen out for him on SSB on 1.840, 3.760, 7060, 14.210, 18.160, 21.310, 24.960 and 28.510 MHz. For US Stations he will announce the Q-S-X frequency on 40 meters and when needed on 75 and 80 meters. More info including QSL routes is on-line at www.si9am.se.

DL7DF and a team of operators will be active as portable A25 from Botswana. This, between September 23rd and October 6th. The group plans to have several stations on the air on 160 through 10 meters using CW and SSB. One station will be exclusively dedicated to RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. QSL via DL7DF, either direct or by the DARC Bureau.

Lastly, ON7YK will be active from Gambia as C56YK between October 13th and November 9th. Operation will be on 80 through 10 meters and perhaps 160 meters as well. Modes announced are CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. This will be a holiday style operation. For more details and updates visit the www.on7yk.net

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: SOME THANK YOU'S FROM US TO YOU

And finally this week:

--

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ with some thank-you's for supporters of Newsline.

First a huge one to the awesome Anchorage Amateur Radio Club and their continuing support of Newsline. Just a reminder that their big 2008 Hamfest and convention will be held August 1st through the 4th. It will be an official ARRL convention this year, celebrating the 50th year of Alaska statehood. Well have more on this in coming weeks, or you can check their website at akhamfest.com

Its been a while since we've done these thank-yous, so we have to go back to January of 2007. We heard from:

The Greensboro, NC Amateur Radio Association, W4GSO; Peter Norloff, KG4OJT of Oakton, VA; Monthly contributor Joseph Bartzi, Jr., KC8DKF of Columbus, OH; The Southwest Michigan Amateur Radio Team of Kalamazoo; The Indianapolis Repeater Association; Frank Gassmere, K9BWQ in Crestwood, IL; J. Steven Blaisdell, W0PER in Englewood, CO; The Superstition ARC in Mesa, AZ; Monthly contributors William Walters, WA2IBM, and Scott Hensley of the Area Communications Team, both in San Jose, CA and the South Orange Amateur Radio Association in Mission Viejo

Via PayPal there was Douglas Gilbert, WD6CZH and The Zerox ARC in El Segundo, CA; Andrew Engle in Saint Peters, MO; Matt Kraner, K8MAT, in Canton OH; Todd Champion in Champlin, MN; Sigtomics and Todd Siglin, WA2LTD in Vestal, NY; Murray Hunt, KB3LZV of Frederick, MD; Randy Dorman of Hampstead, MD; Mark McCormick, N4RK of Woodstock, IL; Christopher Spacone; Jimmy Reynolds, Jr. of Morristown, NJ; Brian Levy in Tehachapi, CA; Dennis

Hardy in Richfield, MN; Fred Bader, K3CSX of Gaithersburg, MD and Bill at Good Fortune Advisory, Woodland, CA.

Well have more thank-yous in upcoming weeks. Im Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

--

Thanks Andy. (ARNewsline(tm) Support Fund)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, and I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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682. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-04 21:57:59 UTC
From: "D. Stussy" <spam@bde-arc.ampr.org>
Message-ID: <g4m424$6gf$1@snarked.org>
Source record: 2653

"Doug Smith W9WI" <w9wi@invalid.nospam> wrote in message
news:pan.2008.07.04.05.02.12.458552@invalid.nospam...
On Thu, 03 Jul 2008 18:53:44 -0400, D. Stussy wrote:
> Well, here in Southern California (Los Angeles + San Diego), each of 7-
13 is
> actually occupied with a full-power TV station and will continue to be.
The
> odd channels are for LA and the evens for SD (12 for Tijuana, Mexico).

At least the interim channel for the Tijuana station is 32 - it's unclear
to me as to whether Mexican stations will be allowed to return their DTV
operations to their current analog channels.

"What DTV operations?" Mexico decided to keep analog TV through 2025.

683. Re: Field Day Results & Stories

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-05 03:25:17 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <2qmdnQKlv-URdPPVnZ2dnUVZ_t_inZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2654

Art Harris wrote:
> Jim wrote:
>> How did folks do on Field Day this year?
>>
>> Any good stories?
>
> Ain't it amazing how 10 and 15 meters are "open" when people get on
> the air? I was working lots of short skip (sporadic E?) on both bands.

Yes, I noticed that. Somehow I don't think it's all the RF that causes the ionization that makes the bands open.

I missed my club's FD operation for the second year in a row because I was deployed by the Red Cross on a disaster operation. This year I was assigned to a communications vehicle and used FD as the opportunity to run my personal test of its ham radio capabilities. My goal was to make at least one contact on each HF band, and I managed to hit 10, 20, 40, and 80 but missed 15 (and in retrospect I wish I had tried the mobile whip on 160). I didn't have much time but enjoyed the effort.

By the way, my answer to the question of whether FD is a contest, an emergency-preparedness training activity, or a party is "yes". It's a unique event with all of those attributes. Each is important. The contest aspect provides an objective evaluation of the success of the setup that is used, and the social aspect of the event builds important relationships and motivates people to participate. There's no reason that FD has to be one thing; it can fulfill several objectives at the same time.

73,
Steve KB9X

684. Re: Field Day Results & Stories

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-05 11:42:21 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <ZpmdnZugZ64vmfLVnZ2dnUVZ_s_inZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2655

Steve Bonine wrote:

> By the way, my answer to the question of whether FD is a contest, an
> emergency-preparedness training activity, or a party is "yes". It's a
> unique event with all of those attributes. Each is important. The
> contest aspect provides an objective evaluation of the success of the
> setup that is used, and the social aspect of the event builds important
> relationships and motivates people to participate. There's no reason
> that FD has to be one thing; it can fulfill several objectives at the
> same time.

I guess I'll disagree, mildly, because I'm concerned that some readers might take the inference that the contest aspect of field day is an _objective_ evaluation of emergency-preparedness. To be sure, it's an evaluation of the hardware and antennas and operator skill, but being prepared to contribute in a disaster takes more than having a radio and antenna.

Field day is, and should be, a reminder that hams who are preparing to help in disasters must plan every detail _before_ they need to be effective, and must put that planning into practice several times _before_ it's needed. It's important to be a competent operator, but I don't feel that contest scores, per se, show who'll be the most organized beforehand, or who will be best-able to multi-task, tolerate a lot of ambiguity, juggle priorities, and suffer abuse from public officials and the served agencies, without losing their cool or making too many mistakes.

Contesting is about scoring. Disaster preparedness is about putting your ego on a shelf and being willing to deal with boredom, long waits, and assignments that are far from the TV cameras, very far from the flush toilets, and nowhere even close to the hot food or the TV lights or the glory.

73,

W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

685. Re: Field Day Results & Stories

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-05 15:40:06 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <_O6dnVfHBtjr4vLVnZ2dnUVZ_r7inZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2656

Bill Horne wrote:
> Steve Bonine wrote:
>
>> By the way, my answer to the question of whether FD is a contest, an
>> emergency-preparedness training activity, or a party is "yes". It's a
>> unique event with all of those attributes. Each is important. The
>> contest aspect provides an objective evaluation of the success of the
>> setup that is used, and the social aspect of the event builds
>> important relationships and motivates people to participate. There's
>> no reason that FD has to be one thing; it can fulfill several
>> objectives at the same time.
>
> I guess I'll disagree, mildly, because I'm concerned that some readers
> might take the inference that the contest aspect of field day is an
> _objective_ evaluation of emergency-preparedness. To be sure, it's an
> evaluation of the hardware and antennas and operator skill, but being
> prepared to contribute in a disaster takes more than having a radio and
> antenna.

When I chose the word "objective", I realized it was a stretch. I was trying to say that the contest aspect helps to evaluate success in how well the radios and antennas work. It's "objective" only in the sense of being slightly better than "seems like things worked better this year than last year." And it's just an indication of how well the hardware works, not of the overall effectiveness of the group that's running it.

> Field day is, and should be, a reminder that hams who are preparing to
> help in disasters must plan every detail _before_ they need to be
> effective, and must put that planning into practice several times
> _before_ it's needed. It's important to be a competent operator, but I
> don't feel that contest scores, per se, show who'll be the most
> organized beforehand, or who will be best-able to multi-task, tolerate a
> lot of ambiguity, juggle priorities, and suffer abuse from public
> officials and the served agencies, without losing their cool or making
> too many mistakes.

I agree that FD scores don't correlate with success in an actual disaster. In fact, setting up an HF station and operating it using emergency power is unlikely to be an actual part of disaster operations these days. On the other hand, Field Day does provide training in multitasking, ambiguity, priorities, dealing with media, and general problem solving. Many skills that are useful in an actual disaster are exercised in a FD operation; the most important being the ability of the local group to work together to get things done.

Field Day, by itself, won't prepare a group for disasters. But a group that is doing things right -- ongoing training, drills, and planning -- will benefit by participating in the FD operation.

> Contesting is about scoring. Disaster preparedness is about putting your
> ego on a shelf and being willing to deal with boredom, long waits, and
> assignments that are far from the TV cameras, very far from the flush
> toilets, and nowhere even close to the hot food or the TV lights or the
> glory.

The point I was trying to make is that Field Day is more than a contest. There is a contest aspect, and it draws people who are avid contesters and treat it as nothing more than a contest; you can work FD from home in exactly the same way that you work SS or any other contest. It's also a training event, and draws people who are interested in emergency preparedness. And it's a social event and draws people who want to sit and chat with their buddies, but have no interest in getting on the air.

Field Day provides an opportunity for the insular groups to mix. The CW bigot might pick up a microphone. The VHF-only ham gets exposed to HF. The new ham who has never been in a contest learns how to operate one. The guy who only came to gab with his friends and hasn't been on the air for years gets on the air. The friend/relative who is visiting is exposed to ham radio. And everyone has a good time.

Emergency preparedness has many aspects. Building the general expertise and camaraderie of the local ham radio group makes it more effective if it's ever called upon in a real disaster situation.

73, Steve KB9X

686. Re: Field Day Results & Stories

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-05 19:03:15 UTC
From: Bryan <bryan.swadenerNOSPAM@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <tKmdnYs8EZL_WPLVnZ2dnUVZ_i2dnZ2d@giganews.com>
Source record: 2657

N2EY wrote:
> How did folks do on Field Day this year?
>
> Any good stories?
>
> I participated at K3TU, in class 2A (+VHF/UHF). We made 949 QSOs (509
> CW, 440 'phone). Condx were good (20 meter QSOs at 2 AM!) the weather
> was tolerable and no major breakdowns. Saw lots of old friends and
> made some new ones.
>
> Just 363 days to the next one!
>
> 73 de Jim, N2EY

.. Class: 2E
.. Ops: N7MCG (Phone), WA7PRC (CW)
.. Phone QSOs: 137
.. CW QSOs: 315
.. 100% Emergency Power + Message to Section Manager bonuses
.. Rigs: TS120S (CW) and TS130S (Phone)
.. Antennas: 80m cage inverted vee, 40/15m dipole, halfwave 20m vertical, Cushcraft A3S yagi
.. Power Source: 4 x Group27 wet cells in parallel (320Ah)

Not the best effort (total points: 1734) but I had fun operating at home for a change, with my longtime friend Evan N7MCG. We used my 'little' FD battery pack to run the rigs -- adequate power was NOT an issue. 40m was by far the payoff band for CW; 20m produced the most Qs on phone. 15m produced only a few Qs. 10m was d-e-a-d when I checked periodically. I finally got the Rigblaster Pro to work w/o RFI (Evan was happy to not have a hoarse voice afterward).

vy 73 es gud dx,
Bryan WA7PRC

687. Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-08 00:32:19 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <LLydnbtcFflSu-zVnZ2dnUVZ_vudnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2658

"Skimmer" Software created by Alex Shovkoplyas, VE3NEA, is an interesting mix
of "old" and "new".

This new application, which depends on the "new" of SDR (Software Defined Radio)
and focuses on the "old" of Morse Code is one of those "gee, why didn't I think
of that" pieces of technology that exemplifies the "tinker and experiment" heart
of Amateur Radio.

Download a functional demo at http://www.dxatlas.com/Download.asp
Read a critical review at http://www.pvrc.org/~n4zr/Articles/Skimmer.pdf
Join an online bbs-style forum at http://skimmer.createforum.net/index.php
Join an email discussion group at
http://dayton.contesting.com/mailman/listinfo/skimmertalk
--
73, de Hans, K0HB

688. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1613 - July 11, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-11 12:08:30 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080711013157.016acd48@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2659
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1613 - July 11, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1613 with a release date of Friday, July 11th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. 160,000 power supplies are recalled by Radio Shack and the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Is there on in your shack? Also, Algerian hams loose two High Frequency bands as well as everything at V-H-F and ham radio says a happy retirement to one of its good guys. Find out who on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1613 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: FCC RULES ENFORCER RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH RETIRES

The man who took ham radio out of the hands of trouble makers and made it family friendly once again has retired from public service. Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, who held the title of Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau officially retired from the agency on July 3rd. And in his final major public appearance at last May's Dayton Hamvention, he took a moment to thank the ham community for its support:

--

Hollingsworth: "You have a great service overall, and it's a major underpinning of the communications system in this country. And you demonstrate this on a daily basis. And we tank you all for the way you help us with enforcement in your radio service and every thank-you that you give us, believe me, is deeply appreciated. Thank you. (applause)

--

Hollingsworth came to the position of rules enforcer more than a decade ago. It was a time when years of neglect by the FCC had permitted many of the popular ham bands to become over run by a small but vocal number of licensed amateurs who had no respect for the rights of others. These were hams who seemed to believe that the Part 97 Amateur Service rules did not pertain to them. Hams who claimed that their jamming and harassment of others was constitutionally protected freedom of expression and freedom of speech. It was Hollingsworth who would change all of that.

It was not very long before some of the most high profile offenders began receiving warning notices from Hollingsworth. Those that ignored the

letters soon found that they were the subject of further FCC action. In some cases fines were issued. In others the FCC and the offender entered into agreements where the latter accepted operating restrictions or voluntarily surrendered their licenses for a given period of time.

There were also a number of license renewal set-asides. That's where a ham is not permitted to renew a license until a charged offense was adjudicated. It didn't take that person off the air, but was a clear message that the FCC had that operators on the air operating habits under a proverbial microscope.

That said, more than a few of the situations did not require FCC enforcement action. As Hollingsworth said in his Dayton address, many times complaints that he received got solved without any intervention at all:

--

Hollingsworth: "You would be amazed at the number of complaints I get that seem to be good complaints. And they are good complaints on the face of it. But if I check on them a few days later or a week or so later, the problem has gone away. A lot of it is unintentional or having second thoughts."

--

Whenever possible, Hollingsworth approach was that negotiation was a far better way to approach a given situation than going the route of license suspension or revocation. And in most cases it worked. In the small number where it didn't, he and others in the FCC's Enforcement Bureau were more than ready to act. And act the agency would.

In one rather egregious case in California, FCC enforcement action begun by Hollingswoth's office and that of the Los Angeles FCC Field Office lead to FBI involvement in the case of former ham Jack Gerritsen, the ex-KG6IRO. Eventually Gerritsen was arrested, tried and convicted on six counts that included willful and malicious interference with radio communications and transmitting without a license. In 2006 Gerritsen was sentenced to seven years in prison and fined $15,225.

But Gerritsen was the mot extreme of the extreme. In most cases, the first letter and maybe a phone call was all that was needed to make a problem go away. And in his remarks at Hamvention 2008, Hollingsworth reminded the audience that the number of hams who cause problems is relatively small:

--

Hollingsworth: "You have some poor operators and rude operators and operators who don't care and who are hateful and bitter about life in general, but every group has that. Whether its doctors, electricians, lawyers, whatever, Every group has a certain percentage of people like that in these time. But what you have to do, and remind yourself every day is to stay on the high road. And report to us if you can't resolve a

problem after you have given it a chance to go away."

--

And taking the high road was always what Riley Hollingsworth's tenure as Special Counsel for the FCC's Spectrum Enforcement Division was always all about. And by taking the high road, he helped to breath new life into our world of Amateur Radio.

For his efforts in helping to eliminate the problem of malicious interference that had been increasing on the ham bands Hollingsworth was named to receive the 2006 Dayton Hamvention Special Achievement Award. Now he's out of the ham radio limelight and hopes to enjoy many years of hamming. He also hopes to talk to many of you on the air from his home station, K4ZDH. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

RADIO SAFETY: RADIO SHACK AND CPSC RECALL TWO MODELS OF POPULAR POWER SUPPLIES

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with Radio Shack Corporation issued a recall notice on July 2nd. This, concerning two models of power supplies that the CPSC says places owners at risk of electrocution while also presenting a fire hazard.

The units recalled are 13.8V DC Power Supplies identified as Radio Shack catalog items 22-507 and 22-508. They were sold at Radio Shack stores nationwide from October 2004 through January 2008 for between $50 and $85. The units affected carry date codes from 08A04 through 01A08. Both the catalog number and date code are located on the back of the power supply.

The CPSC release says that about 160,000 of these units are in the hands of the public. It advises that consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Consumers should unplug the recalled power supply immediately and take it to any Radio Shack store for a free repair. Registered owners of the recalled units will be mailed a notice.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission release also notes that power supplies with a green dot on the product and on the product's packaging have already been repaired. Therefore, they are not included in the recall.

For additional information, contact Radio Shack anytime at 800-843-7422. Or you can visit the firm's website at www.radioshack.com/recall (CPSC public release)

**

RESCUE RADIO: ARRL TELLS RED CROSS OF REMAINING BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY CONCERNS

The American Radio Relay League is still not happy with the American Red Cross policy on background checks of ham radio volunteers and has told the relief agency it has to make more changes. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, reports:

--

The ARRL Letter reports that League President Joel Harrison, W-5-Zed-N, has written to Armond Mascelli about the League's concerns and the need for further changes on the part of the relief agency. Mascelli is the vice president for Domestic Disaster Response for the American Red Cross.

In his note Harrison identifies the ARRL's remaining misgivings over the background check policy for American Red Cross partners. These include the Authorization for Background Investigation consent form which says Harrison still contains some highly equivocal and broad language. Language that because of its ambiguity will inevitably discourage substantial numbers of radio amateurs from participating in the background check process.

Also says W-5-Zed-N, the Disclosure Regarding Background Investigation form can still be construed as overly broad, although this can be corrected by fairly simple edits.

Even so, Harrison also emphasized that the commencement of negotiation of a replacement Statement of Understanding between the two organizations should not be further delayed while these concerns are resolved.

Harrison adds that he looks forward to signing a new Statement of Understanding once additional edits to the background check Disclosure Form and clarifications of the background check Authorization Form are in place for those radio amateurs who volunteer their service to the Red Cross.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

--

As we go to air there's no word if the American Red Cross has responded to this latest ARRL request. (ARRL)

**

RESCUE RADIO: OARS ASSISTS IN NORCAL FIRES

A ham radio group in Northern California has been praised in news reports. This, for its assistance as wildfires continue to scar the area.

The Chico Enterprise Record says that the Oroville Amateur Radio Society has supplied about 22 of its members to assist with evacuations, shelter work and animal rescue. The article quotes club president Larry Thompson as saying that radios have been set up in the basement of the society's station to aid in the all out emergency relief effort. Thompson, who the FCC records identify as KI6JTU says that the hams are using them to communicate with the Red Cross, Salvation Army and other agencies to transmit information 24 hours a day.

Thompson says that two or three people are in the station doing shifts ranging from 4 to 24 hours a day, but that the society is trying to provide as much relief for them as possible. The newspaper also quotes Thompson as saying that the Oroville Amateur Radio Society is upholding its underlying purpose. That is to be there when all else fails. (Chico Enterprise Record)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WR6ABD repeater serving San Jose California.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LOSS: ALGERIA CANCELS HAM RADIO 80, 17 METERS PLUS UHF AND VHF

Hams in Algeria have lost access to several popular bands. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF is in the newsroom with more:

--

According to 7X5JF, Algerian authorities have revoked and cancelled all operating privileges for the use of the 80 and 17 meters as well as the various VHF and UHF bands. Telecommunications regulators in Algeria gave no reason for their action. Hams in Algeria are hoping for a quick return of privileges on these ham radio allocations.

Interestingly, 7Y46ND had previously announced that he would be on the air during July in commemoration of 46 years of independence in Algeria. His activity was to have included both 80 and 17 meters as well as the other High Frequency bands. No word on how the government action will impact on plans for 7Y46ND's in the air schedule.

I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

--

We will have more world highlights later on in this weeks report. (7X5JF, DL1BDF, OPDX)

**

RESCUE RADIO: PC WORLD MAGAZINE LAUDS HAM RADIO

PC World Magazine says that "When Networks Fail, Hams to the Rescue." That's the title of their article dealing with the recent ARRL sponsored Field Day and the way in which radio amateurs demonstrated their ability to provide emergency communications in time of disasters and other communications outages.

In addition to Field Day, the article also touches on the volunteerism found in both the Amateur Radio Emergency Service and the Military

Affiliated Radio System. It also notes that ham radio uses many modes of operation to relay information including both analog and digital voice and data services that even includes e-mail. It also talks about groups of hams who are setting back-up communications for hospitals that takes over when telephone systems fail.

Admittedly the article is not a hundred percent technically accurate from a ham radio point of view. That said, it does provide the non-amateur general public to which it is targeted with a very positive view of the hobby and the services it can provide to the community, the nation and the world. You can read it on-line www.pcworld.com/article/148040/when_networks_fail_hams_to_the_rescue.html (PC World)

**

RESTRUCTURING: CW USE ON THE RISE IN SOTA AWARD PROGRAM

CW seems to be increasing in polarity in the amateur radio world, and this is certainly reflected in the U-K sponsored Summits on the Air or SOTA award program. According to the Southgate News the majority of all activation's are undertaken using CW. Southgate says that this increasing trend is no doubt compounded by the addition of new overseas associations, where there is much more of a CW culture in portable operating.

While SOTA operations in the U-K have a greater bias towards voice modes such as SSB and FM, the CW bug is also biting. This, with several participants making the decision to revive their Morse after a long absence or even learn it from scratch specifically for use in the Summits on the Air program. (Southgate, RSGB)

**

ENFORCEMENT: CHP ASKS HELP IN STOPPING COPPER THIEVES

A possible new use for your cellphone or autopatch in the great American South-West. This as the California Highway Patrol seeks public assistance in reporting suspicious activity that may lead to thieves who are stealing copper wiring from lighting along that states freeways. Newsline's Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, reports:

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According to a CHP spokesperson, wiring theft is hitting freeways on the average of once a week. Especially hard hot have been Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. CHP Officer Jennifer Hink says that the thieves are creating a real danger for people stranded in the dark on the shoulders of these roads.

Unlike a year ago when these thefts were still random, Hink says that the thieves these days are apparently skilled in the activity. She says that they know what they're doing and are using the right tools.

The thefts are the result of recyclers paying $3 a pound for the wiring, five times the 60 cents a pound five years ago. Authorities are reportedly working with recyclers but say that spotting stolen wiring can be difficult.

The CHP asks that any member of the public that sees suspicious activity was asked to call 911.

I'm Fred Vobbe, W8HDU.

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As this is really a world wide problem it might be wise to keep your eyes open and your radio at hand no matter where you live. (Published reports)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: ARRL AUDIO NEWS TELEPHONE SERVICE RESTORED

The ARRL says that telephone access to its Audio News ha been restored. The League says that it had been down for a few days due to equipment failure, but was still available as an MP3 audio file at the ARRL's website. Its also now back via telephone at 860-594-0384 once again. (ARRL)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: NORCAL 432 NET MOVES TO SUNDAY AT 7 PM

K6NC reports over the VHF Reflector that the famed Northern California 432 Net has been moved to Sunday night. The start time 7:00 PM Pacific time with the Net Control station taking early check-ins at 6:45. The frequency remains 432.100 MHz. With good conditions, the net has had check-ins from Oregon on the north, Western Nevada to the east, and Southern California to the south. (K6NC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: STEVIE WONDER GOES TO HEIL SOUND MICS

Famed musician and performer Stevie Wonder now has a kind of remote connection to ham radio. No, the superstar has not joined the ranks of the hobby, but he is now using microphones manufactured by one of the amateur radios most recognized names.

Yep, you guessed it. Stevie Wonder is now using Heil Sound microphones on stage. Specifically the Heil PR 22, 30, 35 and 40. The same mics designed by ham radios own Mr. Audio, Bob Heil, K9EID, that many of you are using in your hamshacks.

Stevie Wonder's first appearance using Heil Sound microphones was a major event. It was in concert at the Hollywood Bowl in California, on Monday evening July 7th. A concert that Los Angeles Times called a masterful turn from one of the greatest musicians to ever grace the venerable venue.

In a note to Newsline, Bob Heil, simply said that he is very honored to have all of this happen. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

RADIO ON SCREEN: 2 METERS IN THE GET SMART MOVIE

Ham radio has gotten smart. Well more like its gotten smart in the new hit movie Get Smart which in itself is a big screen sequel to the small screen hit TV show of the 1960's.

CQ Magazine editor Rich Moseson, W2VU., went to see the new flick. He says that someone was able to sneak a bit of ham radio into the "Get Smart" movie and we are not talking about some hams H-T going off in the theater.

Without giving anything away, Rich says that at one point the central character Maxwell Smart commandeers a car from another agent,. There under the dash, is a 2-meter rig, tuned to 146.91 MHz. We see it twice, since the agent he took the car from calls him on the radio and the camera flashes back to the rig.

W2VU says that if you go to see the Get Smart movie, watch for this bit of big screen ham radio. We say its -- well -- very smart indeed. (W2VU)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: GERMANY'S HAM RADIO 2008

Europe's recent Ham Radio Convention brought 17,100 visitors, 180 exhibitors and societies from over 30 nations to Friedrichshafen., Germany, the last weekend in June. Yes the convention is simply named Ham Radio and its sometimes called the Dayton Hamvention of the Continent. Film maker Dave Bell, W6AQ, went there for the first time this year. He says its really a lot more:

--

Bell: "In Germany its all under roof. There are three or four buildings that are all tied together. And it doesn't matter what the weather is like outside because everybody is inside. And, its about the same size as Dayton and all of the manufacturers that we are familiar with plus a few others are there."

--

Also there this year were some 95 youngsters. They participated in a special Ham Rallye, aimed at introducing them to the hobby. Also, over 100 teachers were present at the special training course held for them.

Video of this years show has been posted by several hams on the YouTube dot com video sharing website. Just use the YouTube search feature with the words Ham Radio Germany 2008. (ARNewsline(tm), W6AQ)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: W1AW FROM THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

A very special, special events station will be on the air from Alaska's Arctic Circle from July 26th though August 10th. This, as W1AW portable KL7 takes to the air from truly rare Grid Square BP56 as part of the 2008 Alaska State Hamfest being held in Anchorage.

The station will operate on the Alaskan Arctic Circle from the intersection of the Dalton Highway some 200 miles North of Fairbanks. Listen out for this all band 24hour operation each day. The enhanced Gray-Line effect starts at about 06:00 UTC and lasts for 6 to 8 hours.

The main 2008 Alaska ARRL Convention will run from August 1st to August 4th 2008. In addition to the usual convention faire this year the planners have included attractions like cruses, Halibut fishing and a tour of the HAARP 3.6 Mega-watt transmitter site both before and after the main convention weekend.

More information on W1AW portable KL7 and the Alaska ARRL Convention is on-line at www.akhamfest.com. (KL7BB)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: RFID TAGS VS. HOSPITAL ELECTRONICS

Medical monitoring equipment in hospitals could be interfered with by micro-power tracking devices called R-F Identification Tags. This, according to scientists in the Netherlands. Jim Damron, N8TMW, has the rest of the story:

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Radio frequency identification devices better known as RFID tags are on the rise in healthcare. Among other things they are being used to help track patients and reveal the location of equipment.

But the latest research, conducted at Vrije University in Amsterdam, shows a problem. There scientists tested the effect of holding both passive and powered RFID tags close to 41 medical devices, including ventilators, syringe pumps, dialysis machines and pacemakers. A total of 123 tests, three on each machine, were carried out. Some 34 produced an incident in which the RFID appeared to have an effect on hospital gear. Of these, 24 were deemed either "significant" or "hazardous".

In some tests, RFID's either switched off or changed the settings on mechanical ventilators, completely stopped the working of syringe pumps, caused external pacemakers to malfunction, and halted dialysis machines.

The device did not have to be held right up to the machine to make this happen - some "hazardous" incidents happened when the RFID was more than 10 inches away.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, reporting.

--

You can read the full story at the link provided in this weeks printed Newsline report.

(DO NOT READ: You can read the full story at http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7471008.st (BBC, southgate)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: ROADRUNNER IS NEWEST SUPERCOMPUTER

The Los Alamos National Lab and IBM have introduced the world's latest fastest computer. Called Roadrunner, the $100 million machine that can perform 1,000 trillion calculations per second.

Built primarily for nuclear weapons work, the computer named Roadrunner, is twice as fast as IBM Blue Gene system at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab, which itself is three times as fast as any of the world's other supercomputers. To explain how powerful it is, if everyone of the six billion people on earth used a handheld computer and worked 24-hours a day it would take them 46 years to do what Roadrunner can do in a single day.

(Shoptalk)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: P3E ORBITAL AND P5E MARS MISSION UPDATES

Heres the latest on the new Phase 3 E ham radio satellite now under construction. It was reported at the 2008 AMSAT Germany Symposium that the mechanical work on the satellite has been completed but it does not yet have the Internal Housekeeping Unit or I-H-U. There has been good progress on the transponder payloads with the 435 to 145 MHz software defined linear transponder being demonstrated at HAM RADIO 2008 in Friedrichshafen, Germany.

Once completed, the satellite will need a ride into Earth orbit. Right now it appears that the cost quoted by Arianespace for the launch of Phase 3 E is outside the budget of AMSAT Germany. However, AMSAT France has offered its support in any further negotiations. The possibility of using launch sites operated by India, Russia or Japan is being investigated.

P3E is closely linked to the Phase 5 E Mars Orbiter spacecraft also being built by the Radio Amateurs at AMSAT Germany. Phase 5 E will be the first private venture spacecraft to go to Mars and will use the 2.4 GHz and 10 GHz Amateur Satellite Service frequency allocations.

**

WORLDBEAT - UK: MORSE IS NOR DEAD AS THE TIMES OF LONDON SAYS IT WAS

Turning to news from around the globe, Morse code is not dead, but try to tell that to the Times of London newspaper. Well, one ham did and the

paper listened. Heres the story.

On Tuesday, July 1st, the Times published an article misleadingly claiming Morse code was deceased. The article titled "SOS, RIP" on inaccurately claimed that Morse code had died along with the SOS.

Knowing that was not the case, Tony Usher, G4HZW, wrote to the editor pointing out the error and his letter was published in the Thursday July 3rd edition. The Times article "SOS, RIP" July 1st can be seen at
http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/leading_article/article4244645.ece
The letter in response from Tony Usher G4HZW published July 3rd is at
http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/letters/article4257377.ece
(Southgate)

**
WORLDBEAT - NETHERLANDS: THE OMROEP ZENDER TRANSMITTER MUSEUM

Popular Communications reports in its July issue that a group of former employees of Holland's Nozema Services has set up a news historic radio website called the on-line Omroep Zender Museum.

Omroep Zender is Dutch for The Broadcast Transmitter Museum. Among the many things published there are photos of Dutch broadcast facilities dating back to 1935. The site also offers some audio, including the final moments of Radio Netherlands shortwave transmissions in English and Dutch from its famed Flevoland site.

A search engine has just been added to the site, though at the moment it is only in Dutch. Nozema Services used to be responsible for the technical distribution of radio signals in the Netherlands.

**

WORLDBEAT - PORTUGAL: NEW 4 METER BEACON ON YTHE AIR
A new 4 meter beacon is on the air from Portugal. CS5BFM operates on 70.166 MHz from Maidenhead grid square IM 59 r d near Serra das Fazendas de Almeirim at an altitude of 12 meters. Power output is 10 watts into a dipole antenna beaming 45 degrees and 225 degrees. If you hear it please e-mail a signal report to geral at ct1arr dot org.
**

ON THE AIR: PORTUGUESE NAVY RAC JULY 26 - 27

To commemorate their 6th anniversary the Portuguese Navy Radio Amateur Club will be operating the special event station CS8DFG. This, on July 26th and 27th from the frigate 'D. Fernando II e Gli¿½ria' from 0800 UTC to 1900z UTC. CS8DFG will be active on or near 3.512, 7.012 and 14.012 MHz for CW and 3.690, 7.060 and 14.180 MHz for SSB. On both days operations will be interrupted from 1130 to 1300 UTC. Full information and QSL routing is available at www.nra.pt/php/bdDFG.php?lang=en&cY=&uLog&mID= (Portugese Navy Radio Amateur Club)

**

OTHE AIR: DXPEDITION TO CHUGINADAK ISLAND

Members of the Russian Robinson Club will mount a DXpexpedition to Chuginadak Island from July 21st to the 27th. This is a parcel of land located 800 nautical miles South of Anchorage, Alaska,.

The four member expedition team will fly to Dutch Harbor Alaska on July 17th. They will then sail to Chuginadak Island and setup a camp and get on the air using the call sign KL7DX. Operations will continue for one week weather permitting.

The operation is reported to be privately funded with donations from team members, manufacturers of communications equipment and INDIVIDUAL amateur radio operators worldwide. QSL via Ron Lago, AC7DX, PO Box 25426, Eugene, Oregon, 97402. More is on-line at www.na-234.com. (Russian Robinson Club)

**

DX

In D-X, word that IARU Vice President VE6SH will be active through Juluy 20th from the Maldives as 8Q7TM. His activity will include the July 12th to the 13th IARU HF World Championship. QSL via VE6SH.

And VE2008VQ is active until the 27th of July. This, in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the foundation of Canada's Quebec City. Activity is on 80 through 6 meters. QSL via VE2AWR.

Also, G3RWF, is on the air as 5X1NH from Fort Portal in Western Uganda. He will be there until 15th August. QSL via G3RWF.

Lastly, TS1ASC is active until July 22nd during the 28th Arab Scout Jamboree and the Cub Scouts Mediterranean Camp. QSL via each operators instructions as given on the air.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: DXING FROM A BAR

If you're tired of DX expeditions from remote locations, islands on the air, lighthouses and other classic type DX operations, this one is for you. Call it bar DX'ing. And we mean bar as in a place that serves alcoholic beverages, among other things. John WilliamsVK5BUI, has the inebriating details:

--

Be ready for the second radio activity at Cahroi Bar, in Portugal, with the singular call sign CT8CAR on this edition.

The first endeavor took place last August 2007, when a group of friends, committed to ham radio, activated this kind of gastro-pub in Sintra Portugal, with the special call sign CT6CAR. Such event was so successful that now, the same group, will back on radio from there, among

good regional excellent meals and beverage.

The special event station will be on the air during July 19 and 20, 2008. The Cahroi Bar is a familiar establishment, placed on a hot spot for radio communications, serving lunches and dinners at the table, including a good wine
and nice fresh local food that can rival a good restaurant's.

I wonder if they charge corkage for any "home brewing" or if "Ham" sandwiches are on the menu?

With some help from radio wave's propagation this special call sign will be easily reached at every amateur band on several modes.

The beacon will sign it up in the APRS system as well as at Google Earth. Both will give you the geographical coordinates of the location.

And so far no truth to the rumor they are planning a contest station with multipliers for guessing the last standing operator!

Oh and as a disclaimer... drink responsibly!

This is VK5BUI..

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Or as we say here in the United States, never drink and dive. Mixing Alcohol and gasoline can lead to serious consequences in court, or worse. (WIA News)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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689. Sporadic E to Japn

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-11 16:52:25 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <RbMdk.40332$fX5.33152@fe109.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2660

The last few days have revealed a flurry of activity on Six Meters between the U.S. and Japan via Summer Solstice Sporadic E propagation.

I was able to nail QSOs with JA7QVI and JA7WSZ using CW for my 79th 6m DXCC country and my first QSO with Asia, thus completing a 6m WAC.

I telephoned WA8JOC since I new that he needed Japan on 6m and Shep worked JA7QVI off the back of his yagi to complete his 6m WAC.

Dave K8MN

690. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 27 (Friday, July 11, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-11 17:41:41 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080711161026.E365430A17@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2661
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 27
July 11, 2008
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California
* + ARRL Teachers Institutes Near Halfway Point for 2008
* + "The Doctor Is IN" The ARRL Letter
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+ International Space Station Goes Live with ARISS
Field Day Fun at W1AW
IARU Member Societies On-The-Air for IARU HF World Championship

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> SACRAMENTO VALLEY AREA HAMS RESPOND WHEN FIRES SWEEP ACROSS NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA

With the California fires showing little signs of abating, ARRL
Sacramento Valley Section Manager Ron Murdock, W6KJ, says that ARES
members in his Section are actively involved in supporting the agencies
they serve. According to California Department of Forestry and Fire
Protection (CAL FIRE), more than 330 fires covering almost 200,000 acres
are active in the Sacramento Valley Section. While most fires are at
least 50 percent contained, some are less than 30 percent under control.
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According to Murdock, too little rainfall over the winter and hot, dry winds contributed to the fires' fast spread. Due to the weather conditions, ARRL Sacramento Valley Section Emergency Coordinator Richard Cloyd, WO6P, put ARES leadership on a standby alert in early June. "On June 11, a fire started that eventually consumed 24,000 acres," said Murdock. This fire, called the Humboldt Fire, burned for almost one week. "At mid-June, our wildlands -- so full of tinder dry fuel -- began to burn. Fire threatened the City of Paradise in Butte County for several days. Paradise doesn't have many evacuation routes, so when people returned to their homes, they had a new appreciation for evacuation plans." According to CAL FIRE Public Information Officer Mary Ann Aldrich, no cause has been determined for this fire which destroyed 74 residences and damaged 20.

The high winds soon dissipated, but then dry thunderstorms -- storms with very little rain but lots of lightning strikes -- made their way to the area. "First we heard of over 400, then 800, then over 1000 wildland fires. People in other mountain communities were advised, and then directed, to evacuate their homes and seek shelters set up by the Red Cross," Murdock said.

With activation requests from both the Paradise Emergency Operations Center and the American Red Cross, Butte County Emergency Coordinator Steve Kaps, N6NPN, opened the ARES net on the Golden Empire ARS W6RHC Repeater. Murdock said that it was opened first as a precautionary measure, but as the shelters opened, help was needed. Paradise residents Chuck Orgovan, KF6YKQ, and Anna Horn, KG6ZOA, manned the shelter at a local school. "The W6RHC repeater did not have good coverage in the shelter area, so we relayed communications between the shelter and Kaps (who was running the Net Control Station) via the Sutter County WD6AXM repeater and we were able to make things work. Placing a better antenna at the shelter seemed to help for a while, but eventually operations shifted entirely to the WD6AXM repeater," Murdock said.

Cloyd relayed information to Murdock that shelters in other parts of the area were being opened: "I told Red Cross in Yuba City. They realized they did not know where and when these other shelters were opening. We then opened KG6WGQ -- the club station at the Three Rivers Chapter of the American Red Cross in Yuba City -- so that we had a better chance of communicating with the multiple outlying shelters. Since the station was to be open when the ARC response group was operating, we had to work in shifts, so we went to three 5 hour shifts per day for a week. At one point, Ken Miller, KF6JRE, volunteered to take a shift in Yuba City from his home in West Sacramento."

A radio and power supply at KG6WGQ had to be replaced; luckily, Herb Puckett, W6HBU, had an extra one in his go-kit. Paul Johnson, N6XVL, developed a list of volunteers to staff all the shifts for the Red Cross operation. "We were in the process of scheduling relief for Butte County operators on the evening of June 27, when the Red Cross decided to move from Yuba City to Chico to better use the resources they had in place," Murdock said. "At that point, further Net operation by ARES was not

needed and so it was suspended for the weekend." On Monday morning June 30, fire suppression efforts were making headway and most of the sheltered population was allowed to return home.

On Sunday, June 29, Yuba/Sutter Emergency Coordinator Art Craigmill, K6ALC, heard a fire call on his scanner. "The location was nearby so he gathered his equipment and went to check on the situation," Murdock said. "On his way there, he saw another fire -- this one at a home construction site -- and notified the incident commander." Craigmill took action to stop the spread of this new fire. "Thankfully, the home had water pressure, and this aided Art in his firefighting efforts until the engine company arrived to put it out."

Throughout the Sacramento Valley Section and beyond, smoke from wild fires dangerously contaminated the air with particulate matter. "The air stank of smoke and things burned. With air quality values as bad as we have seen them in 25 years, many clubs in the section had to cancel their Field Day operations," Murdock said. "First to do so was the Nevada County Amateur Radio Club. Not only did they not get to do Field Day, but their site -- the Nevada County Fairgrounds -- was used as a fire fighting staging area." The Golden Empire Amateur Radio Society in Chico and the Yuba-Sutter Amateur Radio Club also cancelled their respective Field Day operations, due to poor air quality. Murdock said that both clubs had many members who manned ARES shifts during this emergency.

The Oroville Amateur Radio Society had many operators involved in the shelter operation. Bill Cross, K6DYT, volunteered as an animal shelter worker. Virginia Paschke, KI6COL, deployed to Butte County from her home in Sutter County, also helped out at the animal shelter. According to Murdock, Paschke got her Amateur Radio license last year for this very reason: The domestic animal rescue group provides assurance for people who need to evacuate that they can do so without leaving their pets behind. It speeds the evacuation process and keeps people from getting into more dangerous situations.

CAL FIRE's Aldrich said that this fire complex originally had many fires: "We started with 38, but 15 of the fires merged together so now we are down to 11 fires covering 27,600 acres." She said that lightning caused these fires. Two residences have been destroyed so far by fires in this cluster.

Murdock said that many of the clubs that held a Field Day event could see a slight clearing of the thick smoke that plagued more northern locations: "It serves as a reminder that fires remain burning and that we should all remain ready for the next phase of this emergency."

==> ARRL TEACHERS INSTITUTES NEAR HALFWAY POINT FOR 2008

The first rounds of Teachers Institutes <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html> for this summer have been completed at the Parallax facility in Rocklin, California and at Pueblo

Magnet High School in Tucson, Arizona. According to Mark Spencer, WA8SME, who coordinates the Education and Technology Program, there were a few specific goals and objectives that were tried during these two Teachers Institutes that were beyond the normal training curriculum: the new 24-hour clock kit for the Soldering 101 unit, the radio telescope unit and the BOT instructor's board.

These first Teachers Institutes had another first: a new instructor. "All of the technical things worked out well," said Spencer, "and new instructor Miguel Enriquez, KD7RPP, did a great job during his first Teachers Institutes as the lead instructor. He will be a much needed and welcome addition to the team."

Spencer said that 25 participating teachers from nine states attended these two Teachers Institutes. These teachers represented four elementary schools, 10 middle schools, 10 high schools and one university. Of the 25, 14 were hams and 11 were non-hams. "This number will shift because a number of non-ham participants are planning to, or will be taking their ham license examinations in the near future," Spencer said.

Here are a few comments taken from what participants had to say about their experience at the ARRL Teachers Institute:

* In the 34 years I've been teaching, I'd place this workshop as one of the top two (the other being a really cool National Science Foundation program in chemistry education at University of Oregon) that I've been to. [The Teachers Institute] has inspired me to incorporate new material in some of my classes. It has inspired me to broaden my own interests.

* Thanks again for ARRL support in the education gift department -- I have new ideas on how to excite the kids as I go through the next year.

* Thanks for making a successful Institute experience for myself. You are an excellent instructor. I hope the ARRL knows what they have in you. Miguel was terrific also. Since I have come back [to my school], I have two teachers who have expressed interest in attending one. I am sure there will be several high school teachers in my district who certainly would be interested in attending one. We have about 10 high schools in the district and the TI is the institute for all of them.

* I appreciate all you've done for me through the Teachers Institute. It has been a great learning process for me so far! I can't wait to share this new knowledge with my students.

The next Teachers Institute is in Dayton, Ohio and is sponsored by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA). The Teachers Institute season will wrap up with two sessions in Newington at ARRL HQ during the first week in August. Another instructor, Nathan McCray, K9CPO, will join Spencer in Newington. The Teachers Institutes are just one part of the ARRL Education and Technology Program, also known as "The Big Project." For more information on this exciting program, please visit the ETP Web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/>.

==> "THE DOCTOR IS IN" THE ARRL LETTER

This week, ARRL Letter readers are in luck! The ARRL's very own Doctor, author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is IN," answers a question from his mailbag:

Question -- Don Christensen, W8WOJ, of Midland, Michigan, asks: I am not a frequent user of 2 meters yet; however, I do want to be available for emergency activity. I have a 2 meter handheld transceiver at the ready, but wonder what the preferred procedure is to ensure that my transceiver's nickel-cadmium (NiCd) batteries are charged and ready for service.

The Doctor answers -- Unfortunately, NiCds might not be the best choice for such an application with intermittent use.

If you run down a NiCd battery pack too low, any strong cells may reverse charge the weaker cells, damaging the weak cells. On the other hand they also don't like being constantly topped off without actual hard use -- this promotes crystal formation, which can short out the cells. They are most happy in applications in which they are used until they discharge significantly, but not all the way and then are just charged until fully recharged. Thus, the idea of having a spare pack that is just kept charged up, but never actually used, is not a good plan.

If you have two packs, they will both last longer if one is used until it runs down and then you switch to the other and promptly recharge the depleted one. Perhaps you can have the radio turned on a few days a week monitoring the local repeater.

Many handheld radios offer battery cases for non-rechargeable Alkaline cells that can be used in place of the rechargeable battery. These are a good choice since they have long shelf life, generally have a longer operating life than a charge with similar sized NiCds, and are usable in field situations in which charging sources are not available.

Another choice, if you must have a rechargeable battery, is to use sealed lead acid or gel cell batteries -- they love to be kept on a float charge until needed, but are bulky and require a separate cable to the handheld.

Be sure to read "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST, the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> THE JULY/AUGUST QEX IS HERE

The July/August issue of QEX is out, and it is full of theoretical and practical technical articles that you don't want to miss.

In this issue, John Post, KA5GSQ, describes a crystal controlled 145 MHz oscillator in "VHF Frequency Multiplication Using the SA602 IC." Wes Hayward, W7ZOI, returns to the pages of QEX with an article about

"Oscillator Noise Evaluation with a Crystal Notch Filter." James Koehler, VE5FP, shares "Some Thoughts on Crystal Parameter Measurements" as he describes an automated system he built using a new DDS signal generator and microcontroller circuit to make the measurements and perform calculations.

Al Christman, K3LC, expands on the investigations in his July/August 2005 QEX article with "Ground System Configurations for Phased Vertical Arrays." Contributing Editor L.B. Cebik, W4RNL (SK), looks at the characteristics of one wavelength loops in "Antenna Options," and Ulrich Rohde, N1UL, takes us on a tour of early RF oscillators in "From Spark Generators to Modern VHF/UHF/SHF Voltage Controlled Oscillators."

Would you like to write for QEX? It pays $50 per printed page. Be sure to check out the Authors Guide <http://www.arrl.org/qex/#aguide> for more information. If you prefer postal mail, please send a business-size self-addressed, stamped envelope to QEX Authors Guide, c/o Maty Weinberg, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494.

QEX is edited by Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, and is published six times a year. The subscription rate for ARRL members in the US is $24. For First Class US delivery, the rate is $37 for members, $49 for nonmembers. For international delivery via air mail, including Canada, the subscription rate is $31 for members, $43 for nonmembers. Subscribe to QEX today <http://www.arrl.org/qex>.

==> KANSAS TEEN NAMED 2008 YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR

Emily Stewart, KC0PTL, a 17 year old from Leavenworth, Kansas, has been named the 2008 Young Ham of the Year (YHOTY), announced YHOTY Award Administrator Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF. Emily was selected based on her commitment to Amateur Radio, along with leadership, outreach, and her technical and public service achievements of the Amateur Radio Service to others. She will receive her award as part of the Huntsville Hamfest. More than two dozen young people were nominated for this award, now in its 22nd year.

The daughter of Mike, K0MDS, and Sharon Stewart, Emily was first licensed in August of 2003 when she was 12; she holds a General class license. She said she was "so excited" when she got her ticket that she wanted to share Amateur Radio and made presentations while in middle school about ham radio. That led to getting active in her local radio club and contributing articles to the club newsletter. Through her local activities, Emily was appointed in 2006 as the first Assistant Section Manager for Youth in the ARRL Kansas Section.

Emily has lived in Kansas for eight years. Prior to that, home was in Germany, where her father was serving in the US military. She credits her dad for sparking interest in Amateur Radio when they moved back to the United States: "I thought it was really cool when he started talking to people overseas in Europe. And Germany was still kind of home to me, so when he started talking to people in Germany, I said I wanted to do

that, too."

Last August, while attending the ARRL Kansas State Convention, Emily conducted a survey of attendees, asking how many had persuaded their children or grandchildren to get involved in Amateur Radio. The slim response led her and Brian Short, KC0BS, to develop the Kansas Legacy Project. This project has three prongs: Pass the spirit and knowledge of the Amateur Radio Service to a new generation; build ties between family members using ham radio activities, and increase youth participation in ham radio. Through her efforts, Emily hopes to encourage hams to get the younger members of their families to get their ham licenses and get involved. The project has netted good results so far, including one of the youngest hams in the region to be licensed -- 7 year old Lucie Goodhart, KD0DMO, who took a license class with her dad and passed her Technician test last March.

Emily is also interested in the public service and storm spotting portion of Amateur Radio: "My dad would sometimes take me out with him to go storm spotting. I decided that I wanted to have some training, so I took a couple of online courses in emergency communications. I will either go out with my dad when we get called out to do some storm chasing or I will stay at home and do spotting from home -- just in case something really nasty does happen. Then that way I'm home with my mom."

Emily also has a deep interest in spaceflight and astronomy. One of her cousins, US Astronaut Robert L. Stewart, was a crewmember onboard the space shuttles Challenger and Atlantis. She has been attending Spacecamp since she was in the 6th grade. "I'm also into astronomy and that's another thing my dad and I do," said Emily. "We volunteer at an observatory about an hour away from Leavenworth. We work on public access nights."

This fall, Emily heads into her senior year at Leavenworth High School where she is a member of the National Honor Society, Vice President of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is a copy editor for the school yearbook. Already a Registered Pharmacy Technician with the state of Kansas, she is considering making pharmacy her career.

Emily is a member of the ARRL and the Kickapoo QRP Amateur Radio Club. She's also a regular participant in Field Day, Kids Days and QRP events.

The 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline! Young Ham of the Year Award will be presented on Saturday, August 16, 2008 at the Huntsville Hamfest in Huntsville, Alabama. As the 2008 Young Ham of the Year, Emily will receive a trip to the Huntsville Hamfest, ham radio equipment, various books and magazines and an all-expense-paid week at Spacecamp in Huntsville. Amateur Radio Newsline will award her with a commemorative plaque at the ceremony.

The presentation of the YHOTY award is a regular feature of the Huntsville Hamfest and has been made possible through the generosity and kindness of the event's Planning Committee. This year's YHOTY award

ceremony will be hosted by Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, of Amateur Radio Newsline, along with representatives of corporate underwriters Vertex-Standard and CQ Communications, Inc.

The Amateur Radio Newsline "Young Ham of the Year" award program (formerly the Westlink Report Young Ham of the Year Award), has been presented annually since 1986 to a licensed radio Amateur Radio operator who is 18 years of age or younger and who has provided outstanding service to the nation, his/her community or the betterment of the state of the art in communications through the Amateur Radio hobby/service.

==> TWO NEW COORDINATORS APPOINTED IN IARU REGION 2

IARU Region 2 President Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AMH, has appointed Dr Cesar Pio Santos A., HR2P, of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, as IARU Region 2 Emergency Communications Coordinator; Santos will be taking over from Rick Palm, K1CE. According to Leandro, Santos is a well-known emergency expert in the region who helped to provide emergency communications and medical relief in Honduras in the wake of Hurricane Mitch. He remains active as a volunteer in his country's governmental emergency communications institution and as a member of the Emergency Communications Advisory Group (ECAG) for Area D (Central America) in IARU Region 2.

Leandro also appointed Juan Munoz, TG9AJR, of Puerta Parada, Guatemala, to succeed Bill Zellers, WA4FKI (SK) as the Region 2 Monitoring System Coordinator. Munoz started as a shortwave listener in 1984 and obtained his current license in 1989. Leandro said he is an active amateur on nearly all bands and modes. As an avid contester, Munoz was a referee during WRTC 2002 in Helsinki, Finland and has participated in the IARU Monitoring System with Martin Potter, VE3OAT, since 2001.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The Sun bursts through in unlooked-for directions" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Another week and still no sunspots. The 3-month moving average for daily sunspot numbers that we began reporting toward the end of Solar Cycle 23 seemed to retrospectively suggest that solar minimum occurred last fall. The daily average for the 3-month period centered on last October was nearly 3 -- or 2.967 to split some hairs. This is an average of the 91 daily sunspot numbers from September 1-November 30. Following that low, November was 6.85; from December 2007-April 2008, the 3-month average drifted from 8.14-8.89. With remaining Solar Cycle 23 spots becoming increasingly rare -- and barely any Solar Cycle 24 spots -- this suggested solar activity was stalling out. Then, at the end of June, a further decline when the 3-month average centered on May dropped to 5.04. Sunspot numbers for July 3-9 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 65.5, 65.4, 65.1, 66.1, 65.5, 65.5 and 66 with a mean of 65.6. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 7, 4, 3, 2 and 4 with a mean of 7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 3, 7, 5, 2, 1 and 3 with a mean of 3.4. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information

Service Propagation page
<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's
Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin
page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, the NCCC Sprint Ladder is
July 11 and the FISTS Summer Sprint is July 12. The IARU HF World
Championship is July 12-13. The SKCC Weekend Sprintathon and the ARCI
Summer Homebrew Sprint are July 13. The RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship
(SSB) is July 16 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is July 17. Next
weekend is the NCCC Sprint Ladder on July 18. The Feld Hell Sprint and
the VK/Trans-Tasman 160 Meter Contest (CW) are July 19. Look for the DMC
RTTY Contest, the North American QSO Party (RTTY) and the CQ Worldwide
VHF Contest on July 19-20. On July 20, check out the RSGB Low Power
Field Day and the CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush. The Run for the Bacon
QRP Contest is July 21, the SKCC Sprint is July 23 and the RSGB 80 Meter
Club Championship (Data) is July 24. All dates, unless otherwise stated,
are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains
open through Sunday, July 20, 2008 for these online course sessions
beginning on Friday, August 1, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010),
Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001), Radio Frequency
Interference (EC-006), Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009), Analog
Electronics (EC-012) and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online
course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives,
informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are
interactive, and some include direct communications with a
Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may
be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the
course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons
and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors
assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and
activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with
mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the
student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student
to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE
Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact
the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* No ARRL Audio News July 25: There will be no ARRL Audio News on
Friday, July 25. The ARRL Letter will be available that day. ARRL Audio
News will return on Friday, August 1.

* International Space Station Goes Live with ARISS: July looks to be a busy month for Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm>. On Friday, July 4, members of the Austin Amateur Radio Club (AARC) facilitated a successful ARISS contact between the International Space Station (ISS) and Cub Scout Pack #304 and Blackland Prairie Elementary School in Round Rock, Texas. Before an audience of 100, 10 Cub Scouts asked nearly 20 questions of Greg Chamitoff, KD5PKZ. Chamitoff launched into space on May 31 on the space shuttle Discovery and took over on the ISS for Garrett Reisman, KE5HAE. Chamitoff is scheduled to return to Earth in November. An ARISS contact took place with the National Agriculture Museum in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada on Wednesday, July 9. Telebridge station W6SRJ in Santa Rosa, California assisted with the contact. The museum is a large research facility in the City of Ottawa covering more than 1000 years of major contributions to agricultural progress. A public camp is part of the overall operation of the farm. Another ARISS contact has been scheduled with the Department of Astronomy and Space Sciences (DASS) at the Kuwait Science Club in Safat, Kuwait on Monday, July 14 at 17:05 UTC. Telebridge station WH6PN in Hawaii will assist with the contact. DASS aims to spread scientific awareness in the fields of astronomy and space sciences by actively engaging the public in exploring the cosmos. This educational activity will educate young people about space stations, satellites and ham radio. To date, there have been 352 ARISS contacts. If a school in your area is interested in participating in an ARISS contact, please visit the ARISS Web page for more information on how to apply <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/ARISSapp16_Instructions.htm>.

* Fun at W1AW for Field Day 2008: Another Field Day has come and gone, and just like amateurs all over the country, those who activated W1AW not only took part, but had lots of fun during the 24 hour event. According to W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, W1AW made 1079 contacts using CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-2 meters. "The last time W1AW broke the 1000+ QSO mark on Field Day was back in 2005 when 1100 QSOs were made. But band conditions were slightly better then and we had more operators on hand," Carcia said. Along with Carcia, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X; DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L; DXCC Assistant Carol Michaud, KB1QAW, and Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, put W1AW on the air for Field Day. Michaud's 9 year old daughter Lexie got her first taste of ham radio, getting over a case of "mic fright" to get on the air, too. This was Kutzko's first Field Day at W1AW. "Field Day is always fun," he said, "but to be a part of W1AW during the ARRL's biggest on-air event was a real honor. The mixture of experienced and newly licensed operators sharing the fun and working hundreds of stations is the essence of Elmering in Amateur Radio." Field Day is always the fourth full weekend in June. In 2009, it will be June 28-29.

* IARU Member Societies On-The-Air for IARU HF World Championship: In this weekend's IARU HF World Championship Contest, IARU Member Societies from all around the globe will be active and operating with special call signs <http://www.iaru.org/contest.html>. According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, many of these call signs end in HQ, designating a national headquarters station; these can be worked as

special multipliers in the contest. Kutzko said that IARU Administrative Council members will also be on and can also be worked for special multiplier credit. If you hear a station giving R1, R2, R3 or AC as their contest exchange, that station represents part of the IARU Administrative Council or regional Executive Committee. "The Daily DX," edited by Bernie McClenny, W3UR <http://www.dailydx.com>, has compiled a chart listing all of the known IARU Member Society call signs that will be on-the-air for the contest; this listing is also available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/10203>. The IARU HF World Championship runs from 1200 UTC Saturday, July 12 to 1200 UTC Sunday, July 13.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
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automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You
must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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691. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-11 20:28:35 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <de6c3a44-8a85-46e3-9e15-71a7d8525c1d@c65g2000hsa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2662

My oh My,

I just had my first introduction to CW contesting during field day. I sat and watched a CW operator rack up QSO after QSO at 25 wpm and I was very impressed. Man, I wanted to do that! I left field day with a renewed interest in CW thinking that I might try and brush off the dust and cobwebs from my CW skills and give it a try next year. Going from a copy speed of nearly zero to contest ready is going to be a serious problem for me but I can try.

Then I see your post... Oh my. My first thought was "Wow! That would be great on field day to speed up finding stations to work!" I could even imagine that it would be pretty easy to automate most of the QSO process and depend on the computer to find, work and log contacts with little (if any) operator interaction required. This is, of course, at the heart of the whole debate over this new tool’s use. Is it fair to
the operator who doesn't have this tool if I use it?

How the CW contesters will deal with this new technology while keeping the playing field level? Beats me, but thinking about it leads to a number of possible solutions (Please folks let's add to this list.)
1. Ignore the new technology and live with the fact that folks who use it will likely increase their contest scores.
2. Regulate its use by handicapping folks who choose to use such tools.
3. Make the use of such tools illegal for the contest.

Each approach has its good points and it's bad ones.

Ignoring the technology would be a grave mistake. If it is not addressed, fully automatic stations during contests would become the rule and the single operator won't stand a chance. Gone would be the reward for staying up all night practicing those finely honed operating skills in an attempt to rack up a winning score. The winners would be asleep in the next room (or the next state for that matter) for the whole contest. That would be a bad thing for contests and for the hobby so we simply cannot ignore this.

Banning these tools from contests would also be a mistake. It would be like banning transistors, or DSP signal processing. We cannot ignore or discourage new technology and how it can advance the state of the art of radio. We must push to integrate new things that enhance our operating capabilities and encourage innovation in one of the few open areas left where the home brewing is alive and well. These days most are not going to build a radio to get on the air because it's

very difficult to build a state of the art rig at home. But you can write some software at home on your desktop with very cheap and readily available tools.

That leaves a middle of the road approach. I personally think that it would be best to regulate this technology's use in contests. We need to preserve the need for personal operating skills and reward those who work hard. But we need to recognize that melding technology with your station's operation in a effective ways is hard work too. I would push for a "regulation by bandwidth" kind of approach. This would handicap operators who use automatic spotting tools by some factor that is related to the receiver bandwidth being used. I would also clearly state in the rules that 100% automatic operation should not be allowed, but that there must be some operator interaction required for each QSO that takes place. The bad point to this approach is it will lead to more complex rules and make it harder to keep scores straight.

There should be a place for CW Skimmer in contesting and its use should be encouraged in ways that also encourage the development of these kinds of tools, and the integration of this kind of innovation into good operating practice.

-= bob =-

On Jul 7, 7:32 pm, "K HB" <groupk...@earthlink.net> wrote:
> "Skimmer" Software created by Alex Shovkoplyas, VE3NEA, is an inter
esting mix
> of "old" and "new".
>
> This new application, which depends on the "new" of SDR (Software Defined
Radio)
> and focuses on the "old" of Morse Code is one of those "gee, why didn't I
think
> of that" pieces of technology that exemplifies the "tinker and experiment
" heart
> of Amateur Radio.
>
> Download a functional demo athttp://www.dxatlas.com/Download.asp
> Read a critical review athttp://www.pvrc.org/~n4zr/Articles/Skimmer.pdf
> Join an online bbs-style forum athttp://skimmer.createforum.net/index.php
> Join an email discussion group athttp://dayton.contesting.com/mailman/lis
tinfo/skimmertalk
> --
> 73, de Hans, K0HB

692. Re: Waveform portability?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-11 20:33:04 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <yMqdnVZHO9WozfHVnZ2dnUVZ_vCdnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2663

"Jeffrey D Angus" <jangus@socal.rr.com> wrote in message
news:g4h9e701anm@news5.newsguy.com...
>K&#65533;HB wrote:
>> In the context of the news release quoted below, what does the term "waveform
>> portability" mean?

> Briefly, it means interoperability.

Thanks, Jeff.

73, de Hans, K0HB

693. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-11 23:00:48 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <XOWdnbwPj-tzSurVnZ2dnUVZ_gadnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2664

"KC4UAI" <kc4uai@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:de6c3a44-8a85-46e3-9e15-71a7d8525c1d@c65g2000hsa.googlegroups.com...

> How the CW contesters will deal with this new technology
> while keeping the playing field level? Beats me, but thinking
> about it leads to a number of possible solutions (Please folks
> let's add to this list.)
> 1. Ignore the new technology and live with the fact that folks
> who use it will likely increase their contest scores.
> 2. Regulate its use by handicapping folks who choose to
> use such tools.
> 3. Make the use of such tools illegal for the contest.

I have a 4th selection to add to your list, but first some thoughts on
radiosport contesting in general.

I have a general dislike for the notion of "level playing fields". (To help you
understand "level playing fields", read KVG's "Harrison Bergeron" at
http://instruct.westvalley.edu/lafave/hb.html

I think that every serious participant in contesting should be developing
skills, adopting technologies, and engineering his station with an eye on
tilting the playing field to their advantage. Contesting and contesting rules
ought to be crafted in a fashion which encourages innovative thinking, adopting
new ideas, and increasing the pool of good operators and the pool of
technological communications tools, not handicapping those who would do so.

So it would appear that I'm advocating your choice #1 above (basically saying
"let 'em play and get out of the way"). And, yes, I support that mindset.

BUT.....

Contesting rules should >>also<< preserve a traditional space where "just a boy
and his radio" can compete with other "just boys and their radios". There is a
real concern that technologies like Skimmer can "crowd out" the human factor of
contesting, leaving just a collection of robo-stations duking it out.

SO.....

Here's the 4th selection I promised you (and I've asked the major contest
sponsors to consider).

4. Allow new technologies like Skimmer, but in the rules for each CW contest
include a "Classic" single operator category where the operator him(her)self
locates and works the target stations without any "automagic" aids like Skimmer,
packet clusters, or other techniques which locate and identify unworked
stations.

73, de Hans, K0HB

694. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-11 23:56:04 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <GL2dnVt1isueburVnZ2dnUVZ_rmdnZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2665

"KC4UAI" wrote

> I just had my first introduction to CW contesting during field day. I sat and watched a CW operator rack up QSO after QSO at 25 wpm and I was very impressed. Man, I wanted to do that! I left field day with a renewed interest in CW thinking that I might try and brush off the dust and cobwebs from my CW skills and give it a try next year. Going from a copy speed of nearly zero to contest ready is going to be a serious problem for me but I can try.

Good! Then go for THAT -- not the electronic automatic whiz-bang stuff that would give me one big yawn. There's real accomplisment and satisfaction increasing your CW speed and improving your operating skills. But if your head is being turned by the thought of automation, just recognize that as a completely different world of operating. I suggest you stay with your original plan and stay inspired. As far as I can imagine, there's no real operating skill required for automation.

N7SO

695. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-12 00:52:28 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <g58prm02uj4@news1.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2666

Kï¿½HB wrote:
> "KC4UAI" <kc4uai@gmail.com> wrote in message
> news:de6c3a44-8a85-46e3-9e15-71a7d8525c1d@c65g2000hsa.googlegroups.com.
..
>
>> How the CW contesters will deal with this new technology
>> while keeping the playing field level?

To me, this is a classic example of "hand wringing" which I've seen
repeated over and over with ever new bit of technology to appear.

First it continuous wave, then AM, then SSB then RTTY, packet, PSK
etc. This is amateur radio, not "Freeze Frame" <your favorite era.>

> 4. Allow new technologies like Skimmer, but in the rules for each CW co
ntest
> include a "Classic" single operator category where the operator him(her
)self
> locates and works the target stations without any "automagic" aids like
Skimmer,
> packet clusters, or other techniques which locate and identify unworked

> stations.

I'm with Hans on this 4th approach. It's really no different than
Field Day where they have single operator battery vs multi-operator
on generator categories.

As it is, nobody's complained, or effectively at least, about the
canned "CQ CONTEST" keyers or voice loops. Used to be, "the big
thing" was to have a panadaptor to see who might be around you.

Short answer, "If you can't run with the big dogs, stay on the
porch." But they should and do have special categories for the
little dogs too.

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

696. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-12 00:53:06 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <MN6dncJPseXcburVnZ2dnUVZ_hqdnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2667

Kï¿½HB wrote:

> 4. Allow new technologies like Skimmer, but in the rules for each CW co
ntest
> include a "Classic" single operator category where the operator him(her
)self
> locates and works the target stations without any "automagic" aids like
Skimmer,
> packet clusters, or other techniques which locate and identify unworked

> stations.

I like this concept. I think that there is a place in contesting for people who use no technology except what's between their ears (and radio equipment, of course) and just as much a place for people who use every bell and whistle available. Developing new technology and learning to use it is a goal that contests should support.

I wonder if this could be implemented by adjusting the credit for QSOs based on how they were made. This is similar to CW contacts counting more than phone. It needs to be kept simple, but perhaps there's a way.

But the bottom line for me is that both groups should be encouraged -- the "classic" operator, and the technology-aided operator.

73, Steve KB9X

697. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-12 01:44:03 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <c9722a70-a644-4348-a7f6-11c562c5cf4f@z66g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2668

On Jul 11, 4:28 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> My oh My,
>
> I just had my first introduction to CW contesting during
> field day. I
> sat and watched a CW operator rack up QSO after QSO
> at 25 wpm and I was very impressed.

I know exactly what you mean.

> Man, I wanted to do that!

You can.

> I left field day
> with a renewed interest in CW thinking that I might try
> and brush off
> the dust and cobwebs from my CW skills and give it
> a try next year.

You don't have to wait. There are CW contests, QSO parties and
sprints of various kinds all through the year. There are also
software simulators for training between contests.

There's also DX chasing and good ol' CW ragchewing.

> Going from a copy speed of nearly zero to contest ready
> is going to be
> a serious problem for me but I can try.

Not a serious problem if you do a little each day.

> Then I see your post... Oh my. My first thought was "Wow!
> That would
> be great on field day to speed up finding stations to work!" I could
> even imagine that it would be pretty easy to automate most of the
> QSO
> process and depend on the computer to find, work and log
> contacts with
> little (if any) operator interaction required.

That's not a new idea.

Some time back, there was an article in QST called "The Man Who
Broke The Bank", about a ham who built an automated CW SS
station. He and it (mostly it) made a record score, which would not
be topped for many years.

The article appeared in QST for May, 1953.

> This is, of course, at
> the heart of the whole debate over this new tooli¿½s use. Is it fair
> to the operator who doesn't have this tool if I use it?

Yes and no.

Of course a "Skimmer" can give an advantage. But so can almost
any other tool. Computer logging gives an advantage over paper
logging, paddles or a bug give an advantage over a straight key,
a rig that can transceive gives an advantage over one that can't.
Sharp filters, simplified or automated tune-up, better antennas,
you name it, the issue is the same.

IMHO a line is drawn when operator intervention is no longer needed to
make a QSO. Another line is drawn when the op gets direct outside help
in making QSOs, such as by a packet cluster.

> How the CW contesters will deal with this new technology while
> keeping the playing field level?

As long as we all have to follow the same rules, the playing
field *is* level. The players may not be equal, though, but
that's what competition is all about.

> Beats me, but thinking about it leads to a
> number of possible solutions (Please folks let's add to this list.)

> 1. Ignore the new technology and live with the fact that folks who > use
it will likely increase their contest scores.

Like every other tool that has come along...

> 2. Regulate its use by handicapping folks who choose to use such
> tools.

How? Give those who don't use them a bonus or multiplier?

> 3. Make the use of such tools illegal for the contest.

But where does one draw the line? Should a panoramic display/bandscope
be allowed? Should logging computers
be banned? .

> Each approach has its good points and it's bad ones.

> Ignoring the technology would be a grave mistake. If it is not
> addressed, fully automatic stations during contests would
> become the
> rule and the single operator won't stand a chance.
> Gone would be the
> reward for staying up all night practicing those finely honed
> operating skills in an attempt to rack up a winning score. The
> winners would be asleep in the next room (or the next state for that
> matter) for the whole contest. That would be a bad thing for

> contests
> and for the hobby so we simply cannot ignore this.

But the Skimmer does not make QSOs. It simply tells you where stations
are that you may want to work.

Except in 1B-1 class, the same thing could be done on FD by having an
operator with a receiver tuning the band and writing
down notes as to where the new ones are.

> Banning these tools from contests would also be a mistake.
> It would be like banning transistors, or DSP signal
> processing.

You'd be surprised what can be done on FD without either of
those things....

> We cannot
> ignore or discourage new technology and how it can advance the > state of
the art of radio. We must push to integrate new things
> that enhance
> our operating capabilities and encourage innovation in one of the > few o
pen areas left where the home brewing is alive and well.

Google my call or look on eham.net for a picture of my shack.

> These days
> most are not going to build a radio to get on the air because it's
> very difficult to build a state of the art rig at home.

There are some very high performance kits, though. And the rig
is only one part of the system; the antenna, location, conditions
and operator are all parts too.

> But you can
> write some software at home on your desktop with very cheap and
> readily available tools.

Of course. But when it comes to state-of-the-art software, what is
required?

> That leaves a middle of the road approach. I personally think that it
> would be best to regulate this technology's use in contests. We
> need
> to preserve the need for personal operating skills and reward
> those
> who work hard. But we need to recognize that melding
> technology with
> your station's operation in a effective ways is hard work too. I
> would push for a "regulation by bandwidth" kind of approach. This
> would handicap operators who use automatic spotting tools by
> some
> factor that is related to the receiver bandwidth being used. I would
> also clearly state in the rules that 100% automatic operation

> should
> not be allowed, but that there must be some operator interaction
> required for each QSO that takes place. The bad point to this
> approach is it will lead to more complex rules and make it harder > to ke
ep scores straight.

I think true automatic operation is already not allowed, because there
must always be a control operator. I'm not sure, though.

> There should be a place for CW Skimmer in contesting
> and its use
> should be encouraged in ways that also encourage
> the development of
> these kinds of tools, and the integration of this kind of innovation
> into good operating practice.

Here's an analogy:

I think amateur radio contesting is best described by the term
"radiosport". IMHO it shares a lot with competitive techno-sports such
as bicycle racing or distance running.

In all such sports, technological improvements have made a big
difference, whether it's better running shoes for the distance runner
or a better bike for the bicycle racer.

But at the same time, there's a clear line drawn of where an
improvement becomes "unfair". Putting even a small motor on
a bicycle means it's not a bicycle anymore. Rollerblades are not
a new form of running shoe. In amateur radio contesting, we need
the same sort of mindset.

There's another angle, too.

Very few bicycle riders can qualify for a world-class race, let alone
win one. Few runners can qualify for the Boston or New York Marathons,
let alone win them. Yet many will ride bikes and run
marathons even with no hope of winning or placing significantly.

The reasons they do it are many, and I will only cover a few.

1) To simply prove they can do it. My first marathon was like that; I
just wanted to know I could run one in under four hours, and I did.

2) Because it is fun in and of itself. In the past few weeks I got the
ol' 10 speed out and started riding. It was tough at first but now I'm
up to 20 miles at a clip. Tomorrow I try for 25 miles. I'm not fast or
fancy and the hills of Radnor make it a challenge, but it's great fun
to go flying down the other side!

3) As training to get better.

4) To see how good one can do within one's own limitations. I'll
probably never win any race, nor any contest, but that's not the

point. Back in 1995 the rig you see in my shack pictures and I made 629 CW FD QSOs in class 1B-1, with simple antennas.
While that's not a world record, it's a personal one that I hope to better someday.

73 es GL de Jim, N2EY

698. Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-12 01:45:21 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <MNydnbju7bUVluXVnZ2dnUVZ_vednZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2669

In the gospel of Luke Chapter 14, verses 28-30, he admonishes us: "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sits not down first and counts the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish."

--
73, de Hans, K0HB

699. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-12 03:35:22 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <XtCdnWL7LO68heXVnZ2dnUVZ_vadnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2670

<N2EY@aol.com> wrote in message
news:c9722a70-a644-4348-a7f6-11c562c5cf4f@z66g2000hsc.googlegroups.com...

>> How the CW contesters will deal with this new technology while
>> keeping the playing field level?

> As long as we all have to follow the same rules, the playing
> field *is* level. The players may not be equal, though, but
> that's what competition is all about.

Competition is NOT about "level playing fields". True competition is about working (within the rules) to tilt the playing field to your own advantage. Things like honing your skills, improving your station, and seeking out new (legal) tools that your competitors may not have gained access to.

>> 1. Ignore the new technology and live with the fact that folks who
>> use it will likely increase their contest scores.

> Like every other tool that has come along...

"Skimmer" isn't "like every other tool that has come along". It is an instant game changer; in military tactical terms a "force multiplier".

> But where does one draw the line? Should a panoramic
> display/bandscope be allowed? Should logging computers
> be banned?

In terms of the classic "boy and his radio" category of contest participant, I believe the line must be drawn on the south side of Skimmer.

A panoramic display simply gives a general idea of conditions and activity levels on a band. It's a handy tool but doesn't identify a single call sign, or replace any CW copying skill.

A logging computer simply provides a more efficient means of "book-keeping". It's a handy tool but doesn't identify a single call sign, or replace any CW copying skill.

Skimmer, on the other hand, is like having dozens and dozens of assistant operators scanning the bands from top to bottom and in real-time feeding you the callsigns and the QRG's of EVERY STATION THAT IT HEARS ON EVERY BAND IT MONITORS, and "nudging you in the ribs" when it identifies a needed multiplier.

For this reason, I believe that every major contest sponsor must maintain one category "Skimmer free" where humans can compete with humans, finding, identifying with their own ears, and working the stations that go into their log.

Outside of that "classic" category, let Skimmer roam free.

73, de Hans, K0HB

700. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-12 03:36:10 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <V6ydnVCbYI5ul-XVnZ2dnUVZ_gednZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2671

Howard Lester wrote:
> "KC4UAI" wrote
>
>> I just had my first introduction to CW contesting during field day. I
> sat and watched a CW operator rack up QSO after QSO at 25 wpm and I
> was very impressed. Man, I wanted to do that! I left field day
> with a renewed interest in CW thinking that I might try and brush off
> the dust and cobwebs from my CW skills and give it a try next year.
> Going from a copy speed of nearly zero to contest ready is going to be
> a serious problem for me but I can try.
>
> ----------
>
> Good! Then go for THAT -- not the electronic automatic whiz-bang stuff that
> would give me one big yawn. There's real accomplisment and satisfaction
> increasing your CW speed and improving your operating skills. But if your
> head is being turned by the thought of automation, just recognize that as a
> completely different world of operating. I suggest you stay with your
> original plan and stay inspired. As far as I can imagine, there's no real
> operating skill required for automation.
>
> N7SO
>
>

I, too, realized that my CW skills have faded from underuse, and I promised to get back up to speed for next year's Field Day. It's fun to do simple stuff, with simple radios: it reminds me of how much I learned and hard hard I worked to get my license, and also about how much magic their is in a good antenna and rig.

But it's also fun to innovate and try out new things like SDR or CW Skimmer or Packet Radio or the next killer app. It's important to remember the past - it teaches us that fortune favors the prepared - but it's also important to welcome change, and I don't think that putting restrictions on automated operation or machine-aided reception would be either enforceable or productive.

There is, as always, the issue of compexity: being good at managing an automated computer system does _not_ mean you'll be good at allocating supplies and anticipating demands when all you have to work with is a clipboard. We could argue that any added complexity reduces our capacity to react and to be productive in a disaster, when things tend to break and simpler is almost always better. However, telling a curious ham "NO!" is a sure-fire way to make sure he does it anyway, so let's assume

that hams who use CW Skimmer or other software will make intelligent decisions about how to best use their assets in an emergency.

Ham Radio is, of course, a hobby - but so was skateboarding when Tony Hawke started doing it. We all start out as amateurs, and it's only by pushing the envelope that we learn what's possible when we look further and try harder.

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

701. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-12 13:12:08 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.07.12.06.42.51.544195@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2672

On Fri, 11 Jul 2008 16:28:35 -0400, KC4UAI wrote:
> I just had my first introduction to CW contesting during field day. I
> sat and watched a CW operator rack up QSO after QSO at 25 wpm and I
> was very impressed. Man, I wanted to do that! I left field day
> with a renewed interest in CW thinking that I might try and brush off
> the dust and cobwebs from my CW skills and give it a try next year.
> Going from a copy speed of nearly zero to contest ready is going to be
> a serious problem for me but I can try.
>
> Then I see your post... Oh my. My first thought was "Wow! That would
> be great on field day to speed up finding stations to work!" I could
> even imagine that it would be pretty easy to automate most of the QSO
> process and depend on the computer to find, work and log contacts with
> little (if any) operator interaction required. This is, of course, at
> the heart of the whole debate over this new toolâ□□s use. Is it
fair
> to
> the operator who doesn't have this tool if I use it?

Please don't let this technology put pause to your desire to kick up your
manual CW skills!

Really, HF ham radio itself is an obsolete skill.

Not that that's a bad thing. There are still millions who build model
railroads (I'm sure there are more model passenger trains than real ones
these days!); who restore 1957 Chevys; there's a special season for
hunting with black powder rifles here in Tennessee.. and we've got plent
y
of Civil War re-enacters. People enjoy doing things their ancestors did.

Sending (and receiving) Morse is no different.

As a brief aside, in the current implementation, Skimmer does NOT replace
the human CW operator for most contests. Skimmer only copies calls. (an
d
whether a station is calling CQ or not) It doesn't copy the class - the
"2A" "3F" "2C" part. That said, I'm sure it would be trivially easy to
add this capacity if someone wanted it.

Also, in the current implementation, Skimmer is designed only to find
CQers to call. It really isn't useful for allowing you to call CQ & copy
those who respond. Only in QRP categories do you stand any chance of a
competitive score without extensive CQing.

> How the CW contesters will deal with this new technology while keeping
> the playing field level? Beats me, but thinking about it leads to a
> number of possible solutions (Please folks let's add to this list.) 1.
> Ignore the new technology and live with the fact that folks who use it
> will likely increase their contest scores. 2. Regulate its use by
> handicapping folks who choose to use such tools. 3. Make the use of suc
h
> tools illegal for the contest.

And there has been a rather heated discussion of just this topic over on
the cq-contest reflector.

(I should emphasize, my comments below are with regard to a "local
Skimmer", where the Skimmer equipment complies with the existing 500m
circle rule - all equipment is within a circle of 500m diameter.
"Distributed Skimmer", where multiple Skimmers are connected over the
Internet, should make one a multioperator or "assisted" entry.)

Personally, at the root, I don't think Skimmer is anything radically new.

We've been allowing automation to take over various functions of our
operation for a long time.

Automatic Morse transmission dates back to the early 1980s. (for some
stations, much earlier)

It used to be important to know the difference between a VP5 and a VP6,
and the beam headings to their countries. Today, the computer will tell
you what country they're in; that the VP6 is worth more points than the
VP5; and which way to swing the beam to work either one. If you have the
right rotor controller you don't even have to swing the beam yourself.

Most operators are using a super-check-partial database, widely
distributed on the Internet. Hear "C4UA" & type it into the window, and
it automagically suggests you're listening to KC4UAI.

Yet automation is not perfect. The operator who trusts everything his
computer tells him is going to get screwed when he takes the
super-check-partial database's word for it & doesn't bother to copy the
rest of C4UA's call. He might just miss a double mult when the RAF issue
s
ZC4UA. The operator who passes up VE1XR/1 - the .cty file says it's just
Canada - may regret it when he learns the guy was portable on Sable Islan
d.

And Skimmer doesn't get it right all the time. It's pretty good (and wil
l
get better) but you really MUST verify what it's copying. Especially in
those contests that have an additional penalty for "busted calls".

Personally, I think to a large degree we *can* ignore this technology. I
t
is not so radically different from technologies we consider commonplace.
Maybe if we want to discourage it, the best method would be to increase

the penalty for busted calls. Say, for every incorrect call in the log, the four subsequent valid QSOs are removed as a penalty. (and any multipliers that those QSOs may have reflected)

702. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-12 13:14:21 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <e5b13e5b-95b8-4ee7-8545-208b1ae431b7@26g2000hsk.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2673

On Jul 11, 11:35 pm, "K HB" <groupk...@earthlink.net> wrote
:
> <N...@aol.com> wrote in message
>
> news:c9722a70-a644-4348-a7f6-11c562c5cf4f@z66g2000hsc.googlegroups.com...
>
> >> How the CW contesters will deal with this new technology while
> >> keeping the playing field level?
> > As long as we all have to follow the same rules, the playing
> > field *is* level. The players may not be equal, though, but
> > that's what competition is all about.
>
> Competition is NOT about "level playing fields".

I disasgree, Hans.

> True competition is about
> working (within the rules) to tilt the playing field to your own
> advantage.
> Things like honing your skills, improving your station, and seeking > out
new
> (legal) tools that your competitors may not have gained access to.

Perhaps we're using different definitions of "level playing field".

You mentioned the excellent KVG short story "Harrison Bergeron". IMHO,
that story isn't about leveling the playing field; it's about leveling
the *players*. The things you describe - honing your skills, improving
your station, and seeking out new (legal) tools - are about improving
the player, not changing the field.

> "Skimmer" isn't "like every other tool that has come along".
> It is an instant
> game changer; in military tactical terms a "force multiplier".

Perhaps.

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE MODE = ON

But isn't that true of many other tools?

Consider the rig that can transceive as opposed to separate
transmitters and receivers where the transmitter frequency must be
manually set to match the receiver. When working hunt-and-pounce in a
contest like the SS, the transceiver-equipped station is way ahead,
because a whole set of operator skills has been automated. Same for

the modern no-tuneup rig with ATU vs. one that has a series of manual tuneup steps.

Or consider the integrated logging/sending computer system vs. paper logs. A considerable amount of operator action is automated in such a system. The op doesn't have to record band, time, date or mode, the computer does all that unerringly. The op doesn't have to send the exchange or keep track of serial number, the computer does that too. Avoiding dupes is easy; the computer flags them and even gives you the info on the previous QSO.

The past few years on FD we've used N3FJP software networked between computers at each rig. If you enter the call of a station that has been worked on another band/mode, it will tell you the exchange and fill in the blanks for you!

> > But where does one draw the line? Should a panoramic
> > display/bandscope be allowed? Should logging computers
> > be banned?
>
> In terms of the classic "boy and his radio" category of contest
> participant, I
> believe the line must be drawn on the south side of Skimmer.

> A panoramic display simply gives a general idea of conditions
> and activity
> levels on a band. It's a handy tool but doesn't identify a singl
e call > sign, or replace any CW copying skill.

Agreed.

> A logging computer simply provides a more efficient means
> of "book-keeping".
> It's a handy tool but doesn't identify a single call sign, or replace > a
ny CW copying skill.

But it does replace a lot of operator skills, and reduces the workload on the operator. It also replaces huge amounts of operator *sending* skill if enough function keys are programmed.

I've worked contests where a human logger was used to improve the performance and reduce the workload on the op running the rig. The logger's main job was searching the paper dupe sheet for dupes. In many contests, the use of a human logger put the station in the multiop category.

I've also seen operations where the logger's job included spotting the transmitter and keeping it tuned up properly. Band change goes a lot faster when there are four hands to do it! And in many contests, the use of a second op like that put the station in the multiop category.

What logging computers and no-tune-up rigs have done is to automate those skills that were formerly done by human operators *without*

putting the station in the multiop category.

> Skimmer, on the other hand, is like having dozens and dozens of > assista
nt
> operators scanning the bands from top to bottom and in real-time > feedin
g you the
> callsigns and the QRG's of EVERY STATION THAT IT HEARS ON > EVERY BAND IT
> MONITORS, and "nudging you in the ribs" when it identifies a
> needed multiplier.

Just like your own personal packet cluster. Which puts a station into
a different category (assisted).

I can imagine that it could (in theory) be set up to determine which
of the stations it hears is the most desirable to attempt to work
next, based on a complex formula of rarity, propagation, one's own
DXCC totals, etc. (if it doesn't do this already...)

> For this reason, I believe that every major contest sponsor must
> maintain one
> category "Skimmer free" where humans can compete with
> humans, finding,
> identifying with their own ears, and working the stations that go
> into their log.

> Outside of that "classic" category, let Skimmer roam free.

I agree 100% with the "classic" category. Or call it "Unassisted", or
even "Iron Op" or some such.

But while still in devil's advocate mode, consider this:

You use the phrase "finding, identifying with their own ears, and
working the stations that go into their log.", and I agree on the
reasonableness of that.

But when it comes to finding stations, isn't the use of a logging
computer a big help in finding new ones, because it will tell you
instantly and unerringly if a station is a dupe? Isn't it a big help
in getting them in the log because it automates some of the data entry
and makes the rest easier?

When it comes to working them, isn't an automated sending setup (Morse
Code or digital voice recorder, for example) a big help in working
them, because it eliminates most or all of the sending?

IOW, you'd keep a Skimmer-free category because Skimmer acts like a
group of robot second operators helping the human operator. But aren't
logging/sending computers, DVRs, and even no-tuneup rigs in a similar
situation, because they behave like robot operators helping the human
operator? Granted, Skimmer is different because it acts like a whole
group of robot operators, but isn't the concept the same?

I guess it all depends on what you define as operator skill. ISTM that you (and many others) consider it OK to automate Morse Code sending, but not receiving. It's OK to automate logging and duping, spotting the transmitter frequency and keeping the rig tuned up, but not finding new ones.

I'm not making a judgement, just an observation. I'm not sure where I stand on those issues. But I do agree a line must be drawn; there's a difference between developing a better bicycle for the Tour de France and allowing the use of motorcycles in that race.

I really do support the idea of a "Classic" category in all contests. Perhaps we should write up a proposal and send it to the various contest sponsors?

Seems to me that if the use of Skimmer is classed the same as the use of a packet cluster or spotting net, we're 99% of the way there.

73 de Jim, N2EY

703. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-12 13:16:17 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <3bednSqkIcrVNuXVnZ2dnUVZ_hninZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2674

Howard Lester wrote:

> As far as I can imagine, there's no real
> operating skill required for automation.

I have to disagree with this.

Perhaps the easiest example that fits into this thread is the "automation" of a keyer versus a straight key. Using a keyer is much different than using a straight key and requires operating skill.

Perhaps you object that a keyer isn't "automation". Perhaps not, if you meant the term to mean "using a computer". But I submit that operating skill is required to use those tools, too. When I switched from a paper dupe sheet to a logging program, I had to develop a new skill.

Personally, I happen to be a purist; I'll use a logging program but I'm not interested in using computer-generated CW or computer-aided QSOs. But the important words are "I'm not interested." Just like many other aspects of our hobby, my lack of interest does not imply that something is inherently good or bad. It's just different, and if someone else IS interested that's great.

Even though I have no desire to use or develop computer aids to contesting, I think that people who do should be encouraged and that their skills should be recognized. An important aspect of ham radio is pushing the state of the art, and developing/using/testing this kind of facility is as much a part of that as developing new electronic circuits. When we've lost the ability to innovate, and to encourage innovation, we've lost an important basis of the whole hobby.

73, Steve KB9X

704. More 6m Sporadic E to Europe & N. Africa

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-12 16:10:36 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <BG4ek.42333$fX5.22164@fe109.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2675

[No readable article body recovered]

705. More 6m Sporadic E to EU and AF

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-12 16:16:31 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <aM4ek.42335$fX5.35150@fe109.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2676

Apologies for my initial post without text.

There's plenty of Sporadic E propagation to Europe and Africa today:

I worked CT1HZE via CW and four EA8 stations with SSB. There were a number of Italian and Spanish ops. I heard EA4UW 5/7 but he couldn't copy my 900w and 5 element yagi at 73 ft.

Dave K8MN

706. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-12 16:59:31 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.07.12.15.08.26.741307@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2677

On Fri, 04 Jul 2008 17:57:59 -0400, D. Stussy wrote:

> "Doug Smith W9WI" <w9wi@invalid.nospam> wrote in message
> news:pan.2008.07.04.05.02.12.458552@invalid.nospam...
> On Thu, 03 Jul 2008 18:53:44 -0400, D. Stussy wrote:
>> Well, here in Southern California (Los Angeles + San Diego), each of 7
-
> 13 is
>> actually occupied with a full-power TV station and will continue to be
.
> The
>> odd channels are for LA and the evens for SD (12 for Tijuana, Mexico).
>
> At least the interim channel for the Tijuana station is 32 - it's uncle
ar
> to me as to whether Mexican stations will be allowed to return their DT
V
> operations to their current analog channels.
>
> "What DTV operations?" Mexico decided to keep analog TV through 2025.

Mexico is phasing in DTV just as we are - they're just taking a lot longe
r
to do it. There is already a full slate of DTV stations in Tijuana -
starting with XETV's on channel 23. DTV stations are on the air in
several other border cities (Juarez, for one) and in Monterrey.

If they don't change their rules before then, there will indeed continue
to be analog TV stations in Mexico until 2025 - but by then there will
also be a full complement of digital stations.

707. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-12 20:02:23 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <_KednXMZ_qkgkOTVnZ2dnUVZ_rHinZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2678

"Steve Bonine" wrote

> Howard Lester wrote:
>
>> As far as I can imagine, there's no real operating skill required for
>> automation.
>
> I have to disagree with this.

Are you disagreeing with my imagination? ;-)

There have been many aspects of ham radio's various levels of automation I've taken advantage of. As you and others have mentioned, an "automatic" keyer (I used to have a good fist on a straight key), a transceiver (I grew up with a separate transmitter/receiver setup with separate antennas: no auto relay), a transmatch with variable capacitors and switchable tapped coils... stuff like that.

What I was getting at is that I can't imagine being involved in any contest or any casual QSO with an automatic CQ-seeking machine that does all kinds of things that take away from what I can do between my ears. It's not for me. Those who develop those programs and skills are doing a great service as contributing hobbyists by at least pushing technology ahead -- you're right. And there are many, many aspects to ham radio. It's a hobby, and we have much freedom within it to pursue these aspects and develop them further. *I* have no use for many of them. I'd continue to push the OP to develop his CW skills and get back to the basics. It's fun.

Howard N7SO

708. Re: More 6m Sporadic E to EU and AF

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-13 02:14:53 UTC
From: Matthew <NJL_DEVILS.no-spam@yahoo.com>
Message-ID: <Rvdek.115206$102.74313@bgtnsc05-news.ops.worldnet.att.net>
Source record: 2679

"Dave Heil" <k8mn@frontiernet.net> wrote in message
news:aM4ek.42335$fX5.35150@fe109.usenetserver.com...
> Apologies for my initial post without text.
>
> There's plenty of Sporadic E propagation to Europe and Africa today:
>
> I worked CT1HZE via CW and four EA8 stations with SSB. There were a
> number of Italian and Spanish ops. I heard EA4UW 5/7 but he couldn't
> copy my 900w and 5 element yagi at 73 ft.
>
> Dave K8MN
>

Dave,

I was able to work CT1HZE on ssb, and a Canary Island station too.
The other one, EA4UW, could not hear me either if it makes you feel any
better; I am in NJ.

Matthew, K2NUD

709. Re: More 6m Sporadic E to EU and AF

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-13 11:26:50 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <CDlek.106$2A5.9@fe127.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2680

Matthew wrote:
> "Dave Heil" <k8mn@frontiernet.net> wrote in message
> news:aM4ek.42335$fX5.35150@fe109.usenetserver.com...
>> Apologies for my initial post without text.
>>
>> There's plenty of Sporadic E propagation to Europe and Africa today:
>>
>> I worked CT1HZE via CW and four EA8 stations with SSB. There were a
>> number of Italian and Spanish ops. I heard EA4UW 5/7 but he couldn't
>> copy my 900w and 5 element yagi at 73 ft.
>>
>> Dave K8MN
>>
>
> Dave,
>
> I was able to work CT1HZE on ssb, and a Canary Island station too.
> The other one, EA4UW, could not hear me either if it makes you feel any
> better; I am in NJ.
>
> Matthew, K2NUD

If there had been any more EA8 stations, it would have sounded like
Canaries Field Day. I caught CT1HZE on CW and later found him up the
band for an SSB QSO. CT1ANO was also on SSB. There was a station in
Gibraltar but he was never strong enough at my QTH for a QSO. I heard
many calling EA4UW but few actually working him.

73,

Dave K8MN

710. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-13 15:01:24 UTC
From: "D. Stussy" <spam@bde-arc.ampr.org>
Message-ID: <g5bqnhqpb1@snarked.org>
Source record: 2681

"Doug Smith W9WI" <w9wi@invalid.nospam> wrote in message
news:pan.2008.07.12.15.08.26.741307@invalid.nospam...
On Fri, 04 Jul 2008 17:57:59 -0400, D. Stussy wrote:
> "Doug Smith W9WI" <w9wi@invalid.nospam> wrote in message
> news:pan.2008.07.04.05.02.12.458552@invalid.nospam...
> On Thu, 03 Jul 2008 18:53:44 -0400, D. Stussy wrote:
>> Well, here in Southern California (Los Angeles + San Diego), each of 7
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> 13 is
>> actually occupied with a full-power TV station and will continue to be
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>> odd channels are for LA and the evens for SD (12 for Tijuana, Mexico).
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> At least the interim channel for the Tijuana station is 32 - it's uncle
ar
> to me as to whether Mexican stations will be allowed to return their DT
V
> operations to their current analog channels.
>
> "What DTV operations?" Mexico decided to keep analog TV through 2025.

Mexico is phasing in DTV just as we are - they're just taking a lot longe
r
to do it. There is already a full slate of DTV stations in Tijuana -
starting with XETV's on channel 23. DTV stations are on the air in
several other border cities (Juarez, for one) and in Monterrey.

If they don't change their rules before then, there will indeed continue
to be analog TV stations in Mexico until 2025 - but by then there will
also be a full complement of digital stations.

Only U.S. border-sharing areas will have DTV, because it's for stations that
have U.S. reception. TWIAR reported about 2 months ago that Mexico actually
passed a referendum NOT to consider a change in non-border-sharing areas
until 2025.

711. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-13 15:02:25 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <bc4b0f5b-b163-4181-bd12-879ffd4eb103@m73g2000hsh.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2682

On Jul 12, 9:16 am, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> Howard Lester wrote:
> > As far as I can imagine, there's no real
> > operating skill required for automation.
>
> I have to disagree with this.

Me too.

> Perhaps the easiest example that fits into this thread is the
> "automation" of a keyer versus a straight key. Using a keyer is
> much
> different than using a straight key and requires operating skill.

Straight keys, sideswipers, bugs and keyers all require operating
skills. They all require different but related operating skills.

A keyboard Morse generator also requires a certain amount of skill,
but there's a fundamental difference between a keyboard Morse
generator and the keys mentioned above: the keyboard Morse generator
can be used by someone with no knowledge of Morse Code.

> Perhaps you object that a keyer isn't "automation". Perhaps not,
> if you meant the term to mean "using a computer".

A keyer automates making dits and dahs. The operator input required
for a keyer is much less than that of a straight key.

> But I submit that operating
> skill is required to use those tools, too.

Of course, but they are different skills.

>When I switched from a paper
> dupe sheet to a logging program, I had to develop a new skill.

So did I. But computer logging automates much of what an operator
using paper logging does.

For example, paper logging SS means logging not only the exchange
received, but also the time and band, as well as entering the call
into the dupe sheet. With a computer, all but the exchange itself is
automated.

> Personally, I happen to be a purist; I'll use a logging program but > I'm
> not interested in using computer-generated CW or computer-
> aided QSOs.

But most logging programs will also generate code. btw, Hams were using CQ wheels in the 1920s....

> But the important words are "I'm not interested." Just like many
> other
> aspects of our hobby, my lack of interest does not imply that
> something
> is inherently good or bad. It's just different, and if someone e
lse > IS interested that's great.
>
> Even though I have no desire to use or develop computer aids to
> contesting, I think that people who do should be encouraged and > that
> their skills should be recognized. An important aspect of ham
> radio is
> pushing the state of the art, and developing/using/testing this kind > of
> facility is as much a part of that as developing new electronic
> circuits. When we've lost the ability to innovate, and to encour
age
> innovation, we've lost an important basis of the whole hobby.

I agree 100%. But at the same time, there need to be some rules that recognize the sporting nature of contesting.

Every major contest I know of has some recognition of power level. Field Day, which started this discussion, recognizes three power levels:

QRP, which is 5 watts or less with non-generator-or-commercial-mains power,
Low power, which is all stations who don't qualify for QRP and are running 150 watts or less
High power, which is 150 watts to 1500 watts.

The idea is to recognize that more power changes the game significantly. If there are power categories why not automation categories?

73 de Jim, N2EY

712. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-13 20:00:28 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <YMednWFs0Ltdw-fVnZ2dnUVZ_qfinZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2683

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Jul 12, 9:16am, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:

>> Personally, I happen to be a purist; I'll use a logging program but > I'm
>> not interested in using computer-generated CW or computer-
>> aided QSOs.
>
> But most logging programs will also generate code.

But that doesn't mean that I have to avail myself of this function.

> btw, Hams were
> using CQ wheels in the 1920s....

Good point. But there's a progression from using a CQ wheel, thru letting the keyer complete the contest QSO, to having a computer automatically copy the exchange, log it, and send the response. Somewhere in that progression my threshold for "doing it myself" is passed. It's not really an objective thing . . . I am OK with a programmable keyer that will send CQ, and I'll use a computer-based logging program, but much past that and it changes the flavor of the operation.

> Every major contest I know of has some recognition of power level.
> Field Day, which started this discussion, recognizes three power
> levels:
>
> QRP, which is 5 watts or less with non-generator-or-commercial-mains
> power,
> Low power, which is all stations who don't qualify for QRP and are
> running 150 watts or less
> High power, which is 150 watts to 1500 watts.
>
> The idea is to recognize that more power changes the game
> significantly. If there are power categories why not automation
> categories?

Because power is objective -- you can easily measure it -- while automation is much more complicated. There's not an "automation meter" that you can read and say "I'm in category C."

I think that a recognition of automation is good, but I recognize that the rules are likely to be complex. For example, if you establish a "purist" category, where do you draw the line . . . keyer? memory keyer? keyer that can generate sequence number? computer logging and dupe checking? spotting? CW copying? CW generation?

It is, after all, a hobby. I'd hate for it to degenerate too much into bean counting.

73, Steve KB9X

713. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-14 03:32:46 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <f2cedb70-26ad-414b-a44c-2fc10b938111@c58g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2684

On Jul 13, 4:00 pm, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Jul 12, 9:16am, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> > btw, Hams were
> > using CQ wheels in the 1920s....
>
> Good point. But there's a progression from using a CQ wheel,
> thru
> letting the keyer complete the contest QSO, to having a computer
> automatically copy the exchange, log it, and send the response.
> Somewhere in that progression my threshold for "doing it myself" > is
> passed. It's not really an objective thing . . . I am OK with a
> programmable keyer that will send CQ, and I'll use a computer-
> based
> logging program, but much past that and it changes the flavor of
> the operation.

My point is simply that everyone's "line of purity" is probably
slightly different.

> > Every major contest I know of has some recognition
> > of power level.
> > Field Day, which started this discussion, recognizes
> > three power
> > levels:

..
> > f there are power categories why not automation
> > categories?
>
> Because power is objective -- you can easily measure it -- while
> automation is much more complicated. There's not
> an "automation meter"
> that you can read and say "I'm in category C."

There can be. Here are a couple of "lines of purity":

1) Full automation, such as was fictionally depicted in "The Man Who
Broke The Bank", is when no operator intervention is needed. to make a
QSO. The operator may sit there and watch the system run, and
interrupt it if s/he wants, but if the machine doesn't *need* any
operator intervention, there's an objective line.

While not yet a reality AFAIK, it seems to me that building such a
station for the various RTTY modes is not beyond the realm of

possibility with current methods.

2) Automation that eliminates a particular skillset completely. In the case of CW contesting, if an operator with no Morse Code skill can make contacts because a machine does all the encoding and decoding, something has been lost, and there's another objective line.

3) Automation that extends beyond the actual operation of the rig, like a packet cluster. This line is already recognized; use of a packet cluster puts one in an "assisted" category. It seems to me that a Skimmer would fit here.

4) Automation that partially eliminates a particular skillset. In the case of CW contesting, if a QSO can be made with the computer doing all the sending, there's another objective line.

Not that any of the above should be banned; they just get different categories.

> I think that a recognition of automation is good, but I recognize
> that
> the rules are likely to be complex. For example, if you establis
h a
> "purist" category, where do you draw the line . . . keyer? memor
y
> keyer? keyer that can generate sequence number? compute
r
> logging and
> dupe checking? spotting? CW copying? CW genera
tion?

See above for some ideas. Here's another: a point system.

Start out with a basic station: transmitter, receiver, antenna, straight key, paper logsheets.

Now give each level of automation a point value:

Transceiver: 50 points
No-tuneup transceiver: 60 points
Bug: 10 points
Keyer: 20 points
Keyer that can generate messages: 30 points
Computer logging: 20 points
Automated beam heading: 5 points
Second VFO: 10 points
Memories: 10 points

etc.

There would be a point value below which you'd be in the "purist" categor, or some such.

> It is, after all, a hobby.

I disagree!

I think it's much more accurate to describe amateur radio contesting as a form of sport rather than "a hobby". An amateur sport, of course, but still a sport just like baseball, bicycle racing, golf or tennis. There's competition, rules, skill of the players, improvements in equipment, and constant discussion about what should be allowed and what shouldn't.

> I'd hate for it to degenerate too much into
> bean counting.

But just because we don't get paid for doing it doesn't mean it shouldn't be taken seriously. If anything, amateur sports are a place to take these things very seriously, because the outcome doesn't matter as much as the game.

For example, if the marathon were shortened to 5 miles from 26.22, a lot more people would compete. But it wouldn't be a marathon anymore.

I don't play golf, but it is my understanding that there are golf ball designs that will add dozens of yards or more to most players' drives. But such golf balls are not recognized for competitive play because they change the game so much.

All sorts of improvements have been made to racing bicycles but there's a line at adding a motor.

Auto racing is probably the best example. It is probably possible to build a car that could win the Indy 500 easily, by simply having so much speed, power and fuel tank capacity that no existing Indy-car could keep up. But such a car would have to break several Indy-car restrictions such as engine displacement and fuel tank size, and would not be allowed to race.

73 de Jim, N2EY

714. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-14 13:30:06 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <HumdnU6wkrpQyebVnZ2dnUVZ_v7inZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2685

N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>> It is, after all, a hobby.
>
> I disagree!

For some of us, it's a hobby. For others, it's their life. There is a huge difference between someone who spends a few hours working a contest from their home station with a simple transceiver and a dipole, versus one of the "big guns" who has invested huge amounts of time and money building the ultimate contest station with stacked beams up 150 feet on top of a mountain.

> I think it's much more accurate to describe amateur radio contesting
> as a form of sport rather than "a hobby". An amateur sport, of course,
> but still a sport just like baseball, bicycle racing, golf or tennis.
> There's competition, rules, skill of the players, improvements in
> equipment, and constant discussion about what should be allowed and
> what shouldn't.

And I still yearn for the years when the Olympics were limited to true amateurs.

Here's an example that illustrates what I'm trying to say. Bridge is a card game. I enjoy playing it. Many years ago, four of my friends played bridge during their lunch hour at work. One of them was on vacation, so they asked me to fill in for him. I flubbed playing a hand, and the three of them were so upset that they wouldn't speak to me for a week. These people had taken a card game into territory where I don't care to tread. That doesn't make their daily game "bad"; it's just not something that I personally care for.

The same thing can be said of any sport, and I agree that ham radio contesting is the same way. There are cutthroat competitors out there, some of whom have spent vast amounts of time and money building the ultimate contest station. Of course they want to come up with a huge score, and they will go to great lengths to achieve their goal. OK, different strokes for different folks. That's not what I enjoy about a contest, but it's certainly their prerogative to enjoy those aspects.

>> I'd hate for it to degenerate too much into
>> bean counting.
>
> But just because we don't get paid for doing it doesn't mean it
> shouldn't be taken seriously. If anything, amateur sports are a place
> to take these things very seriously, because the outcome doesn't

> matter as much as the game.

There are different levels of "serious". There are different motivations for entering a ham radio contest.

But to get back to the original question of whether there is an effective way to "level the playing field" relative to use of technology in a ham radio contest. My personal conclusion is that the current simple rules of putting people into broad categories based on power, number of operators, "assistance", and so on are good enough. There are just too many variables to go any farther. I'd rather see the handicap system be crude than try to improve it by adding lots of additional factors, especially when they're impossible to measure.

Someone sitting in a super station with stacked beams at 150 feet has an inherent advantage over me with my dipole. But how much of an advantage? Is it ten times easier for them to make a QSO? If we're going to "level the playing field", what handicap factor should we use? There's no simple way to deduce it.

> Auto racing is probably the best example. It is probably possible to
> build a car that could win the Indy 500 easily, by simply having so
> much speed, power and fuel tank capacity that no existing Indy-car
> could keep up. But such a car would have to break several Indy-car
> restrictions such as engine displacement and fuel tank size, and would
> not be allowed to race.

How many thousands of pages of rules and specifications do you suppose there are that spell out in great detail exactly what is allowed in a car that can enter such a race? That's exactly the kind of thing I'm trying to avoid.

The factors that are used now to determine contest class are easy to measure -- things like input power to the transmitter, number of operators, spotting receivers. The result is some leveling of the playing field. Adding additional factors would improve the handicap system, but at the cost of adding complexity and forcing entrants to make subjective evaluations. I don't think that there would be enough improvement to justify increasing the complexity of the rules.

It might be an interesting exercise to research the top ten finishers in popular contests and compare their equipment and techniques. I'm sure that avid contesters do this, sort of like football teams that review the tapes of their competitors' games. How much does the hardware (location, antenna, state-of-the-art radios) contribute to the score, compared to operator skill?

73, Steve KB9X

715. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-14 15:19:02 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.07.14.15.05.18.745366@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2686

On Sun, 13 Jul 2008 23:32:46 -0400, N2EY wrote:
> There can be. Here are a couple of "lines of purity":
>
> 1) Full automation, such as was fictionally depicted in "The Man Who
> Broke The Bank", is when no operator intervention is needed. to make a
> QSO. The operator may sit there and watch the system run, and
> interrupt it if s/he wants, but if the machine doesn't *need* any
> operator intervention, there's an objective line.
>
> While not yet a reality AFAIK, it seems to me that building such a
> station for the various RTTY modes is not beyond the realm of
> possibility with current methods.

It has in fact been done, for CW. N6TR did it some years ago - I want to say 1985!

I think he only used it once. Tree enjoys winning contests; even today, automation technology is not up to that.

=====

A dilemna here, and with many other current issues in contesting, is "category creep". Should SO2R entries have their own category? Should there be separate categories for "low-power and dipoles" and for "low-power and beams"? In some contests, a significant majority of entrants win, because there's pretty much a category for everyone!

So I think we have to ask: if we're going to split Skimmer users into a separate category, do we need to get rid of a category distinction somewhere else?

716. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-14 19:09:09 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <5521bbc9-2c2d-4a77-ad69-f392de299c5e@w7g2000hsa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2687

On Jul 11, 6:56 pm, "Howard Lester" <heyles...@dakotacom.net> wrote:
> "KC4UAI" wrote
>
> > I just had my first introduction to CW contesting during field day.
I
>
> sat and watched a CW operator rack up QSO after QSO at 25 wpm and I
> was very impressed. Man, I wanted to do that! I left field day
> with a renewed interest in CW thinking that I might try and brush off
> the dust and cobwebs from my CW skills and give it a try next year.
>
> ----------
>
> I suggest you stay with your
> original plan and stay inspired. As far as I can imagine, there's no real
> operating skill required for automation.

I actually see value in both approaches. It takes a mixture of what I
call "classic radio operation" (where the radio knobs are turned,
signals received by ear, and keying done by hand) and the use of
automating technology (electronic logs, automatic keyers, and an
increasingly more capable forms of automation) to stay up with the
state of the art. Both involve hard work and dedication to do the job
well and both are valuable skills to develop.

I would hope that the rules that govern contesting will take both into
account and encourage the development and integration of new tools
while maintaining the need for the classic radio skills.

-= KC4UAI =-

717. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-14 19:10:08 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <1beb0ba0-68be-49d8-a2b4-20c202a9e24d@k30g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2688

On Jul 11, 8:44 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> > That would
> > be great on field day to speed up finding stations to work!" I could
> > even imagine that it would be pretty easy to automate most of the
> > QSO
> > process and depend on the computer to find, work and log
> > contacts with
> > little (if any) operator interaction required.
>
> That's not a new idea.
>
> Some time back, there was an article in QST called "The Man Who
> Broke The Bank", about a ham who built an automated CW SS
> station. He and it (mostly it) made a record score, which would not
> be topped for many years.
>
> The article appeared in QST for May, 1953.

I'll have to dig out the archives and see how he did that in 1953
without the benifit of your modern computer. I'll bet there was some
serious integration work that took place to make something like this
work that many years ago.

>
> > This is, of course, at
> > the heart of the whole debate over this new toolï¿½s use. Is it fair
> > to the operator who doesn't have this tool if I use it?
>
> IMHO a line is drawn when operator intervention is no longer needed to
> make a QSO. Another line is drawn when the op gets direct outside help
> in making QSOs, such as by a packet cluster.

Personally, I think you have hit the division points the same places I
would. They are logical lines that are fairly easy to define. I
cannot get rid of the nagging thought that CW Skimmer (and things like
it) in some ways can blur these lines, but so can electronic logging
coupled with automatic keying, but I do like the simplicity of your
approach.

>
> But the Skimmer does not make QSOs. It simply tells you where stations
> are that you may want to work.

Actually this is true right now, but it seems that it is only a short
step from where we are now (in terms of technology and automation) to
the sport becoming more of a "point and shoot" affair. CW Skimmer (or

things like it) could easily be made to check with your electronic log, review the current contest's rules, review the signal strengths of incoming signals then provide the operator a prioritized list of who they should work next to maximize the probability of getting the best score. Once you are at that point, it's a quick hop to removing the operator from the cycle.

It may not do this yet, but from where we are to fully automated is not that far. The hard part has been done.

> > Banning these tools from contests would also be a mistake.
> > It would be like banning transistors, or DSP signal
> > processing.
>
> You'd be surprised what can be done on FD without either of
> those things....

True, these things are not necessary for RF communications, but they represent the "state of the art" in radio technology today. Besides, I'd hate to lug enough batteries around to get a 100W tube station on the air in a parking lot. It's been a long time since your average HF rig for sale used Tubes, and even longer since they started using transistors. Now the average HF rig is ripe with solid state components and are digitally controlled. Try to tune your tube radio with my laptop though software and you are going to have your hands full, yet the average HF radio today is going to have DSP and computer control ability.

>
> There are some very high performance kits, though. And the rig
> is only one part of the system; the antenna, location, conditions
> and operator are all parts too.

And I would like to point out that we don't handicap stations for antenna height, using a beam, where they are located (with some exceptions) and stuff like that. How to set up a station to operate effectively is an important part of operating. Antenna selection, station grounding and things like feed line losses all play an important part in the performance of a station, yet get ignored by the rules. Doing a good job engineering these things is very important. Having all the automation in the world won't help you if your station doesn't work on the air in the first place.

>
> I think true automatic operation is already not allowed, because there
> must always be a control operator. I'm not sure, though.

Thinking about it; I think such a station *could* be legally set up and operated. The question of how "in control" does the control operator need to be is an interesting one. Surely a packet station is legal and the control operator of a packet repeater doesn't see and approve every transmission. Some are located in very remote locations

with no control operator sitting there all the time. PSK guys run 100% automated too, with their stations logging QSO's while they sleep or work. How would what I describe be different?

I like your general approach. Don't ignore this new technology, but also don't place too many regulations on its use. I also like how you drew the lines because these lines are clearly understood.

-= KC4UAI =-

718. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-14 20:18:13 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <45e1bdf8-65f6-4554-b2f5-f3298d2e34ce@s50g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2689

On Jul 11, 8:45 pm, "Kï¿½HB" <groupk...@earthlink.net> wrote:
> In the gospel of Luke Chapter 14, verses 28-30, he admonishes us: "For
which of
> you, intending to build a tower, sits not down first and counts the cost,
> whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he has laid th
e
> foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to moc
k him,
> Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish."

LOL

I wish He had gone on and extended the PRB-1 ruling to include the pesky CC&R's that will forever keep me from building a tower without having to move first. I'm sure the creator of the universe has the proper authority, even if the FCC doesn't think it does.

I so wish that the FCC could be persuaded to reconsider us hams in their limited preemption of CC&R's and give us the same standing as TV antennas and satellite dishes. All I want is reasonable accommodation here. As it stands Iï¿½m left to what ever I can cram into the attic and nothing higher than the top of the roof on my single story ranch.

If I could only put up a few supports and a 35ï¿½ vertical, what a difference it would make.

-= KC4UAI =-

719. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-14 22:55:29 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <66ff1c9b-707e-4119-9a95-49339002b24c@l64g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2690

On Jul 14, 3:10 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Jul 11, 8:44 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:

> > Some time back, there was an article in QST called "The Man Who
> > Broke The Bank", about a ham who built an automated CW SS
> > station. He and it (mostly it) made a record score, which would not
> > be topped for many years.
>
> > The article appeared in QST for May, 1953.
>
> I'll have to dig out the archives and see how he did that in 1953
> without the benifit of your modern computer. I'll bet there was some
> serious integration work that took place to make something like this
> work that many years ago.

The article was fiction. At the time (a year before I was born!) it
must have seemed
really far-out. Today it's almost reality.

Point is, the *idea* isn't something new.

> > IMHO a line is drawn when operator intervention is no longer needed to
> > make a QSO. Another line is drawn when the op gets direct outside help
> > in making QSOs, such as by a packet cluster.
>
> Personally, I think you have hit the division points the same places I
> would. They are logical lines that are fairly easy to define. I
> cannot get rid of the nagging thought that CW Skimmer (and things like
> it) in some ways can blur these lines, but so can electronic logging
> coupled with automatic keying, but I do like the simplicity of your
> approach.

The thing about electronic logging, computer-generated keying driven
by
function keys and the like is that they still need operator
intervention to
work. Full automation does not.
>
> > But the Skimmer does not make QSOs. It simply tells you where stations
> > are that you may want to work.

Just like a packet cluster - which puts you in a different category.

> Actually this is true right now, but it seems that it is only a short
> step from where we are now (in terms of technology and automation) to
> the sport becoming more of a "point and shoot" affair. CW Skimmer (or

> things like it) could easily be made to check with your electronic
> log, review the current contest's rules, review the signal strengths
> of incoming signals then provide the operator a prioritized list of
> who they should work next to maximize the probability of getting the
> best score. Once you are at that point, it's a quick hop to removing
> the operator from the cycle.

In fact, you don't need all of those features. All that's needed is
for the
system to be able to make QSOs by itself.

> It may not do this yet, but from where we are to fully automated is
> not that far. The hard part has been done.

Maybe. About 1950, Alan Turing himself thought that computers that
would pass
his hypothetical Turing Test of machine intelligence would be around
in less than 50
years.

> > > Banning these tools from contests would also be a mistake.
> > > It would be like banning transistors, or DSP signal
> > > processing.
>
> > You'd be surprised what can be done on FD without either of
> > those things....
>
> True, these things are not necessary for RF communications, but they
> represent the "state of the art" in radio technology today.

Sort of.

> Besides,
> I'd hate to lug enough batteries around to get a 100W tube station on
> the air in a parking lot.

Batteries? Parking lot?

I've done FD with tube gear, it's not that much harder than with
"modern" stuff.
The main difference is that the rigs tend to be bigger and heavier,
and you
need to know how to tune them up. All part of the game.

In 1995 I used the rig shown on my web page (google my call to see it)
on
Field Day in clas 1B-1. Antennas were an 80/40 inverted V with the
apex at 40 feet
on a homebrew wooden mast and a 20 meter ground plane vertical.
Paper logs, bug and straight keys. Power from a generator. All set up
in
a tent, on a homebrew portable table. Also had my 2 meter
rig for FM simplex QSOs. This was a solo operation - I brought

everything to the site, set up
all by myself, operated all 24 hours, took everything down and brought
it home. All of the
equipment and me in a 1980 VW Rabbit.

629 CW QSOs, 11 FM voice QSOs. Bonuses for 100% emergency power, W1AW
message, message to SM, and making 10 QSOs on VHF/UHF.

A lot of work but a lot of fun too. K0HB speaks of "a boy and his
radio" and that's
what it was. Wasn't the only time I did it, either.

> It's been a long time since your average HF
> rig for sale used Tubes, and even longer since they started using
> transistors. Now the average HF rig is ripe with solid state
> components and are digitally controlled. Try to tune your tube radio
> with my laptop though software and you are going to have your hands
> full, yet the average HF radio today is going to have DSP and computer
> control ability.

Point is, it can be done, and a decent score earned. In a contest like
Field
Day, a lot of those features may not make a lot of difference in how
many
points you make.

> > There are some very high performance kits, though. And the rig
> > is only one part of the system; the antenna, location, conditions
> > and operator are all parts too.

> And I would like to point out that we don't handicap stations for
> antenna height, using a beam, where they are located (with some
> exceptions) and stuff like that. How to set up a station to operate
> effectively is an important part of operating. Antenna selection,
> station grounding and things like feed line losses all play an
> important part in the performance of a station, yet get ignored by the
> rules. Doing a good job engineering these things is very important.
> Having all the automation in the world won't help you if your station
> doesn't work on the air in the first place.

That's very true! But here's the important point: The reverse is also
true. Sit an unskilled op down at the best station imaginable and
if s/he doesn't have the skills, the QSO rate will be very low.

In the case of Morse Code contesting, a person with no Morse Code
skills won't make any QSOs at all unless some form of code reader
and code generator are used.

But there comes a point in automation where the operator's skills
become
unnecessary and the machine does it alone or nearly so. Repeaters of
various
types are like that - the operator only intervenes to start and stop

it, not to make
QSOs.

> > I think true automatic operation is already not allowed, because there
> > must always be a control operator. I'm not sure, though.
>
> Thinking about it; I think such a station *could* be legally set up
> and operated. The question of how "in control" does the control
> operator need to be is an interesting one. Surely a packet station is
> legal and the control operator of a packet repeater doesn't see and
> approve every transmission. Some are located in very remote locations
> with no control operator sitting there all the time. PSK guys run
> 100% automated too, with their stations logging QSO's while they sleep
> or work. How would what I describe be different?

For one thing, FCC limits such automatic operation to certain band
segments. More important, I don't think any contest now in existence
would give credit for such automated operation.

Note that contacts made through terrestrial repeaters are not counted
in any contest I know of.
>
> I like your general approach. Don't ignore this new technology, but
> also don't place too many regulations on its use. I also like how you
> drew the lines because these lines are clearly understood.
>
Thanks!

In the long run we may need more categories, but that's the price of
increased complexity.

Here's another analogy: Chess competition.

There are now chess-playing software packages for your PC that can be
set to levels that are very difficult to beat. The very best chess-
playing computers ("Deep Blue", for example) may prove to be
unbeatable by *any* human, if they are not already that good.

But does that mean the person or team who writes the software is the
world's chess champion? If a machine is built that is truly
unbeatable, what would be the point of playing it? Should human chess
competiton be transformed into Machine A vs. Machine B?

IIRC, there was a dispute about a feature of Deep Blue's software. As
I recall, the software included an enormous library of games played
over many years. Part of what the software did was to compare the
present state of the board to those recorded games and determine
possible next moves from the successes of the past. It also avoided
possible disaster from the failures of the past. Its library of past
games was limited only by the ability of the humans to encode the
games into its memory. From what I recall, the dispute was that
allowing such a system was like allowing a human player to have a huge
chess book available while playing. So the issue isn't limited to ham

radio!

73 de Jim, N2EY

720. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-15 04:55:13 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <2e9o74p7pk0uvommqukgpopb9ciuu7v6hb@4ax.com>
Source record: 2691

On Mon, 14 Jul 2008 16:18:13 EDT, KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com> wrote:

>I so wish that the FCC could be persuaded to reconsider us hams in
>their limited preemption of CC&R's and give us the same standing as TV
>antennas and satellite dishes.

They can be persuaded the same way that the OTARD (TV antenna and satellite dishes) got covered -- the big money went to The Congress and "persuaded" them to pass a law directing the FCC to exercise preemptive jurisdiction.

At the last go-around visiting the issue, the FCC said in several words that until such "direction" comes about with the ham community, they will do nothing. Every time that such a bill is introduced into The Congress, it goes nowhere.

Lest I be called an apologist, during my years on the FCC staff I ticked off my non-ham boss when I stood up for the ham community's needs every time. In retirement I "earn my keep" as an ARRL Volunteer Counsel by assisting amateur licensees in "bringing the light" to those municipalities over which the FCC's PRB-1 can exercise preemptive jurisdiction.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
ARRL Volunteer Counsel

email: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

721. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-15 06:00:10 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1216101602@panix.com>
Source record: 2692
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

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Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.4 2008/03/13 04:38:09
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
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promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. Crossposts of regular discussion articles between rec.radio.amateur.moderated and other discussion newsgroups are not permitted.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/ announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers, and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header, containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the moderators if one is not already provided.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

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2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns, are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true."

"That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html |

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

722. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-15 11:28:00 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <lqadnR_ofccwFOHVnZ2dnUVZ_s_inZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 2693

"Steve Bonine" <spb@pobox.com> wrote in message
news:HumdnU6wkrpQyebVnZ2dnUVZ_v7inZ2d@deskmedia.com...
> N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>

[snip]
>
> And I still yearn for the years when the Olympics were limited to true
> amateurs.
>

Yet the ancient Olympics made no such distinction.

> Here's an example that illustrates what I'm trying to say. Bridge is a
> card game. I enjoy playing it. Many years ago, four of my friends played
> bridge during their lunch hour at work. One of them was on vacation, so
> they asked me to fill in for him. I flubbed playing a hand, and the three
> of them were so upset that they wouldn't speak to me for a week. These
> people had taken a card game into territory where I don't care to tread.
> That doesn't make their daily game "bad"; it's just not something that I
> personally care for.
>

Some people do get a tad bit too serious about their hobbies.

> The same thing can be said of any sport, and I agree that ham radio
> contesting is the same way. There are cutthroat competitors out there,
> some of whom have spent vast amounts of time and money building the
> ultimate contest station. Of course they want to come up with a huge
> score, and they will go to great lengths to achieve their goal. OK,
> different strokes for different folks. That's not what I enjoy about a
> contest, but it's certainly their prerogative to enjoy those aspects.
>
[snip]
> But to get back to the original question of whether there is an effective
> way to "level the playing field" relative to use of technology in a ham
> radio contest. My personal conclusion is that the current simple rules of
> putting people into broad categories based on power, number of operators,
> "assistance", and so on are good enough. There are just too many
> variables to go any farther. I'd rather see the handicap system be crude
> than try to improve it by adding lots of additional factors, especially
> when they're impossible to measure.
>
> Someone sitting in a super station with stacked beams at 150 feet has an
> inherent advantage over me with my dipole. But how much of an advantage?
> Is it ten times easier for them to make a QSO? If we're going to "level

> the playing field", what handicap factor should we use? There's no simple
> way to deduce it.
>

"Leveling the playing field" is only important to those who want to win (or have a category that they can win) but haven't the resources to compete in an "open" situation. Since I don't care about that, it doesn't matter to me. I just like to pick up a few contacts, polish my skills, make sure my station is working correctly and so on.

Dee, N8UZE

Dee, N8UZE

723. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-15 12:32:00 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <d4df029d-af56-4978-b1ab-1001bc177498@m36g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2694

(insert standard "I Am Not A Lawyer" disclaimer HERE)

On Jul 14, 4:18 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Jul 11, 8:45 pm, "Kï¿½HB" <groupk...@earthlink.net> wrote:

> I so wish that the FCC could be persuaded to reconsider us
> hams in
> their limited preemption of CC&R's and give us the same
> standing as TV antennas and satellite dishes.

As K2ASP says, that action has to come from Congress.

IMHO, part of the problem is that CC&Rs are a different thing
than zoning ordinances and other govt. regs. Most anti-antenna
rules are essentially private contracts that you, the buyer, agreed
to when you bought the place. Asking for preemption means you
want out of that part of the deal. That's a tough sell!

It is my understanding that what drove the OTARD process for
satellite TV was that the satellite TV companies pushed the case,
and invested the sizable $$$ resources necessary to win. IIRC, their
argument was essentially that the no-TV-antennas CC&Rs effectively
created a cable-TV monopoly by making it impossible for some people to
choose satellite TV, since the dish has to have a clear view of the
sky where the satellite is. Regular broadcast TV was added to the mix
a bit later, basically on the same argument.

There was big money at stake because the satellite TV folks saw a huge
part of the TV market being off-limits to them because of
no-satellite-dish CC&Rs.

> All I want is reasonable accommodation
> here.

The problem is, who determines what's reasonable? In some places a
clothesline in the back yard is considered an eyesore!

> As it stands Iï¿½m left to what ever I can cram into the attic
> and nothing higher than the top of the roof on my single story
> ranch.

Well, it's a buyer's market now....

Besides pushing Congress, one of the things I think we hams could do
to help the process is to never refer to amateur radio as "a hobby" or
even worse, "just a hobby". While most hams do radio simply as an

avocation, IMHO the word "hobby" carries with it a sort of meaning that it's not a serious thing worthy of protection.

You'll never hear folks who do sports or art nonprofessionally refer to those activities as "just a hobby". Nor will the term be used by volunteers who donate their time and efforts to a variety of causes.

IOW, "hobbies" don't get the kind of respect we want amateur radio to have. If we hams describe amateur radio as "just a hobby", the folks who want to restrict us may think "well, if they say it's just a hobby, what's the problem with a few restrictions?" and "there are all sorts of hobbies that these homes don't accomodate, like raising horses, target shooting, or pleasure boating with a boat that won't fit in the garage. What's different about your radio hobby?"

You can be sure the satellite TV people pushing for the OTARD ruling never, ever referred to watching TV as "a hobby", even though their viewers don't get paid to watch TV.

73 de Jim, N2EY

> If I could only put up a few supports and a 35ï¿½ vertical, what a
> difference it would make.
>

724. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-15 12:42:21 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <mI2dneoy7daLBuHVnZ2dnUVZ_t3inZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2695

Phil Kane wrote:

> Lest I be called an apologist, during my years on the FCC staff I
> ticked off my non-ham boss when I stood up for the ham community's
> needs every time. In retirement I "earn my keep" as an ARRL Volunteer
> Counsel by assisting amateur licensees in "bringing the light" to
> those municipalities over which the FCC's PRB-1 can exercise
> preemptive jurisdiction.

Your efforts, and those of your peers, are much appreciated.

73, Steve KB9X

725. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-15 13:33:08 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <-e-dnd5l-J9hO-HVnZ2dnUVZ_o7inZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2696

Dee Flint wrote:
> "Steve Bonine" <spb@pobox.com> wrote:

> "Leveling the playing field" is only important to those who want to win (or
> have a category that they can win) but haven't the resources to compete in
> an "open" situation. Since I don't care about that, it doesn't matter to
> me. I just like to pick up a few contacts, polish my skills, make sure my
> station is working correctly and so on.

There's a difference between "haven't the resources" and "choose not to
use the resources".

I don't have a mountaintop QTH with several towers topped with stacked
arrays, and I don't have the latest fancy radios to handle the QRM or
the KW amplifiers to go with them. Those are resources that I don't have.

But I have a computer, and if I didn't have this Luddite idea that CW
should be copied by my own wetware, I could use it to improve my score.
That's a case of choosing not to use a resource. It seems pretty
clear that those of us who choose not to use automation are in contests
for the same reason that you are, and winning isn't the goal.

As I consider the reality of contest categories, I realize that what
they're really doing is separating the "big guns" into their own
category. Anyone who has invested the time and money to build a
mountaintop station with big antennas and fancy radios is going to end
up in the high-power multi-op category. To avoid competing with these,
stay out of that category. This limited attempt to level the playing
field does accomplish something using criteria that are easily measured
(e.g. input power, number of operators).

726. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-15 20:29:11 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.07.15.14.02.18.134288@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2697

On Tue, 15 Jul 2008 08:32:00 -0400, N2EY wrote:
> IMHO, part of the problem is that CC&Rs are a different thing
> than zoning ordinances and other govt. regs. Most anti-antenna
> rules are essentially private contracts that you, the buyer, agreed
> to when you bought the place. Asking for preemption means you
> want out of that part of the deal. That's a tough sell!

Morally, I would suggest that when a given CC&R restriction is universal
- when *every* acceptable property in an area carries identical
anti-antenna restrictions - then that contract provision was NOT agreed
to. It was *forced* on a buyer who does not have the option of buying a
property 5x the size (and 5x the price) of anything else in the
neighborhood/living on a street with four crack houses/living 50 miles
from work/etc..

In a moral world, the amateur should be able to invalidate anti-antenna
restrictions by showing that no comparable property was available that
lacked those restrictions.

Of course, in the real legal and political world, no such right exists or
is likely to come into being...

> It is my understanding that what drove the OTARD process for satellite
> TV was that the satellite TV companies pushed the case, and invested th
e
> sizable $$$ resources necessary to win. IIRC, their argument was
> essentially that the no-TV-antennas CC&Rs effectively created a cable-T
V
> monopoly by making it impossible for some people to choose satellite TV
,
> since the dish has to have a clear view of the sky where the satellite
> is. Regular broadcast TV was added to the mix a bit later, basically on
> the same argument.

And, I would suggest, supported by a cable TV industry that wanted
to be deregulated, something that wasn't going to happen if a large
fraction of their customers had no alternative.

727. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-15 20:30:17 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <0b73fb5b-d009-42e8-9c83-15e146d6c7e2@m36g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2698

On Jul 14, 5:55 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> On Jul 14, 3:10 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> > On Jul 11, 8:44 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
>
> > Besides,
> > I'd hate to lug enough batteries around to get a 100W tube station on
> > the air in a parking lot.
>
> Batteries? Parking lot?
>
> I've done FD with tube gear, it's not that much harder than with
> "modern" stuff.
> The main difference is that the rigs tend to be bigger and heavier,
> and you
> need to know how to tune them up. All part of the game.
>
> In 1995 I used the rig shown on my web page (google my call to see it)
> on
> Field Day in clas 1B-1. Antennas were an 80/40 inverted V with the
> apex at 40 feet
> on a homebrew wooden mast and a 20 meter ground plane vertical.
> Paper logs, bug and straight keys. Power from a generator. All set up
> in
> a tent, on a homebrew portable table. Also had my 2 meter
> rig for FM simplex QSOs. This was a solo operation - I brought
> everything to the site, set up
> all by myself, operated all 24 hours, took everything down and brought
> it home. All of the
> equipment and me in a 1980 VW Rabbit.
>
> 629 CW QSOs, 11 FM voice QSOs. Bonuses for 100% emergency power, W1AW
> message, message to SM, and making 10 QSOs on VHF/UHF.
>
> A lot of work but a lot of fun too. K0HB speaks of "a boy and his
> radio" and that's
> what it was. Wasn't the only time I did it, either.
>

Well, my point was that technology has moved on and right now tubes
are not state of the art. (Not saying that they won't be in the
future.) And Iï¿½ll bet your 2 Meter rig was at least partly solid
state. Sure they work (and in some cases are the optimal solution for
a problem) but I don't see one new rig for sale today that has even

one tube.

I think that the rules of contests may need to be adapted from time to time to adjust for technology as it marches on, however I think that we need to be mindful of two things.

First, the rules must be clearly written so everybody understands where the various lines are drawn.

Second, they need to keep things as simple as possible.

Apart from that, the folks who are writing the rules for these events are the ones who will need to make the choices. If a contest's rules attract participants, good for them, if they are no longer popular they need to adapt or close up shop.

Personally, I'm worried that with the increased average age for your local ham translates into lack of interest for those of us who are younger (say mid 40s). I see this as a problem for contests and not just the hobby in general.

-= KC4UAI =-

728. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-15 20:31:43 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <2padnf4wBMJ3VOHVnZ2dnUVZWhednZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2699

"Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote in message
news:lqadnR_ofccwFOHVnZ2dnUVZ_s_inZ2d@comcast.com...

>
> "Leveling the playing field" is only important to those who want to win (or
> have a category that they can win) but haven't the resources to compete in an
> "open" situation. Since I don't care about that, it doesn't matter to me. I
> just like to pick up a few contacts, polish my skills, make sure my station is
> working correctly and so on.
>

Level playing fields result in "average" operators at "average" stations, regulated by rules which stifle competition, not enhance it. It is my opinion, based on decades of participation and observation, that serious that serious radiosport hobbiests are OPPOSED to "levelized playing fields" (other than broad categories to separate the "bicycles" from the "motorcycles").

Within their category, serious competitors do everything possible to landform the playing field to their personal advantage. They hone their receiving skills, their operating habits, and their equipment performance. They study propagation models and forecasts to optimize their band-change plan and their time-off strategy. They analyze logs (theirs and others) of previous contests to ferret out reasons for wins or losses (when should I "run" and when should I "S&P"). They optimize their antenna farm to the next contest (a winning CQWW antenna farm is probably a lousy Sweepstakes antenna farm and vice versa). They develop new skills, like SOxR. They lurk at online "water coolers" like the "CQ-CONTEST" email reflector. They optimize their operating layout for streamlined ergonomics and to counter fatigue. They budget their equipment purchases to increase the competitiveness of their station ("should I buy new roofing filters, or build a 4-square for 40?"). Etc., etc., etc.

The ones who do all of this the best end up on the advantaged high ground of the playing field, and the ones who don't do it well end up in the disadvantaged valleys.

Kurt Vonnegut illustrates the folly of "level playing fields" in this short story ----> http://instruct.westvalley.edu/lafave/hb.html

73, de Hans, K0HB

729. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-15 21:56:11 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <ju6q74tckc6kd27be5d4rooav1idln7kl8@4ax.com>
Source record: 2700

On Tue, 15 Jul 2008 16:29:11 EDT, Doug Smith W9WI
<w9wi@invalid.nospam> wrote:

>Morally, I would suggest that when a given CC&R restriction is universal
>- when *every* acceptable property in an area carries identical
>anti-antenna restrictions - then that contract provision was NOT agreed
>to. It was *forced* on a buyer .... [snipped]
>
>In a moral world, the amateur should be able to invalidate anti-antenna
>restrictions by showing that no comparable property was available that
>lacked those restrictions.

Both of those points were made in the League's last assault on the
problem and those arguments fell on deaf ears. That's when the
Commission made it clear that they will move if and only if The
Congress orders it to.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
ARRL Volunteer Counsel

email: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

730. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-16 00:16:24 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <s5fq74ddv9rrbql4s6ht0qhks07k3v6ej8@4ax.com>
Source record: 2601

On Tue, 15 Jul 2008 08:32:00 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>Besides pushing Congress, one of the things I think we hams could do
>to help the process is to never refer to amateur radio as "a hobby" or
>even worse, "just a hobby". While most hams do radio simply as an
>avocation, IMHO the word "hobby" carries with it a sort of meaning
>that it's not a serious thing worthy of protection.
>
>You'll never hear folks who do sports or art nonprofessionally refer
>to those activities as "just a hobby". Nor will the term be used by
>volunteers who donate their time and efforts to a variety of causes.
>
>IOW, "hobbies" don't get the kind of respect we want amateur radio to
>have. If we hams describe amateur radio as "just a hobby", the folks
>who want to restrict us may think "well, if they say it's just a
>hobby, what's the problem with a few restrictions?" and "there are all
>sorts of hobbies that these homes don't accomodate, like raising
>horses, target shooting, or pleasure boating with a boat that won't
>fit in the garage. What's different about your radio hobby?"

Then what do we call it? Avocation? Pasttime? no, none of these terms seem
appropriate, either.

I know! It's emergency preparation and training. Now that's sounds
impressive..
73 de Dick, AC7EL

731. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-16 10:01:01 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <c8ednfn6UL883ODVnZ2dnUVZ_rjinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2602

<N2EY@aol.com> wrote in message
news:d4df029d-af56-4978-b1ab-1001bc177498@m36g2000hse.googlegroups.com...

> Besides pushing Congress, one of the things I think we
> hams could do to help the process is to never refer to
> amateur radio as "a hobby" or even worse, "just a hobby".

But ham radio's dirty little secret is that we have let it become "just a hobby". With the exception of 2M most of our VHF/UHF spectrum is shared with "real" users like DoD who tolerate our presence and because they are NTIA (not FCC) controlled are (at least for now) immune to auctions. Our HF spectrum isn't particularly attractive for commercial applications. Were it not for those fortunate circumstances, our allocations would have been auctioned long ago.

73, de Hans, K0HB

732. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-16 19:27:04 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <aabfae33-1ab2-4918-b651-57970b3c6e10@m3g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2603

On Jul 15, 4:30 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Jul 14, 5:55 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Jul 14, 3:10 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> > > On Jul 11, 8:44 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> > > Besides,
> > > I'd hate to lug enough batteries around to get a 100W tube station on
> > > the air in a parking lot.
>
> > Batteries? Parking lot?
>
> > I've done FD with tube gear, it's not that much harder than with
> > "modern" stuff.

> > In 1995 I used the rig shown on my web page....

> > 629 CW QSOs,
> > 11 FM voice QSOs. Bonuses for 100% emergency power, W1AW
> > message, message to SM, and making 10 QSOs on VHF/UHF.

> Well, my point was that technology has moved on and right now tubes
> are not state of the art. (Not saying that they won't be in the
> future.) And Iï¿½ll bet your 2 Meter rig was at least partly solid
> state. Sure they work (and in some cases are the optimal solution for
> a problem) but I don't see one new rig for sale today that has even
> one tube.

My point was that it was not only possible to do FD with tube gear,
but
that it's possible to get decent results using it.

> I think that the rules of contests may need to be adapted from time to
> time to adjust for technology as it marches on, however I think that
> we need to be mindful of two things.
>
> First, the rules must be clearly written so everybody understands
> where the various lines are drawn.
>
> Second, they need to keep things as simple as possible.

Agree on both counts. But "as simple as possible" has different
meanings
to different folks, and will be a compromise.

> Apart from that, the folks who are writing the rules for these events
> are the ones who will need to make the choices. If a contest's rules
> attract participants, good for them, if they are no longer popular

> they need to adapt or close up shop.

> Personally, I'm worried that with the increased average age for your
> local ham translates into lack of interest for those of us who are
> younger (say mid 40s). I see this as a problem for contests and not
> just the hobby in general.

But is the "average age" really increasing, compared to the "average
age"
of the US population in general?

Or could it be that the younger hams are too busy working, studying,
and
raising families to go to many ham radio gatherings and be seen?

73 de Jim, N2EY

733. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-16 19:28:14 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <56a77f3a-7c10-4783-93eb-b9e817cef2fe@t54g2000hsg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2604

On Jul 15, 4:31 pm, "Kï¿½HB" <groupk...@earthlink.net> wrote:
> "Dee Flint" <deeflin...@comcast.net> wrote in message
> news:lqadnR_ofccwFOHVnZ2dnUVZ_s_inZ2d@comcast.com...

> > "Leveling the playing field" is only important to those who want to win
(or
> > have a category that they can win) but haven't the resources to compete
in an
> > "open" situation.

I disagree, Dee. Many who have no chance of winning still want
reasonable rules,
for a variety of reasons.

> Level playing fields result in "average" operators at "average" stations,
> regulated by rules which stifle competition, not enhance it.

I disagree, Hans.

> Kurt Vonnegut illustrates the folly of "level playing fields" in this sho
rt
> story ---->http://instruct.westvalley.edu/lafave/hb.html

But in that story, it is not the playing field that is leveled. It is
the players who
are.

And there is a difference between technological advantage and skill
advantage.
The true competitor seeks both. And we all benefit, because the
results trickle
down to the rest of us in the form of better rigs and techniques. Plus
for the big guns
to win, they have to work a lot of us little guys.

Suppose, by some folly, a contest sponsor were to place severe
restrictions on the technology used
by contest entrants. I predict that you'd see things like this:

100 W power limit? True competitors would have rigs that delivered
99.999 watts and the lowest-loss
feedlines.

No computer logging? True competitors would invent the best log-and-
dupe sheets ever.

No beams or arrays? True competitors would have the best dipoles and
verticals you ever saw.

Etc.

IOW, the competition would continue, just in a different way. But the average operator would still
not be able to beat the big guns, because the true competitors would still have whatever advantages
were to be had.

In fact the average op with the average station would probably have a lower score, because it would be harder to work others, not easier.

73 de Jim, N2EY

734. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-16 19:30:19 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g5lheq$1h1s$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2605

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> (insert standard "I Am Not A Lawyer" disclaimer HERE)
>
> On Jul 14, 4:18 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
>> On Jul 11, 8:45 pm, "Kï¿½HB" <groupk...@earthlink.net> wrote:
>
>> I so wish that the FCC could be persuaded to reconsider us
>> hams in
>> their limited preemption of CC&R's and give us the same
>> standing as TV antennas and satellite dishes.
>
> As K2ASP says, that action has to come from Congress.
>
> IMHO, part of the problem is that CC&Rs are a different thing
> than zoning ordinances and other govt. regs. Most anti-antenna
> rules are essentially private contracts that you, the buyer, agreed
> to when you bought the place. Asking for preemption means you
> want out of that part of the deal. That's a tough sell!
>
> It is my understanding that what drove the OTARD process for
> satellite TV was that the satellite TV companies pushed the case,
> and invested the sizable $$$ resources necessary to win. IIRC, their
> argument was essentially that the no-TV-antennas CC&Rs effectively
> created a cable-TV monopoly by making it impossible for some people to
> choose satellite TV, since the dish has to have a clear view of the
> sky where the satellite is. Regular broadcast TV was added to the mix
> a bit later, basically on the same argument.
>
> There was big money at stake because the satellite TV folks saw a huge
> part of the TV market being off-limits to them because of
> no-satellite-dish CC&Rs.

Sure, and considering that the antenna restrictions served to
monopolize access to the cable industry. It is hard to argue that
allowing satellite dishes wasn't a fair and equitable thing to do.

>> All I want is reasonable accommodation
>> here.
>
> The problem is, who determines what's reasonable? In some places a
> clothesline in the back yard is considered an eyesore!

A mile or so from us, there is one of those places. No clotheslines, no
kids stuff in yards, all landscaping must be approved. Almost everything
about your home life is tightly regulated. People who live in a place

that restrictive deserve it.

>> As it stands Iï¿½m left to what ever I can cram into the attic
>> and nothing higher than the top of the roof on my single story
>> ranch.
>
> Well, it's a buyer's market now....

As I peruse through the real estate guides, I'm struck by the number of homes that are available that do not have restrictive covenants. Even the village that I live in does not have ban antennas. So I have a nice woodsey atmosphere, and can do most of the things I want. I wasn't allowed to set up my still to make corn squeezins! hehe

But my point is that if people are looking for a house, there are options. It's also very important to read all that boring stuff. I wonder how many Hams who live in a place that prohibits antennas read the fineprint.

Another tactic is to ask if you can put up an antenna, and if the answer is no, then politely say, "Too bad-see you later!". If the real estate agent loses a few sales for something silly like that, then they will start looking into it.

> Besides pushing Congress, one of the things I think we hams could do
> to help the process is to never refer to amateur radio as "a hobby" or
> even worse, "just a hobby". While most hams do radio simply as an
> avocation, IMHO the word "hobby" carries with it a sort of meaning
> that it's not a serious thing worthy of protection.

>
> You'll never hear folks who do sports or art nonprofessionally refer
> to those activities as "just a hobby". Nor will the term be used by
> volunteers who donate their time and efforts to a variety of causes.
>
> IOW, "hobbies" don't get the kind of respect we want amateur radio to
> have. If we hams describe amateur radio as "just a hobby", the folks
> who want to restrict us may think "well, if they say it's just a
> hobby, what's the problem with a few restrictions?" and "there are all
> sorts of hobbies that these homes don't accomodate, like raising
> horses, target shooting, or pleasure boating with a boat that won't
> fit in the garage. What's different about your radio hobby?"
>
> You can be sure the satellite TV people pushing for the OTARD ruling
> never, ever referred to watching TV as "a hobby", even though their
> viewers don't get paid to watch TV.

I agree!

Here are some ideas:

The old vertical as a flagpole. Its a sorry bunch who wouldn't approve a flagpole.

Most multiband verticals can be tilted over with kits sold for that purpose. Maybe that can be hid though the day.

Maybe it's time to install a yard watering sytem. They always increase the value of the house, and elicit pleased smiles from HOA people. Maybe a lot of wire for radials could be installed at the same time....

I have a radial installation method that I can discuss off-list if you are curious.

Couple the radials to either:

That flagpole that the HOA would refuse at risk of being ostracized.

If the house has plastic gutters, run a wire around them. I'm sure that is part of a defrosting system - Really, it could be!

Maybe an antenna that fits in the umbrella holder on your deck or patio. Good candidates for that are simple verticals, or I like Bugcatchers antennas, though they aren't as convenient for band changing.
The trick is to make the setup so that it is easy to set up in the dark.

There are other candidates such as Outbackers. Some folks use Buddipoles put together as a dipole.

In-house antennas are pretty much last on my list.

There is almost always a way.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

735. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-16 20:34:19 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <45cd2c04-4316-420c-8483-da9f2df81637@x41g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2606

On Jul 16, 2:27 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> On Jul 15, 4:30 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> > On Jul 14, 5:55 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> > > On Jul 14, 3:10 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> > > > On Jul 11, 8:44 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:

> My point was that it was not only possible to do FD with tube gear,
> but
> that it's possible to get decent results using it.

I don't disagree with you there. The old stuff works, but tube gear
is going the way of the spark gap stuff. (Unless some bright cookie
figures out that there are just some things a tube can do better and
cheaper than solid state stuff.)

> > Personally, I'm worried that with the increased average age for your
> > local ham translates into lack of interest for those of us who are
> > younger (say mid 40s). I see this as a problem for contests and not
> > just the hobby in general.
>
> But is the "average age" really increasing, compared to the "average
> age"
> of the US population in general?
>
> Or could it be that the younger hams are too busy working, studying,
> and
> raising families to go to many ham radio gatherings and be seen?

Well, I know that I'm busy with those things at 40. Before the FCC
removed the information from the public view, the average age of hams
was on the increase. ARRL membership is getting older I'm told. I
don't think the trend has changed and I don't think that it is just a
function of the increase in your average life expectancy and the
general trends. I think your average ham is older than average Joe on
the street and the distribution of age is skewed towards the high end
for hams by quite a bit.

So perhaps you see the effects of both in contest participation. I
know that I have difficulty getting the HF radios turned on for an
hour or so more than a few times a month and there is no way I can
spend a whole 24 hours doing some contest. I have my hands full with
work, mowing the grass, fixing the cars and being a husband and
father.

-= kc4uai =-

736. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-17 00:35:27 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <g5m43r0105v@news3.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2607

Michael Coslo wrote:
> Here are some ideas:
>
> The old vertical as a flagpole.

[Etc.]

Mind if I play devils advocate here for a minute?

Where is it written that as Licensed Amateur Radio Operators
we have a fair pass to ignore the rules?

What part of "no antennas" in the CC&R you signed do you not
understand?

"But but but, I'm a Ham radio operator!"

I'm sorry, I just keep seeing this same thing over and over
and over and I don't buy it.

(Along with, since I have a license, I don't need a permit to
put up a tower.)

Jeff-1.0
wa6vfi

737. Re: Activity on 2 meters

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-17 00:43:02 UTC
From: Tony VE6MVP <tony@REMOVEve6mvp.com>
Message-ID: <8mns745mo0db5gj6aj2js4srhihtv7cqg3@4ax.com>
Source record: 2608

On Fri, 13 Jun 2008 20:01:28 EDT, Dick Grady AC7EL
<rng@richbonnie.com> wrote:

>An emergency service organization should put up and maintain their own
>repeaters. For example, in the last 3 years, the Southern Nye County (NV) ARES
>group put up and maintain four repeaters (2 on 2M and 2 on 70cm) so we will have
>them in emergencies. We make a point to talk on them at least once a day to
>make sure they work. But 99% of the time they are idle, and thus may appear to
>the casual observer to be unused.

If the area is urban enough. In rural Alberta we don't have a lot of
overlap between repeaters. But it's clearly understood by everyone
that emergency service has complete priority over all other traffic.

In Edmonton, a city of about 1 million yes they do have a repeater
dedicated to ARES without a lot of other chatter on it.

Tony

738. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-17 00:45:50 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <ada680e6-7277-4ad6-80c7-7ff2cd39d8d7@m44g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2609

On Jul 16, 3:30 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > (insert standard "I Am Not A Lawyer" disclaimer HERE)

I'm still not a lawyer...

> > On Jul 14, 4:18 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> >> On Jul 11, 8:45 pm, "Kï¿½HB" <groupk...@earthlink.net> wrote:

> > There was big money at stake because the satellite TV folks saw a huge

and expanding

> > part of the TV market being off-limits to them because of
> > no-satellite-dish CC&Rs.

> Sure, and considering that the antenna restrictions serve
d to
> monopolize access to the cable industry. It is hard to argue that
> allowing satellite dishes wasn't a fair and equitable thing to do.

There was also the issue that watching TV in one's home, be it a tiny
studio apartment or a giant estate or anything in between, was a
right of any resident, rental, owner, condo, etc. Nobody wanted to
deny *that* right!

Amateur radio doesn't have the same protections.

> > The problem is, who determines what's reasonable? In some places a
> > clothesline in the back yard is considered an eyesore!
>
> A mile or so from us, there is one of those places. No clotheslines, no
> kids stuff in yards, all landscaping must be approved. Almost everything
> about your home life is tightly regulated. People who live in a place
> that restrictive deserve it.

Agreed.

> As I peruse through the real estate guides, I'm struck by the number of
> homes that are available that do not have restrictive covenants. Even
> the village that I live in does not have ban antennas. So I have a nice
> woodsey atmosphere, and can do most of the things I want. I wasn't
> allowed to set up my still to make corn squeezins! hehe
>
> But my point is that if people are looking for a house, there are
> options. It's also very important to read all that boring stuff. I
> wonder how many Hams who live in a place that prohibits antennas read
> the fineprint.

There are plenty of unrestricted places on the market *now*, because
of
the RE market slump and the mortgage crisis.

But not so long ago, it was a different game. At least around here,
houses
would often be sold the afternoon they went on the market. It was not
unusual for
a house to have multiple offers above the asking price with a
preapproved
mortgage and no conditions on the offer.

In such a market, simply finding out if a place was antenna-restricted
is a real problem.
There are deed restrictions on my 1950-built house (none address
antennas) but to
find them out my RE lawyer had to go to the county courthouse and ask
the right
person for them.

You can only buy a house that is for sale at the time you are looking
to buy. If you
happen to need to move at a time when the market is hot, you're at a
distinct
disadvantage.

> Another tactic is to ask if you can put up an antenna, and if the answer
> is no, then politely say, "Too bad-see you later!". If the real estate
> agent loses a few sales for something silly like that, then they will
> start looking into it.

Yes and no.

For one thing, *NEVER* take a verbal response as binding in such a
situation.
Just because the seller or the agent says "yes" or "we can get that
changed"
does NOT mean there are no restrictions! You and your RE attorney need
to
see the actual documents themselves and go over every word to make
sure
there are no restrictions.

For example, the word "antenna" may not appear anywhere. But there may
be
a restriction that says "No structure may exceed a height of 35
feet" (or whatever). A tower
may be considered a structure in that situation, so if you want a 50
foot tower, you're out
of luck.

Deed covenants and restrictions are usually designed so that they
cannot easily be removed
even if all parties want to remove them. The usual way it works is

that each buyer agrees, when
buying the property, to pass them on to the next buyer. So the seller,
and the seller's agent,
may not have the right to remove them even if s/he wants to!

Once the sale is done and you've moved in, it's too late.

IMHO, one of the biggest mistakes many people make is assuming that
because they've read
the Constitution, they don't need a lawyer for things like buying a
house. In many situations
that's a sure-fire path to problems.

Some other problems:

1) A considerable number of hams today were not hams when they moved
into their current
homes. Antennas weren't an issue when the moved - now they are.

2) Considerations such as cost and location are not the same
everywhere. "Move to the
country" isn't always an option if doing so means one or both spouses'
jobs are going to
be at the end of a long and expensive commute. School district and
access to various
services (like health care) are considerations too.

3) In my limited experience, antenna-restricted properties tend to be
less expensive than
unrestricted ones. This flies in the face of the old "property values"
argument, but it
makes sense when you consider that many restricted places have HOA
fees and such,
and that the restrictions often make doing even simple things
expensive (you have to use
a certain paint, buy exact replacements for fixtures like doors and
windows, and get
approval for *everything*. So if you are on a limited budget (who
isn't?), the restricted
properties may appear to be a better deal for your money.

There are bigger, newer and more modern houses near me that are priced
the same as
the little boxes made of ticky-tacky I and my neighbors live in. But
those houses are
restricted in ways that ours aren't.

> > Besides pushing Congress, one of the things I think we hams could do
> > to help the process is to never refer to amateur radio as "a hobby" or
> > even worse, "just a hobby". While most hams do radio simply as an
> > avocation, IMHO the word "hobby" carries with it a sort of meaning
> > that it's not a serious thing worthy of protection.
>

> > You'll never hear folks who do sports or art nonprofessionally refer
> > to those activities as "just a hobby". Nor will the term be used by
> > volunteers who donate their time and efforts to a variety of causes.
>
> > IOW, "hobbies" don't get the kind of respect we want amateur radio to
> > have. If we hams describe amateur radio as "just a hobby", the folks
> > who want to restrict us may think "well, if they say it's just a
> > hobby, what's the problem with a few restrictions?" and "there are all
> > sorts of hobbies that these homes don't accomodate, like raising
> > horses, target shooting, or pleasure boating with a boat that won't
> > fit in the garage. What's different about your radio hobby?"
>
> > You can be sure the satellite TV people pushing for the OTARD ruling
> > never, ever referred to watching TV as "a hobby", even though their
> > viewers don't get paid to watch TV.
>
> I agree!
>
> Here are some ideas:
>
> The old vertical as a flagpole. Its a sorry bunch who wouldn't approve a
> flagpole.

A few years back, a WW2 veteran in his '80s put up a flagpole in his
yard.
Every morning he'd raise Old Glory, every night he'd take it down. He
had
two grandkids on active duty in Iraq. The HOA went after him because
freestanding flagpoles were specifically prohibited in the rules.
Being in
the paper and on TV did not faze them; the rules said no flagpoles and
they
were going to enforce those rules.

I think the WW2 vet moved.

> Most multiband verticals can be tilted over with kits sold for that
> purpose. Maybe that can be hid though the day.

This is a very good idea. While it may not be fun to go outside and
install the antenna before
each operating session, it's a solution.

One homebrew way would be to bury a pipe vertically in the ground and
cut it off at the surface.
A cap would keep debris out when not in use.

The antenna assembly consists of the vertical and a piece of pipe that
will just fit in the
buried pipe. Quick connections to the coax and radial system (both
buried) complete it.

To go on the air, the cap is removed, the antenna assembly raised and
the bottom end put in the hole,
and the connections made.

> If the house has plastic gutters, run a wire around them. I'm sure that
> is part of a defrosting system - Really, it could be!

> The trick is to make the setup so that it is easy to set up in the dark.

And take down.

However even such solutions may not work in some areas. The Gladys
Kravitz
factor looms large in them.

73 de Jim, N2EY

739. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-17 00:46:17 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <4e66b22d-cb1c-4a4d-92c6-e6c23c756dd6@z72g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2610

On Jul 15, 8:16 pm, Dick Grady AC7EL <r...@richbonnie.com> wrote:
> On Tue, 15 Jul 2008 08:32:00 EDT, N...@aol.com wrote:
> >one of the things I think we hams could do
> >to help the process is to never refer to amateur radio as "a hobby" or
> >even worse, "just a hobby". While most hams do radio simply as an
> >avocation, IMHO the word "hobby" carries with it a sort of meaning
> >that it's not a serious thing worthy of protection.
>
> >You'll never hear folks who do sports or art nonprofessionally refer
> >to those activities as "just a hobby". Nor will the term be used by
> >volunteers who donate their time and efforts to a variety of causes.
>
> >IOW, "hobbies" don't get the kind of respect we want amateur radio to
> >have. If we hams describe amateur radio as "just a hobby", the folks
> >who want to restrict us may think "well, if they say it's just a
> >hobby, what's the problem with a few restrictions?" and "there are all
> >sorts of hobbies that these homes don't accomodate, like raising
> >horses, target shooting, or pleasure boating with a boat that won't
> >fit in the garage. What's different about your radio hobby?"
>
> Then what do we call it? Avocation? Pasttime? no, none of these ter
ms seem
> appropriate, either.

We don't need to call it anything other than "Amateur Radio". The
person who
gardens/landscapes doesn't use the word "hobby", s/he says "I'm a
gardener"
and that's it.

The amateur artist who paints, sculpts, does pottery, photography,
woodwork or any
of a range of other activities does not use the word "hobby" either.

> I know! It's emergency preparation and training. Now that's sounds
> impressive..

We don't need to sound impressive. All we need to do is not sound
apologetic.
"Just a hobby" sounds self-denigrating to me.

Part 97 does not use the word "hobby". Neither should we.

Consider the following conversations:

Conversation 1

"What's that wire up there?"

"It's my ham radio antenna"

"What's ham radio?"

"It's just a hobby where I talk to other ham radio operators."

"Why would you want to do that? Don't you have a telephone and the internet?"

Conversation 2

"What's that wire up there?"

"It's the antenna for my Amateur Radio station"

"What's Amateur Radio?"

"It's a form of noncommercial radio by which licensed radio operators all over the world communicate with each other using a wide variety of methods and technologies."

Which do you think sounds better to a non-ham?

73 de Jim, N2EY

740. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-17 00:51:14 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <de8bcd35-6f6d-42e1-b0b0-79415ef72032@f36g2000hsa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2611

On Jul 16, 4:34 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Jul 16, 2:27 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Jul 15, 4:30 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:

> > > On Jul 14, 5:55 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> > > > On Jul 14, 3:10 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> > > > > On Jul 11, 8:44 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> > My point was that it was not only possible to do FD with tube
> > gear, but that it's possible to get decent results using it.
>
> I don't disagree with you there. The old stuff works, but tube g
ear
> is going the way of the spark gap stuff.

No, it isn't. Spark was first abandoned by hams and then outlawed; the whole transition from King Spark to museum or junkpile took less than ten years.

Tube rigs are different. Of course they're a special niche interest, like many other things in amateur radio. But there's a very active community of hams restoring old tube gear and building new ones.

> (Unless some bright cookie
> figures out that there are just some things a tube can do better and
> cheaper than solid state stuff.)

There are, such as RF power amplifiers for HF and low VHF. While it is certainly possible to build the solidstate equivalent of, say, a single-3-500Z HF amplifier, the SS version costs more and is less efficient.

You'll not see new manufactured stuff using tubes for a variety of reasons, but for the homebrewer, experimenter and restorer they are a possibility. In fact, one of the reasons for the high prices of tube gear is the increasing interest in it!

But the main point is that there's an ever-widening variety of options out there for us hams. An amateur running a rig made of pre-WW2 parts can be in QSO with one using the latest SDR lashup, or anything in between. The RF doesn't care.

> > > Personally, I'm worried that with the increased
> > > average age for your
> > > local ham translates into lack of interest for
> > > those of us who are
> > > younger (say mid 40s). I see this as a problem

> > > for contests and not
> > > just the hobby in general.
>
> > But is the "average age" really increasing,
> > compared to the "average
> > age" of the US population in general?
>
> > Or could it be that the younger hams are too
> > busy working, studying, and
> > raising families to go to many ham radio
> > gatherings and be seen?
>
> Well, I know that I'm busy with those things at 40.

Exactly. So are many others. Life has changed from
the "Ozzie & Harriet/Leave It To Beaver" days.

>�Before the FCC
> removed the information from the public view, the
> average age of hams was on the increase.

I think there's more to it than that.

First off, AFAIK what really happened is that FCC
has gone through periods when they collected
birthdate date, and others when they did not.

If you look up my call on QRZ.com, you'll see I was
born in 1954. But your birthdate info is not given. Unless
I missed something, that's because when I got my license
the FCC was collecting birthdates and when you got
yours, they weren't.

What that means is that you can still derive "average age"
data from the FCC database, but it will be skewed data
because it only covers hams who were first licensed in
certain times. So it's worse that useless because the
youngest hams won't be counted at all.

>�ARRL membership is getting older I'm told. �I
> don't think the trend has changed and I don't think that it is just a
> function of the increase in your average life expectancy and the
> general trends.

But how do we really know? Does ARRL keep birthdate info on all
members?

>�I think your average ham is older than average Joe on
> the street and the distribution of age is skewed towards the high
> end for hams by quite a bit.

But without hard data we don't really know.

I do know that from 1990 to 2000 the median age of US residents in the census rose almost 5 years, from 34 years and some months to 39 years and some months. So the median American today is probably over 40 years old.

But there are very few hams under the age of 10 or 12, so the median age of US hams should be quite a bit older than the median age of the US population. So a median age of hams in their 50s or older, and a rising number, is not out of whack with what's going on with the US population.

> So perhaps you see the effects of both in contest participation. ?
?I
> know that I have difficulty getting the HF radios turned on for an
> hour or so more than a few times a month and there is no way I
> can spend a whole 24 hours doing some contest.

Sure. But contest participation doesn't have to be for the full period.

>?I have my hands full with
> work, mowing the grass, fixing the cars and being a husband and
> father.
>
Which is why hams in your age bracket, and mine, are so much less visible.

73 de Jim, N2EY

741. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-17 00:52:15 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <1LKdncET-65IDePVnZ2dnUVZ_j-dnZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 2612

"K&#65533;HB" <groupk0hb@earthlink.net> wrote in message
news:2padnf4wBMJ3VOHVnZ2dnUVZWhednZ2d@earthlink.com...
>
>
> Kurt Vonnegut illustrates the folly of "level playing fields" in this
> short story ----> http://instruct.westvalley.edu/lafave/hb.html
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB
>

We should all take this story to heart as it's likely we've all had
experiences where people wanted to "clip our wings" to prevent us from
soaring with the eagles.

Dee, N8UZE

742. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-17 01:04:14 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <bPidndmVQYJJBOPVnZ2dnUVZ_rHinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2613

<N2EY@aol.com> wrote in message
news:56a77f3a-7c10-4783-93eb-b9e817cef2fe@t54g2000hsg.googlegroups.com...

> IOW, the competition would continue, just in a different way. But the
> average operator would still not be able to beat the big guns, because
> the true competitors would still have whatever advantages
> were to be had.

And wailing and knashing of teeth would still be heard throughout the "Land of Average".

"Average operators" (those who voted for Diana Moon Glompers) would cry "unfair".

Let's just take one real-life example, not a strained speculation. SO2R (SingleOp2Radio operating style) is a developed skill (not a technology). It takes work to perfect, but once mastered it dramatically tilts the field in favor the operator who uses it. Join the CQ-Contest email reflector, and mention you'll be operating "SO2R" in SS CW next November. The "average operators who want rules to level the field" will rise up bemoaning the "unfairness of it all" and "there ought to be a rule".

If radiosport contesting (the last great hope of saving ham radio, IMNSHO) is to live up to it's potential to advance the state of the radio art, then we need to structure contest rules which encourage and nurture skill and technology developers, and do not reward "average" operators or "average" stations.

73, de Hans, K0HB

743. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-17 01:28:49 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <b95e2ef6-9132-4b6c-90f9-35c0dea35bcb@r66g2000hsg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2614

On Jul 16, 8:52 pm, "Dee Flint" <deeflin...@comcast.net> wrote:

> We should all take this story to heart as it's likely we've all had
> experiences where people wanted to "clip our wings" to
> prevent us from soaring with the eagles.

Here's an example:

My high school was involved in a competition known then as
"Mathletes", where we'd compete against teams from other schools in
solving math problems.

IMHO there was never a more level playing field, because all
competitors got the same problems, the same amount of time and had the
same resources.

In my senior year we had so many students who wanted to compete and
who met the requirements that my school fielded two independent teams,
"A" and "B". This was not unusual; other schools did the same thing.

The overall City championship was determined by the season points
total of a given team - highest scoring team got first place, second
highest got second place, etc. The top two positions were the big ones
to win.

But at the end of the last meet, our A team had the highest season
points score, and the B team had the second highest. Two winning teams
from the same school had never happened before, and the officials were
somewhat unsure of what to do.

So after some deliberation they gave the first place trophy jointly to
the A and B team from my school, and the second place trophy to the
third place team. Their reasoning was that they didn't want the rest
of the teams to feel bad - that it somehow wasn't "good" for one
school to walk off with both trophies.

All of us on both the A and B teams learned a lesson that day. I don't
think it was the lesson the officials wanted us to learn, though.

73 de Jim, N2EY

744. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-17 01:52:19 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <1863892b-b459-480b-8c77-577356443e1f@l42g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2615

On Jul 16, 9:04 pm, "K HB" <groupk...@earthlink.net> wrote:
> <N...@aol.com> wrote in message
> news:56a77f3a-7c10-4783-93eb-b9e817cef2fe@t54g2000hsg.googlegroups.com...

> > IOW, the competition would continue, just in a different
> > way. But the
> > average operator would still not be able to beat the
> > big guns, because
> > the true competitors would still have whatever advantages
> > were to be had.

> And wailing and knashing of teeth would still be heard throughout > the "
Land of Average". "Average operators" (those who voted
>for Diana Moon Glompers) > would cry "unfair".

There would probably be complaints that it
was unfair that the big guns used expensive low-loss feedlines,
for example, to get a tiny advantage of signal strength.

> Let's just take one real-life example, not a strained
> speculation.

Actually, I don't think it's strained. I've had conversations with
hams who felt that the big guns should be limited in all sorts of
ways, from power to antennas to automation. My point is that even if
those limits
were imposed, there would be stations and operators whose performance
was outstanding.

> SO2R
> (SingleOp2Radio operating style) is a developed skill (not a
> technology).

I'd say it's both. Not that it really matters.

> It
> takes work to perfect, but once mastered it dramatically tilts the
> field in favor the operator who uses it.
> Join the CQ-Contest email reflector, and
> mention you'll be operating "SO2R" in SS CW next
> November. The "average
> operators who want rules to level the field" will rise up
> bemoaning the
> "unfairness of it all" and "there ought to be a rule".

I don't see how SO2R is "unfair" in any way. IIRC, the SS rules
permit as many bandchanges and frequency changes as one

desires, but a station can only transmit one signal at any time.

So all that SO2R, or SO3R or SOxR does is make it possible to change band/frequency really really fast. It could be implemented with 1930s technology if somebody really wanted to.

Some of the concepts of SO2R can even be implemented with one rig. Should that be outlawed too?

There will always be folks with advantages. If nothing else, the person who doesn't have a job or family responsibilities will have an advantage over the person who does. So what?

> If radiosport contesting (the last great hope of saving ham radio, > IMNSHO) is to
> live up to it's potential to advance the state of the radio art, then
> we need to
> structure contest rules which encourage and nurture skill and
> technology
> developers, and do not reward "average" operators or "average" > stations.

I think that is easily done by having various categories. As I have said before, don't outlaw "Skimmer", but don't put it in the same category as the "boy and his radio" stations.

I think it's a bit of hyperbole to describe contesting as "the last great hope of saving ham radio". OTOH, I think being able to offer a competitive sport kind of activity is a big selling point for amateur radio. What would distance running or bicycling be like if there were no marathons, 10Ks or bike races? I suspect those things would be greatly diminished and less popular, even though most runners and cyclists will never win a race.

I'm no more than an "average" operator with a somewhat unusual station. Long ago I realized that unless I won the lottery, I'd probably never "win" any radio contest.

So for me the competition is really against myself. Can I do better than before? Are there improvements I can make to my modest station to get a higher score? How much can be done with the limited resources I do have?

The results have been gratifying and a lot of fun.

73 de Jim, N2EY

745. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-17 03:16:06 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net>
Message-ID: <Xns9ADDE27CD6D3Dmcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136>
Source record: 2616

Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com> wrote in
news:g5m43r0105v@news3.newsguy.com:

> Michael Coslo wrote:
>> Here are some ideas:
>>
>> The old vertical as a flagpole.
>
> [Etc.]
>
> Mind if I play devils advocate here for a minute?
>
> Where is it written that as Licensed Amateur Radio Operators
> we have a fair pass to ignore the rules?

Well, we don't really. I only offer advice to those who might have made
a mistake.

> What part of "no antennas" in the CC&R you signed do you not
> understand?
>
> "But but but, I'm a Ham radio operator!"
>
> I'm sorry, I just keep seeing this same thing over and over
> and over and I don't buy it.

I think that in most cases, the Ham didn't read the fine print, or they
might not have been a Ham when they bought the house.

I've been a long term advocate of knowing what you are getting into. I'm
one of thos insufferable geeks that irritate the lawyers and other
people present by reading over the fine print. I'm a quick reader though
- it is 5 to 10 minutes well spent. I even read equipment manuals,
heheh.

I wouldn't buy a house in a neighborhood that wouldn't allow mw to put
up an antenna.

But I know that not everyone is so careful - and I don't think that they
should be punished forever. I think that the fight to give them access
to the airwaves is a good fight.

All that being said, who would want to live in those neighborhoods
anyway? All we have to do is keep the grass cut, the house in good
repair, and no junk cars sitting around. And our neighborhood is a
showpiece. My antennas notwithstanding.

> (Along with, since I have a license, I don't need a permit to
> put up a tower.)

Well now there is a different kettle of fish. A tower can be a major liability. We can have them here, but they must be approved by an engineer. And I agree with that, even if they take the arbitrary "100 percent height fall radius circle". I don't know if any tower has fallen that way.

At least I wouldn't have to fight the township just to put one up.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

746. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-17 03:18:28 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net>
Message-ID: <Xns9ADDEC2AE773Fmcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136>
Source record: 2617

N2EY@aol.com wrote in news:ada680e6-7277-4ad6-80c7-7ff2cd39d8d7
@m44g2000hsc.googlegroups.com:

> On Jul 16, 3:30 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:

<snippage>

>> As I peruse through the real estate guides, I'm struck by the number of
>> homes that are available that do not have restrictive covenants. Even
>> the village that I live in does not have ban antennas. So I have a nice
>> woodsey atmosphere, and can do most of the things I want. I wasn't
>> allowed to set up my still to make corn squeezins! hehe
>>
>> But my point is that if people are looking for a house, there are
>> options. It's also very important to read all that boring stuff. I
>> wonder how many Hams who live in a place that prohibits antennas read
>> the fineprint.
>
> There are plenty of unrestricted places on the market *now*, because
> of the RE market slump and the mortgage crisis.
>
> But not so long ago, it was a different game. At least around here,
> houses would often be sold the afternoon they went on the market. It was
> not unusual for a house to have multiple offers above the asking price
> with a preapproved mortgage and no conditions on the offer.

I can't make too many excuses for those who are in large part
responsible for the terrible mess we are in today.

When we bought our house, we told the RE agent what we were going to
pay, what we were going to accept, and what we weren't. Given that we
planned on buying a house for about 60 percent of the Max amount that the
bank would loan us, the Real Estate people were always trying to push us up
into a higher price range. We fired 2 agents before we landed a good one.

The rest we invested very conservatively. And the real estate agents
and many friends condsidered me an idiot - until recently

> In such a market, simply finding out if a place was antenna-restricted
> is a real problem. There are deed restrictions on my 1950-built house
(none address antennas) but to find them out my RE lawyer had to go to the
county courthouse and ask the right person for them.

Yup, that's what you have to do
>
> You can only buy a house that is for sale at the time you are looking
> to buy. If you happen to need to move at a time when the market is hot,

>you're at a distinct disadvantage.

A sound piece of financial advice is never ever buy a house under duress! Liv in an apartment or rental house for a while if need be, but never buy because you think you have to. There will be a lot of time to repent at leisure.

>> Another tactic is to ask if you can put up an antenna, and if the answer
>> is no, then politely say, "Too bad-see you later!". If the real estate
>> agent loses a few sales for something silly like that, then they will
>> start looking into it.
>
> Yes and no.
>
> For one thing, *NEVER* take a verbal response as binding in such a
> situation. Just because the seller or the agent says "yes" or "we can get
> that changed" does NOT mean there are no restrictions! You and your RE
>attorney need to see the actual documents themselves and go over every
>word to make sure there are no restrictions.

Agreed! Our attorney is great, and he worked for the money we paid him. Checked out all the restrictions and everything else. (as s side note, he refused to participate in any of the wacky mortgages that have been going around.
>
> For example, the word "antenna" may not appear anywhere. But there may
> be
> a restriction that says "No structure may exceed a height of 35
> feet" (or whatever). A tower
> may be considered a structure in that situation, so if you want a 50
> foot tower, you're out
> of luck.
>
> Deed covenants and restrictions are usually designed so that they
> cannot easily be removed even if all parties want to remove them. The
> usual way it works is that each buyer agrees, when
> buying the property, to pass them on to the next buyer. So the seller,
> and the seller's agent,may not have the right to remove them even if s/he
> wants to!

For me it is pretty simple. I don't buy unless the glove fits my hand. If I want to put up an antenna, I'm going to make sure that I can.

I'd have to respectfully say that too many people seem to think that they have to buy the house, whatever is offered. I walked away from several houses when I was looking. It isn't my responsibility to buy the house.

> Once the sale is done and you've moved in, it's too late.
>
> IMHO, one of the biggest mistakes many people make is assuming that
> because they've read the Constitution, they don't need a lawyer for
> things like buying a house. In many situations that's a sure-fire path to

> problems.

Never looked at it that way Jim, but that's the truth! We had our lawyer in
the picture from the start - and he was worth every cent we paid him.

> Some other problems:
>
> 1) A considerable number of hams today were not hams when they moved
> into their current homes. Antennas weren't an issue when the moved - now
> they are.
>
> 2) Considerations such as cost and location are not the same
> everywhere. "Move to the country" isn't always an option if doing so
> means one or both spouses'jobs are going to be at the end of a long and
> expensive commute. School district and access to various services (like
>health care) are considerations too.

As a counterpoint, in the central PA area, if your not an academic or well
heeled staff, you can't afford to live near the city. Probably 60 percent
of the people who work here don't live here. It's a well known problem that
we don't have what is called "affordable housing".

<snippage>

> A few years back, a WW2 veteran in his '80s put up a flagpole in his
> yard. Every morning he'd raise Old Glory, every night he'd take it down.
> He had two grandkids on active duty in Iraq. The HOA went after him
> because freestanding flagpoles were specifically prohibited in the rules.
> Being in the paper and on TV did not faze them; the rules said no
> flagpoles and they were going to enforce those rules.
>
> I think the WW2 vet moved.

Arrgh, I can feel my blood pressure going up.........

MOving was his best solution. No one should live near jerks like that.

>> Most multiband verticals can be tilted over with kits sold for that
>> purpose. Maybe that can be hid though the day.
>
> This is a very good idea. While it may not be fun to go outside and
> install the antenna before each operating session, it's a solution.
>
> One homebrew way would be to bury a pipe vertically in the ground and
> cut it off at the surface. A cap would keep debris out when not in use.

That is how I mount my Vertical. I don't have to take it down, but it is
convenient for tuning the antenna, which has to be don every so often.

> The antenna assembly consists of the vertical and a piece of pipe that
> will just fit in the
> buried pipe. Quick connections to the coax and radial system (both
> buried) complete it.

>
> To go on the air, the cap is removed, the antenna assembly raised and
> the bottom end put in the hole,
> and the connections made.
>
>> If the house has plastic gutters, run a wire around them. I'm sure that
>> is part of a defrosting system - Really, it could be!
>
>> The trick is to make the setup so that it is easy to set up in the dark.
>
> And take down.
>
> However even such solutions may not work in some areas. The Gladys
> Kravitz factor looms large in them.

Did you see the videos about the housing development where some neighbors were complaining about the fellow who had a Steppir beam on a nice tower? Turned out in that development they couldn't do a thing about it.

Personally the antenna and tower was a thing of beauty AFAIAC, certainly more attractive than those who were complaining about it. Nice house, nice yard, nice antenna. If you didn't see it, I'll try to find the link.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

747. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-17 05:47:54 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <v4adncHgcqsaNOPVnZ2dnUVZ_vOdnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2618

<N2EY@aol.com> wrote in message
news:1863892b-b459-480b-8c77-577356443e1f@l42g2000hsc.googlegroups.com...

> So all that SO2R, or SO3R or SOxR does is make it
> possible to change band/frequency really really fast.
> It could be implemented with 1930s technology if
> somebody really wanted to.

It is routinely implemented with no "technology" any more complex than SO1R,
unless you call split headphones a "technology". Pure and simple, it's a human
skill.

And it's nothing new either. The first generally accepted "serious" use of SO2R
was 56 years ago by W4KFC in the 1952 SS CW contest.

73, de Hans, K0HB
Just an old boy and his radios

748. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-17 14:24:34 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <n7CdnQ4N5aiXy-LVnZ2dnUVZ_uOdnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2619

N2EY@aol.com wrote:

> My high school was involved in a competition known then as
> "Mathletes", where we'd compete against teams from other schools in
> solving math problems.
>
> IMHO there was never a more level playing field, because all
> competitors got the same problems, the same amount of time and had the
> same resources.
....
> But at the end of the last meet, our A team had the highest season
> points score, and the B team had the second highest.

I suspect that this is actually an illustration that all the competitors did not really have the same resources. How much influence did your coach have in how well the team did? Some of the teams were probably coached by a teacher who was pressed into the position and had neither the ability nor motivation to push the team to be competitive, while I bet your coach was excellent.

Native ability is just part of the puzzle. Unless the opportunity and motivation is there to develop the skill, nothing will ever come of it.

73, Steve KB9X

749. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-17 20:17:50 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <3f99b268-0855-4d62-82a0-04195402bc2a@z66g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2620

On Jul 16, 7:45 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> On Jul 16, 3:30 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>
> There are plenty of unrestricted places on the market *now*, because
> of
> the RE market slump and the mortgage crisis.

Maybe in your area, but where I live CC&R's are the rule and they will all pretty much restrict antennas for ham radio use. It all depends on when the average house was built in your area. The standard way this works here in the Dallas area is developer buys large tract of land, applies CC&R's to the tract, subdivides and develops the land to sell the houses he builds. He throws in a pool and play ground across from the model homes which is owned by the HOA that gets created by the CC&R's. 99-100% of the new homes available in the area I live will come with CC&R's based on these boilerplates. (Personally I know of NO new homes in my current price range for sale with 10 miles of my house that won't have CC&R's.)

I've seen only ONE subdivision in my area that would have allowed antennas in their CC&R's but it was a very special case. The CC&R's didn't originate with a builder, but where adopted by the land owners AFTER the subdivision was plated. Those CC&R's where a model of simplicity and basically dealt with keeping unsightly things to a minimum. (Keep your house painted a normal color and in good repair, no junk cars, lawns mowed, fences in good repair etc.)

The problem is that the big builders have boiler plate CC&R's that change very little between subdivisions. All of these boiler plates contain restrictions on antennas and are constructed to never expire. More and more land is becoming off limits to ham radio antennas and this is a bigger problem in areas that have been under active development for the last 20-30 years such as Dallas.

Therefore I have to object to the "just move" response to the plight of hams in CC&R communities. It may be an option for some, but for others it may not. At some point I may choose to move, and CC&R restrictions on antennas will likely be something I look at. I can tell you that I won't be able to buy a comparable house for the same money without CC&R's in Murphy or the surrounding area. There are areas that allow them, but they do not compare with where I live in price or age. Yes, I could drive 40 more miles a day and perhaps find something that would work, but with the cost of driving these days Iï¿½d be moving into less of a house for sure to make ends meet.

In addition to this, all the CC&R's I've read in my area are usually drafted to NEVER expire. The only way they will go away is if all the land owners agree to it (fat chance of that). This land will forever be of limits for antennas. Year after year as new subdivisions are built, more and more land will be CC&R's restricted unless they are limited by law.

As an aside on CC&R's which are all the rage... There are fundamental problems with CC&R's and pesky HOA's under the current law. Depending on how they are drafted, they can end up causing some seemingly very unreasonable consequences for homeowners that may not be obvious by reading them. Personally, I think they should be put under some really strict legal limits and the powers of HOA's strictly limited. But all that is another issue...

All in all I can only hope that this CC&R Craze comes to an end pretty soon. I don't think they are as much a benifit to landowners as they are thought to be. But until they fall out of favor to the public or get pre-empted by law they will only increase in coverage.

Personally, that scares me.

-= Bob =-

750. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-17 20:19:20 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <1c2f27e7-acab-4ef1-9293-18956dd9629f@e39g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2621

On Jul 17, 10:24 am, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > My high school was involved in a competition known then as
> > "Mathletes", where we'd compete against teams from other schools in
> > solving math problems.
>
> > IMHO there was never a more level playing field, because all
> > competitors got the same problems, the same amount of time and had the
> > same resources.
> ....
> > But at the end of the last meet, our A team had the highest season
> > points score, and the B team had the second highest.
>
> I suspect that this is actually an illustration that all the competitors
> did not really have the same resources. How much influence did your
> coach have in how well the team did?

None, we didn't have a coach. We had a faculty moderator, whose job it
was
to see that we got to the meets and behaved ourselves.

> Some of the teams were probably
> coached by a teacher who was pressed into the position and had neither
> the ability nor motivation to push the team to be competitive, while I
> bet your coach was excellent.

He was excellent in that he made sure we knew when the meets were and
how we'd get there. The rest was up to us.

We won because *we* had ability and motivation, not because we were
pushed.

> Native ability is just part of the puzzle. Unless the opportunity and
> motivation is there to develop the skill, nothing will ever come of it.

The opportunity was that the Mathletes competition existed. The
motivation was our own; that we knew we were good and wanted to prove
it. And we did, even if the Diana Moon Glompers clones in charge
denied the B team their trophy.

As for amateur radio contesting, what motivates the big guns? Their
achievements are only appreciated by a few; amateur radiosport is
generally not a spectator thing. Nor will they be paid.

And while they are intensely competitive, (google "Barracuda Rules"),
nothing the big guns do to win remains a secret for very long. Take
computer logging - it started as a very expensive and complex

alternative to paper, but now there are all sorts of logging software packages that are free or of nominal cost, and which will run on computers so old they are dumpster fodder. What could be fairer than that? Yet I recall folks years ago who said it was unfair that the big guns had computer logging.

73 de Jim, N2EY

751. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-17 23:27:12 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <PsKdnbxxaOyjSOLVnZ2dnUVZ_vGdnZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2622

"KC4UAI" wrote

Maybe in your area, but where I live CC&R's are the rule and they will all pretty much restrict antennas for ham radio use. It all depends on when the average house was built in your area.

All of what you wrote applies to housing here in Tucson. Seems that only if you're a multi-millionaire can you buy land (if there's any left) and build your own custom home... completely outside of restrictions (other than towers, etc.)

I live in one of these CC&R developments, and I'm fortunate to be able to have something of an antenna in my backyard: an MFJ Hi-Q 10-30m Loop on a 5' pole. While it's VERY visible from the street (and is quite an effective antenna), over the 10+ years I've lived here no one's said a word. The CC&R's state "no antennas without permission." I never asked. That statement was written, BTW, before the FCC demanded the allowance of tv antennas and satellite dishes.

When guests ask what my [MFJ antenna] is, I tell them it's my yard sculpture. I'm fortunate to be under an HOA that's more relaxed than a lot of the others I've heard about.

N7SO

752. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-18 06:06:16 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net>
Message-ID: <Xns9ADEEBC1E2990mcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136>
Source record: 2623

"Howard Lester" <heylester@dakotacom.net> wrote in
news:PsKdnbxxaOyjSOLVnZ2dnUVZ_vGdnZ2d@posted.dakotacomip:

> "KC4UAI" wrote
>
> Maybe in your area, but where I live CC&R's are the rule and they will
> all pretty much restrict antennas for ham radio use. It all depends
> on when the average house was built in your area.
>
> All of what you wrote applies to housing here in Tucson. Seems that
> only if you're a multi-millionaire can you buy land (if there's any
> left) and build your own custom home... completely outside of
> restrictions (other than towers, etc.)

I can find a lot of houses in this area that don't allow much of anything too. I'd respectfully suggest that people might look a little harder based on the fact that a whole lot of people in this area believe that even my neighborhood will not allow antennas, and don't believe me when I tell them it does.

If it is true that there is no land available in either Dallas or Tucson that would allow antennas, then that is indeed sad. I simply would not live there.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

753. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1614 - July 18, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-18 11:49:41 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080718012349.01594970@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2624
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1614 - July 18, 2008

Ladies and gentlemen. With some more thank you's to the listeners who help keep Amateur Radio Newsline in operation, here's our Support Fund Administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ;

--

Last year in February we heard from The Montgomery ARC of Gaithersburg, MD: The Hamfesters Radio Club, W9AA of Bedford Park, IL; James Weir, K6QGN and Evelyn Weir, K6QXC; John Rice, KE6YFV of San Pedro California and our regular contributors Benton, W4PE, Joseph, KC8DKF, William WA2IBM and Scott in San Jose.

Via PayPal there were Terry Moore in Lancashire, Earby, Lancashire and David Ellison in Richmond, North Yorkshire, both in the UK; Mark Braunstein in Certreville, VA; Michael Finkbone in Deland FL;
James Deneen in Whitmore Lake, MI; Joseph Kratky in Hickory Hills, IL; Charles Hailbronner, Colorado Springs CO. and Paul Cote, K6PFC in San Diego, CA.

PayPal makes it easy to keep these newscasts on the air, and as you've just heard, they take care of any currency conversion needed. So if you're outside the US, we'd love to hear from you. Be sure and include your callsign info in the memo portion of the form. Or via our regular address, which will be given later.
Listen for these thank-you's in future broadcasts.

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ at our studios in Hollywood.

--

Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1614 with a release date of Friday, July 18th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

**

The following is a QST. A Pennsylvania ham faces a different kind of tower fight, the ARRL and Newsline have their e-mail addresses spoofed by Internet bad guys, an essay says that ham radio is disappearing and QRP operation is on the march down-under. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1614 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

LEGAL ISSUES: PENN TOWNSHIP RESCINDS ANTENNA PERMIT TO PITTSBURG AREA HAM

A tower case with a twist. This after a Pennsylvania zoning hearing board sides with neighbors who want the ham's tower totally screened from view or taken down. But the battle over the 53-foot tower could end up in federal court because the tower had already been granted a permit and has been up for some time. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, sorts it all out:

--

Chuck Mills W3YNI, lives in the town of Irwin, Pennsylvania, about 30 miles east of Pittsburgh.

Mills, an assistant Emergency Coordinator for Westmoreland County's ARES group, had been using a Cushcraft A-3 tribander on a roof-mounted tower on his property for about nine years.

Last fall, Mills says he acquired a tilt-over, crank-up tower on which he planned to put an antenna array.

But Mills says he never got the chance because he got a visit from the township zoning officer who had been summoned by neighbors who didn't like the idea of a tower going up in their development.

Mills says he applied for a permit as instructed by the zoning officer and then was told he'd have to put up trees or something else to screen the tower.

He says his neighbors never bothered to directly express their concerns.

"They didn't talk to me first," Mills says. "They simply called the township and demanded that it be taken down.
"The township, of course, really can't take sides. They have to interpret and enforce the law. In their mind, they were more or less saying that he does have a right to do what he wants on his property within reason. And this would be within reason."

After months of wrangling, the township finally granted Mills the permit and said two trees he had planted would be sufficient to meet the screening requirements.

But that didn't sit well with the neighbors, who appealed to the zoning hearing board.

"They really would not accept any kind of compromise because the township tried to mediate the situation," Mills says. "The only thing that they would accept is that the tower would be taken down."

On July 10, the zoning board ruled the township shouldn't have granted Mills the permit for his tower in the first place saying it didn't follow through on site plan and proper screening of the structure.

Mills predicts the decision won't stand.

"In order to deny me the permit, they have to have a legally valid reason," Mills says. "They can't just deny it because somebody doesn't like it or they don't like it. That goes against PRB 1. That's pretty clear.

"The reason my permit, they ruled against me, was a technicality in the permitting process that the township improperly granted the permit."

Mills says there's also an ironic part to this whole saga so far.

"At the present time, I have no antenna on top of it," Mills says. "These proceedings have kind of retarded the process of getting an antenna on top of it because I seem to spend a lot of time speaking to my attorney."

Mills is being represented by Michael Lazaroff, K3AIR, a volunteer legal counsel for the American Radio Relay League.

"I can assure you that we're either going to appeal this to the next higher court or we're going to try to remedy it through the township to get a permit that will be able to stand," Mills says.

And, Mills says, he's gratified by the support he's been getting from hams in his community and across the country via message boards on the internet and email.

Mills says he was also surprised by the groundswell of support from an unexpected corner.

"Surprisingly, support from the community at large has been - even non-hams - has been very, very strong," Mills says. "Because, you know there's a lot of people who don't see this as about a tower issue and my hobby issue but see it as a property rights issue.

"And, a surprising number of people feel that you know this is a case of being told what to do on your own land which a lot of people see as appropriate."

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

--

This appears to be an tower and antenna case that may be with us for some time and we keep watching it in future, Amateur radio Newsline reports. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

THOUGHT PROVOKING ESSAY: 25 THINGS VANISHING FROM AMERICA: HAM RADIO IS #16

Ham radio is one of the top 25 things vanishing from America. In fact its number 16 according to author Tom Barlow, N8NLO, in his opinion piece on the walletpop dot com blogging website.

In his July 17th article, Tom Barlow says that an easy way to prolong a disaster is to have the respondents use dozens of different, incompatible communications systems, or operate them with no protocol as was the case during Hurricane Katrina. He also laments about what he calls

the vanishing American treasure of the amateur radio operator.

According to N8NLO, over the past five years alone, the number of people holding active licenses has dropped by 50,000. This, even though passing a Morse code exam is not longer a requirement to obtain a license.

And while some might take issue with that 50,000 figure and others will provide other numbers to prove ham radio is growing Barlow says that somerthing else is far more important. That being the tradition that hams have always been there to volunteer. He says that he knows them to be among our nation's best trained and most capable respondents in time of disaster.

Barlow concludes by saying that when amateur radio as we know it disappears, it won't be the radios we'll miss. We'll miss the operators.

This walletdrop dot com series "25 Things Vanishing From America" explores aspects of our nation that may soon be just a memory. And whether or not you agree with what he says you can read the complete Tom Barlow article about ham radios possible disappearance on-line at www.walletpop.com/2008/07/17/top-25-things-vanishing-from-america-16-ham-radio/
(walletdrop.com)

**

RADIO SCAMS: E-MAILS ASKING PERSONAL INFO ARE NOT FROM THE ARRL OR ARNEWSLINE

Both Amateur Radio Newsline and the American Radio Relay League appears to have had our e-mail addresses spoofed once again. Spoofing is a method that criminals on the Internet use to get you to reveal your personal information to them by pretending to be someone or something else. Maybe a bank, a credit company or even a person you know and trust. The information request itself is called phishing. It's the Internet version of throwing out an offer and hoping that some sucker will respond.

In our case, last week we began receiving bounced e-mails with our e-mail address a the sender. The messages asked people to click a link and provide information so that they would be eligible for a prize. If you got one, don't click on it. Just delete it. It was a phishing expedition but we cannot tell you what was on the click to website. We never looked at it because our web browser Firefox warned that it was an infected site and never let us get there.

If you did go there, we suggest that you run your ant-virus and anti-spyware software so as to be sure your computer was not infected with some malicious mal-ware or spyware.

Meantime the ARRL reports on its website that it has received several notes from members with arrl.net e-mail accounts who have also recently been contacted via e-mail asking for personal information. The ARRL says that these the e-mails requested personal information such as user names

and passwords.

The League says that these e-mails are fraudulent attempts at "phishing" and did not originate from ARRL. It says that there is never a time when it would ask via mass e-mail for user names and passwords of arrl.net users.

The bottom line: If you receive an e-mail asking for personal information and it looks like it originated from Amateur Radio Newsline or from the ARRL, please do not respond or click a link. Just delete it. Your bank account and you will both be a lot happier that way. (ARNewsline(tm), ARRL)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the AA4ED repeater serving Broward County, Florida.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESTRUCTURING: UK FOOUNDATION LICENSE FACE LIFT

The very popular United Kingdom Foundation class and the Intermediate class licenses are getting a first makeover. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, is in Nottingham, England, and has the details:

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A new version of both the Foundation and Intermediate syllabus have been released, which will take effect from 1st June 2009.

Additional material will be added to both the Foundation and Intermediate course. From that date, the Foundation will additionally cover conductors and insulators but the major change is to the Intermediate exam.

It will now cover some material previously in Advanced, such as alternating currents and voltages. This will significantly increase the technical level of the Intermediate exam.

I'm Jeramy Boot, G4NJH.

--

The new schedule of questions and training materials will not apply until 1st June 2009 so any exams held before then will still use the current syllabus. (GB2RS)

**

RADIO SAFETY: HAM AND SON ELECTROCUTED IN KC

Back in the United States comes word of a tragedy. Two men identified as Edward Thomas, KC0TIG, of Kansas City, Kansas, and his son Jacob were electrocuted Sunday July 13th after the ham radio antenna they were installing came into contact with overhead high voltage electrical service.

Neighbors of the victims called emergency crews for help, but the father was dead when they arrived. The younger man passed away after arriving at a hospital. No one else was hurt

According to an Internet poting by Chuck Kraly, K0XM, the parties involved, were installing a mostly fiberglass Comet antenna that came in contact with a single 7,620V power line. Kraly says that he is well familiar with electrical power service in that part of the city as he is the technician that built and maintained the substation that fed the circuit.

K0XM notes that the wires you see going through the residential areas are at a minimum 7200 volts from each wire to ground, and between any two of them is 13,800 volts. He says that he has seen a fault totally vaporize a 1" solid copper buss wire. He also notes rhetorically: "Imagine what it can do to a human." (KMBC News on-line, N0UF, N0IRS, QRZ.com, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: FCC TO HOST PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS SUMMIT

The Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security
Bureau says it will host a summit on pandemic emergency preparedness from 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. on September 16th. Titled "Enhancing Communications Response for Health Care and First Responders," the meeting will focus on communications and coordination among the health care sector, first responders, government and industry in preparation for a pandemic type event.

A panel discussions will highlight ways that communications may be expanded and enhanced in response to a pandemic. It will also cover methods of how the communications industry will serve an instrumental role in such a response.

The summit will be open to the public, though admittance is limited to the seating available. You can pre-register online at www.fcc.gov. The deadline for pre-registration is September 12th. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: ND RADIO STATION FINED FOR AIRING PHONECALL

The FCC has issued a $12,000 fine against radio station giant Clear Channel Communications. This, for an incident on KFGO- AM in Fargo, North Dakota, in 2006 where the Commission claims the station broadcast a phone conversation without first informing the caller of its intention to do so.

The action is in response to a complaint by a listener named Sandy Blunt. Blunt is identified as a former state agency official. The audio was from a voicemail he had left on the private cell phone of one of the station's

hosts named Joel Heitkamp who is a former North Dakota state senator.

Heitkamp said he believed the message to be an open record because Blunt was a public figure, he knew he was being recorded.. He claims that the call came to Heitkamp's work phone, not a private cell phone as the FCC reported.

But the commission says that its Enforcement Bureau had previously ruled that an outgoing personal answering machine message is a "conversation" for
purposes of the rules. As such, nonconsensual broadcast of a conversation from an answering machine recording is a definite violation of the agency's rules. (FCC)

**

RADIO HAPPENINGS: CB IS ALIVE - WELL AND GROWING AGAIN

If Canadian writer Jeffrey Reed was a Monty Python fan, he might have written a lead line 11 meter C-B radio isn't dead yet, its just been resting. Instead, his in-depth article on the resurgence of 11 meters appearing in the July issue of Popular Communications takes an in depth look at why the once popular form of communications is suddenly making a comeback among the driving public.

Reed, who did quite a bit of research for his article titled "Ready to Roll With CB Radio" says that anyone who believes that Citizens Band Radio has gone the way of the Dodo bird really needs to think again. He says that the spectrum of legal C-B operations from 26.695 to 27.404 MHz is truly alive, well and living in your neighborhood.

Reed contends that unlike the C-B culture of the 1970's that was fueled by movies such as Smokey and the Bandit, that the C-B operations of 2008 bring with it a more mature mode of communicating. He notes that even with all of the latest in high-tech on the go communications that most professional drivers still have simple C-B serts mounted in their trucks that they use for daily on the road communications.

Jeffrey Reed's article deals only with legal in-nband C-B. It also dispels many myths about 11 meter operation and highlights some of the legal gear that's available in todays 11 meter marketplace. "Ready to Roll With CB Radio" is a good read and begins on page 16 of the July issue of Popular Communications magazine. (Popcomm)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: CHANGE OF COMMAND AT COMMAND TECHNOLOGIES

Some names in the news. First is Daniel Simmonds, KK3AN of Somerset, Pennsylvania. He has been chosen to continue operations of amplifier manufacturer Command Technologies following the retirement of company founder Patrick Stein, N8BRA.

Simmonds is 32 and has been a licensed Amateur Radio operator since 1990. He is currently active on all HF bands from 160 to 10 meters.

As part of the changeover the Edon, Ohio based company will soom move to a larger facility in Somerset, Pennsylvania. Stein who began Command Technologies back in 1978 says that he will stay very close to the company's internal operations for the next several months during the move. He will also remain available for customer contact through this period. (Command Technologies)

**

NANES IN THE NEWS: JOHN LINFORD G3WGV NEW PRESIDENT OF SOTA

John Linford, G3WGV has been named the new President of the United Kingdom-based Summits on the Air or SOTA program. Linford is actually the inventor and founder of the Summits on the Air program. He and Richard Newsted, G3CWI, developed the original set of rules which are largely unchanged to the present day. They pair launched Summits on the Air on March 2nd 2002. (GB2RS)

**

HAM RADIO ON VIDEO: TODAYS PEOPLE PASTED TO YOUTUBE

Another ham radio video has been added to YouTube dot com, and this one has a rather interesting history.

Back in the late 1980's almost all the ham radio documentary and promotional videos were produced by the trio of Frosty Oden, N6ENV, Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF and the late Roy Neal, K6DUE. The three would regularly toss ideas to one another. One of Bill's was a weekly cable television show aimed at 12 to 18 year olds that had a teenage host interviewing hams who had gained some level of fame.

To see if it could work a show pilot was produced. It was called Today's People and was hosted by then 18 year old Kelly Howard, N6PNY. Howard previously co-hosted the ARRL's "The New World of Amateur Radio" with K6DUE. The person she interviewed was the late Senator Barry M. Goldwater, K7UGA.

Unfortunately, the show was never sold into syndication and the master tape of the 7 minute pilot was lost. That is it was lost until the other day to when Bill was cleaning up a closet and found a VHS copy of the show. Not wanting it to be lost forever he converted it to a D-V-D and then got the idea of putting it up on the YouTube bot com video sharing website. If you want to see it and maybe get a bit of inight into the late senator Barry M. Goldwater, K7UGA, the video is there now at www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Jss9FYmzq8

And less we forget. We don't know why the audio on YouTube sounds a bit compressed. On the VHS tape and the upload file made from the tape it sounds fine. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

HAM RADIO ON VIDEO: OSCAR 10 AND OSCAR 13

And from Germany comes word that Peter Gï¿½lzow, DB2OS has uploaded full-length videos about the integration and launch of OSCAR-10 and OSCAR-13 to a video sharing website. Also placed on-line was a video from the Software Defined Transponder demonstration from the recent HamRadio 2008 convention held in Friedrichshafen. Both are at http://en.sevenload.com/search/amsat/videos (AMSAT DL)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: HAM FEST INDIA 2008

Turning to the amateur radio social calendar, word that HAM Fest India 08 will be held October, 11th and 12th. The event is hosted by the Gujarat Institute of Amateur Radio. More information is on-line at www.hfi2008.com (VU3DHX)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: 30th CLIPPERTON DX CLUB HAMVENTION.

And if you are planning to be in France this fall, word that the 30th annual Clipperton DX Hamvention will be held in the Poitou Charente area from September 19th to the 20th. For more information about forum activities including dinners, please visit www.cdxc.org/index-f.htm on the World Wide Web. (Southgate)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH: NBC TO USE OLYMPICS AS A MEDIA LAB

The NBC television network will be using the 2008 Summer Olympic gamess as a research laboratory. This, to get a sense of how people are using different media platforms to experience the Beijing Games that begin August 8th.

NBC has scheduled 3,600 hours of Olympics programming on its main network, along with Telemundo, USA, Oxygen, MSNBC, CNBC and Bravo. That's the equivalent of eight days of programming packed into each day. In addition, the company is planning to make 2,200 hours of streaming video available on NBCOlympics.com. Consumers may also get video on demand via their computer and Olympics content through their mobile phones.

NBC hopes its research provides a comprehensive picture of how people are supplementing TV viewership with tools such as video streaming, video on demand and mobile phones. (RW)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AO-51 POWER DOWN A BIT

In ham radio space related news, AMSAT says that he transmitter power on its AO 51 ham radio satellite has been down lately. This, due to the length of eclipse that peaked about 2 weeks ago.

According to AO-51 command station Gould Smith, WA4SXM, in Knoxville, Tennessee, the eclipse periods will continue to get shorter until September. That's when the satellite will be in full sunlight with no eclipse period for about 8 months.

WA4SXM says at present AO-51 is operating at 430 milliwatts on its digital downlink and T at 470 milliwatts on its analog downlink. During the peak of the eclipse periods both transmitters were operating only in the 340 milliwatt range. (AMSAT)

**

ON THE AIR: THE OHIO STATE PARKS CONTEST IN SEPTEMBER

On the air, the Portage County Amateur Radio Service announces the first Ohio State Parks On The Air Contest to be held on Saturday, September 6th from 1600 UTC to 2400 UTC. This contest places a premium on working stations at Ohio State Parks. That means that it is critical to have as many parks activated as possible.

The challenge for Ohio stations will be to work HF in the 50 to 300 mile range. Contacts can be made with any mode on the HF and VHF bands. Complete information, some frequently asked quests along with answers and forms can be found at parks.portcars.org. (Portage ARC)

**

WORLDBEAT - SOUTH AFRICA: STUDY GRANTS FOR COLLEGE AGE HAMA

Turning to news from across the globe, the South African Amateur Radio Development Trust is introducing an annual study grant program. This, for young licensed radio amateurs who wish to enter a University or University of Technology to study electronics and communication.

The study grant will contribute a specific level of funding towards the students first year of study. The aim of the project is to encourage young radio amateurs to enter careers in communication and electronics. (SARL, Southgate)

**

WOLDBEAT: NEW BROCHURE FROM THE SARL

We also have word of a new brochure explaining ham radio being made available on the World Wide Web courtesy of the South African Radio League. The four page handout takes the reader into the historic aspect of the hobby and then explains where ham radio is today and where its headed in the near future. It also demonstrates just how to get a license and what a person can do on the air once he or she has passed a licensing exam.

The brochure is in full color and has been formatted as a P-D-F file for easy printing. While intended for a South African audience, it could easily be modified to fit almost any nations ham radio recruiting needs. You will find it ready to be download at www dot sarl dot org dot za. (Southgate)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: QRP ON THE MARCH

A group of Australian hams are about to take a walk in the Southern hemispheres winter. They do it every year and will be spending nearly a week far from civilization, camping in the snow with only amateur radio to keep in touch with the outside world. Jim Linton, VK3PC has more:

--

Three radio amateurs and a number of friends are making final plans for their annual cross country skiing in the wilderness of the Bogong High Plains in north-east Victoria.

They are to spend the 30th of July to the 4th of August camping in the snow, and during rest periods play amateur radio.

Matt VK3HFI, Gerard VK3JPA and Stephen VK3SN will use several repeaters in VK1, VK2 and VK3 as well as 160-metres through to 20-metres in the afternoons and evenings.

Their QRP stations, powered by solar panels and batteries will radiate from simple wire antennas, plus hand-held VHF/UHF transceivers. Listen for the trio and give them a call.

I'm Jim Linton VK3PC and you're listening to trhe Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Listen out for the group mainly when its dusk and nighttime, in Australia. (WIA News)

**

DX

In DX, word that PA5M is now active from Tomor Leste as 4W6AAB for about 5 weeks. His activity will be limited to his spare time using only a 100 watts and a vertical. He has been heard on 20 meters around 14.047 MHz between 0530-0615 U-T-C. His QSL Manager is PA7FM.

JA2IVK will be active from the Maldives as 8Q7SH between July 18th and the 20th on 80 through 10 meters. He will be using only CW and SSB using 100 watts to a vertical. QSL via JA2IVK, via the bureau or direct to his QRZ.com address.

DL5XX, will be on a business trip in Ghana and plansto be active during his free time as 9G5MM between July 15th and August 10th. Hi opeation will be on all bands using only CW. QSL via DL5XX.

Lastly, DO7ZZ will once again be active from Croatia operating VE3ZIK portable 9A. This, between July 23rd and August 23rd. Activity will be on the HF bands only, using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31, PSK63 and 10m FM. There is a chance to be active for one day operation portable E7 from Bosnia-Herzegovina. QSL via DO7ZZ via the bureau

(Above from OPDX and other DX News sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: A SALUTE TO ISRAEL HAM RADIO GROUP

And finally, our story of a few weeks ago on ham radio support for the 2008 New York City Salute to Israel Parade has brought in a lot of mail, a lot of e-mail and even a bit of controversy. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, who worked on that event and others like it in the 1960's tries to clear it all up:

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When you sit down to write stories as I do every week, there's no way to know where one of these might take you. Or where it might take those who might be listening in when a newscast goes to air.

Our story a few weeks ago about the hams who provide communications support to this years New York City Salute to Israel Parade seems to have been one of those rather special ones. A story that has taken on a life of its own and one that has taken some radio amateurs on a trip through time.

First off, what it did was to bring Newsline together with a group of hams who had served with the parade in years past. Some of them had long ago moved away from the Big Apple and were no longer aware that volunteer ham radio support was still continuing more than four decades after the first march.

One of the first things that we learned was that in the first parade in 1964 that organizers tried using 11 meter C-B. They requested or were offered the assistance of the now defunct Manhattan CB Radio Association. It did not work out very well and by 1965 it became primarily a ham radio only event.

There seems to be a bit of disagreement as to who did what during the earliest of the ham radio years. Thanks to some excellent archiving by past Dayton Radio Amateur of the Year Andy Feldman, WB2FXN, there is proof positive that from 1967 on, communications for the parade became a formal ham organization. One that Feldman co-chaired for several years with the

late Louis Belsky, K2VMR.

Before that there's nothing on paper. Just one photo dated from July 1966 and some amateur radio folk lore to show that hams were involved.

And if you think that's complex, how about this.. A RACES group from the borough of the Bronx, also contacted us with proof from QST Magazine that they were also a communications provider to the parade in 1967. This at a time when the official parade program listed only the ham radio group headed up by the Brooklyn-based WB2FXN and K2VMR.

But there is a much brighter side. The story seems to have lead to a lot of folks who had a common interest in providing volunteer radio communications for the Salute to Israel Parade to get to know one another. 40 years is a long time yet our story seems to have bridged the years. As a result there is a brand new remailer on Yahoogroups reflector for those who have in the past been communications volunteers to the New York City Salute to Israel Parade. Its billed as a place for them to meet on-line and discuss their experiences.

If you are a Salute To Israel Parade ham radio alumni communicator, and if you are interested in joining this remailer, please send an e-mail to STIParade@yahoo.com. In the body of your note give your full name, your callsign and the years that you were a ham radio volunteer to the event. The administrator will end back an e-mail with a formal invitation to join. And we hope it brings you a lot of joy.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, in the 1960's as WA2HVK and now WA6ITF, in the studio in Los Angeles.

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Again, that e-mail address for amateur radio alumni of New York City's Salute to Israel Parade to join the remailer is STIParade@Yahoo.com. The list administrators say that they hope to see you on board. (ARNewsline(tm))

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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754. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-18 13:05:14 UTC
From: Larry Weil <kc1ih@mac.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9ADEB90819C7Fkc1ihmaccom@216.168.3.30>
Source record: 2625

Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com> wrote in
news:s5fq74ddv9rrbql4s6ht0qhks07k3v6ej8@4ax.com:

> On Tue, 15 Jul 2008 08:32:00 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>
>>Besides pushing Congress, one of the things I think we hams could do
>>to help the process is to never refer to amateur radio as "a hobby" or
>>even worse, "just a hobby". While most hams do radio simply as an
>>avocation, IMHO the word "hobby" carries with it a sort of meaning
>>that it's not a serious thing worthy of protection.
>>
>>
> Then what do we call it? Avocation? Pasttime? no, none of these
> terms seem appropriate, either.
>
> I know! It's emergency preparation and training. Now that's sounds
> impressive..
> 73 de Dick, AC7EL

How about "service". The Amateur Radio Service!

73 de KC1IH

755. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-18 23:28:42 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <t4adnfzuCrmHuhzVnZ2dnUVZ_vadnZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2626

"Mike Coslo" wrote

> If it is true that there is no land available in either Dallas or Tucson
> that would allow antennas, then that is indeed sad. I simply would not
> live
> there.

Mike, there is land and housing in Tucson that allows antennas, but in general, as far as I know either you have to be "out in the county," or in an older, very established neighborhood. That seems to be "in general," as I'm sure there are exceptions. But if you want a new, modest home in a typical family-oriented subdivision, it is not at all likely you'll find one that allows antennas. If you've "got money," then your options are greater.

Howard N7SO

756. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 28 (Friday, July 18, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-19 00:13:26 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080718194536.9C6F531044@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2627
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 28
July 18, 2008
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + ARRL Board of Directors Meets July 18-19 in Connecticut
* + New 70 cm Coordination Agreement Reached for New England
* + Kansas Ham, Son, Electrocuted While Erecting Antennas
* + Court of Appeals: FCC Must Reimburse Fees Stemming from BPL
Challenge
* + ARRL, FCC Meet in Washington to Discuss BPL Remand
* + W1HQ Notes ICOM Donations
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ No ARRL Audio News July 25
+ E-mails Asking for Personal Information Not from ARRL
Robert Dickinson, W3HJ (SK)
W1AW/KL7 to Operate from Arctic Circle

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

============================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS JULY 18-19 IN CONNECTICUT

The ARRL Board of Directors holds their second meeting of 2008 July
18-19 in Windsor, Connecticut. All Directors, Vice Directors and ARRL
Board officers are in attendance, with the exception of Southeastern
Vice Director Sandy Donahue, W4RU. The meeting, which begins Friday and
continues through Saturday, was preceded on Thursday with meetings of
the Administration and Finance Committee and the Programs and Services
Committee.
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The Administration and Finance Committee (A&F), chaired by Northwestern Division Director Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, study, advise and make recommendations for all administration and financial matters of the League, including recommending the annual budget to the Board, making recommendations in regard to staff management and interfacing with the ARRL Foundation on fundraising issues. Fenstermaker said he can report "a successful first half of 2008 with increased workload from membership increased and requests for services remaining high. Staff has done a good job, satisfying the needs of members. The committee continues to review new programs and opportunities to serve the members and grow Amateur Radio. We will continue to leverage our opportunities and foster a positive perception of Amateur Radio as a viable and fun avocation. "

The Programs and Services Committee (PSC), headed by Midwest Division Director Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, study, advise and make recommendations for all programs and services provided by the League, including Logbook of The World, W1AW and the incoming and outgoing QSL services. "PSC has oversight of our Field Organization and its volunteers, membership programs such as operating awards and contesting, the Education and VEC departments and W1AW. In spite of the slow return of sunspots, interest in on-air events and LoTW is trending up, which is great. Our biggest task has been a yearlong study of Section governance. We will report our findings and recommendations to this board meeting," Frahm said.

More information on the July meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors will soon be available on the ARRL Web site and in The ARRL Letter.

==> NEW 70 CM COORDINATION AGREEMENT REACHED FOR NEW ENGLAND

In the next step of developing a long-term procedure to mitigate interference to the Air Force PAVE PAWS radar site at Cape Cod Air Force Station in Massachusetts, the ARRL has brokered a deal that will allow new coordinations to be considered by the New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC) on the 70 cm band.

ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, has been engaged in discussions with Lou Harris, N1UEC, of NESMC; USAF Colonel Chris Gentry, commander of the Cape Cod PAVE PAWS Radar installation, and Dave Pooley of Air Force Space Command Headquarters, to craft additional procedures that would allow NESMC to consider new or modified 70 cm repeater applications.

"The plan being put into place will allow NESMC to resume 70 cm coordination while putting into place some checks and procedures which will allow the Air Force to be notified when a new repeater is going on the air within the area around the radar sites," Henderson said. "NESMC continues as the frequency coordinator for amateur repeaters, which is their role."

The ARRL will work with NESMC on Longley-Rice modeling to obtain an estimated signal strength at the radar of the new repeater. Once this occurs, Henderson said the ARRL will "then make a recommendation -- based on our knowledge of current repeater signals -- if the proposed

repeater should be at or near limits that that should allow it to operate without interference to the radar."

Henderson added that this is not an exact science: "Some levels of degradation of the radar receiver levels are only detectable by precise testing. The unit of the Air Force that provides that testing only visits the Cape Cod site about once a year. It is possible that a repeater that had been in operation for a while under the new procedures would have to address an interference issue when that future testing is performed."

Calling it "fortunate" to have Harris, Pooley and Skinner involved in the process, Henderson said, that if successful, "The procedures being put into place can serve as a model for addressing the same issues in other situations which might arise, such as the mitigation project around the PAVE PAWS site at Beale Air Force Base in California."

Part of the new agreement includes the ARRL serving as the point of contact for the Air Force if new interference is detected. "The ARRL is providing a mechanism whereby and future interference issues can be immediately addressed and hopefully resolved," said Henderson. "It makes sense to have a 'first step' whereby an amateur is given the opportunity to address concerns before a more formal FCC interaction would have to be considered by the Air Force. This plan hopefully provides that step."

The agreement does not inject the ARRL into a formal role in repeater coordinations; the role of the League in the coordination process will be simply to provide the NESMC coordinator with an assessment of the proposed repeater's signal strength, as well as potential for interference at the radar site. "While we do not have the specific receiver sensitivity requirements, Air Force officials have indicated our previous calculations for repeaters already involved are 'in the ball park,'" Henderson stated. "We should be able to provide NESMC with a relatively informed assessment for any new repeater, but the final decision on whether to coordinate a repeater remains in the hands of NESMC."

==> KANSAS HAM, SON, ELECTROCUTED WHILE ERECTING ANTENNAS

While putting up backyard antennas on the afternoon of Sunday, July 13, Edward Thomas, KC0TIG, of Kansas City, Kansas, and his son Jacob were electrocuted. Edward, 65, was pronounced dead at the scene. Jacob, 27, was rushed to the hospital but died later that day. Initial reports suggest that the antenna they were installing came in contact with 7620 V power lines. Neighbors reported a "loud popping sound" and the electricity went out on the block.

Jacob's 7 year old daughter witnessed the tragedy and ran to the neighbor's yard, calling for help. Byron Kirkwood and another neighbor attempted to perform CPR on the men; the neighbor also called 911. Robert Mullendore, a spokesman for the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (KCBPU), was quoted by Kansas City television station KSBH as

saying it is rare to survive a shock as strong as the two men received: "There are people who will survive -- they're lucky by the grace of God, it's high energy, it's dangerous, that's why it's up in the air -- you just have to be careful. Even those who survive have pretty wicked wounds and they are lifelong wounds." In the power business for more than 30 years, the spokesman said these accidents are "really rare," saying that he only sees something like this "every two or three years. If you're doing any kind of work like this, you just really, really need to be aware of your surroundings."

Chuck Kraly, K0XM, used to work for KCBPU; he built and maintained the substation that fed the circuit going to the Thomas home: "This is nothing to take chances with. In my almost 30 years as a ham -- and 27 years in the power utility field -- I have seen way too many 'accidents.' Stop and look. If it is close or seems that way -- don't. Find another place. High voltage lines are not forgiving. Your life depends on it. Please follow the warnings. Anywhere close is too close." -- Thanks to Larry Staples, W0AIB, and others who contributed to this story

==> COURT OF APPEALS: FCC MUST REIMBURSE FEES STEMMING FROM BPL CHALLENGE

The United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has ordered that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reimburse ARRL for the docketing fee and the cost of reproducing copies of briefs and appendices in the ARRL's successful challenge of the FCC's broadband over power line (BPL) rules <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/>.

The Order, issued on July 9 following review of an opposition from the FCC and a reply from the ARRL, awarded the ARRL's full claim of $6,096.18 <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/appealCostAwardOrder2008jul09.pdf>. Commenting on the Order, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, observed: "While this is just a small fraction of the cost of our judicial appeal, the Order is significant because the Court did not buy the FCC's arguments that the ARRL had only achieved 'partial success' in its appeal and that our claim of costs was excessive."

Sumner continued: "In addition, the FCC falsely claimed that the ARRL 'was unsuccessful in persuading the Court to vacate the rules it challenged.' In fact, the ARRL never sought to do so since the BPL rules adopted by the FCC, inadequate as they are, were still better than nothing. The award of these fees affirms that, contrary to the 'spin' the FCC has tried to put on the Court's remand, the ARRL substantially prevailed in its appeal."

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One of the most important activities that ARRL engages on behalf of its members is representation in Washington. Generous member contributions to The ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund support a full menu of activities that

help protect our Amateur Radio spectrum, including important meetings in Washington. Your contribution by mail, phone or on the Web is vital <http://www.arrl.org/defense>.

==> ARRL, FCC MEET IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS BPL REMAND

On July 9, ARRL officials -- President Joel Harrison, W5ZN; Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD -- met with members of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology to discuss the recent US Court of Appeals decision regarding broadband over power lines (BPL) <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6520033586>. In that case, the Court agreed with the ARRL on two major points and remanded the rules to the Commission.

According to Imlay, the meeting was convened to discuss "a possible regulatory approach" to BPL with the FCC. Suggestions put forth by ARRL "would address the needs and concerns of Amateur Radio operators in avoiding harmful interference from [BPL systems] while imposing the minimum necessary regulatory obligations on BPL deployments."

The ARRL understands, Imlay said, that "there are at this point rules that could be adopted which would, at once, (1) protect Amateur Radio communications from predictable harmful interference from BPL; and (2) permit broadband over power line systems to operate in the 3 to 80 MHz range without significant constraint and without substantial redesign or retroactive build outs."

==> W1HQ NOTES ICOM DONATIONS

Earlier this month, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, presented ICOM Division Manager Ray Novak, N9JA, and ICOM Sales Representative Pat Marcy, W7PZ, with a plaque, thanking ICOM for its support of ARRL stations W1AW and W1HQ throughout the years. ICOM recently donated an IC-756PROIII and an IC-746PRO to W1HQ, the ARRL's Laird Campbell Memorial HQ Operators Club station <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/02/13/101/?nc=1>.

Kutzko, who serves as President of W1HQ, said it was "a real treat to get W1HQ operational again as a thriving club station. ICOM has been an enormous help in getting the W1HQ back on the air. With the addition of the 756ProIII, we are able to take our DXing and contesting pursuits to the next level at the club. The 746Pro has also been a valuable addition; we are now on-the-air on 6 and 2 meter SSB and CW."

Kutzko said he is proud that several newly licensed employees at ARRL HQ have also had the opportunity to operate VHF+: "This has allowed some of our Technician licensees to go from working amateurs on the local repeater system to working stations in Spain, Portugal and the Canary Islands on 6 meters. I am grateful to ICOM for opening those doors for us and continuing the education -- and recreation -- of our employee amateurs."

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "...the setting Sun dropped from the zenith like a falling star" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: If today is like yesterday and the day before that, it will be the 26th consecutive day with no sunspots. Think this is bad? At the last solar minimum, there were only four days showing any sunspots between September 5 and October 24, 2006. For this week, geomagnetic conditions should mild in the beginning and increasing later. Predicted planetary A index for July 18-24 is 8, 5, 5, 5, 10, 15 and 12. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions for July 18, quiet to unsettled July 19-20, quiet again on July 21 and unsettled July 22-24. Sunspot numbers for July 10-16 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 65.4, 65.7, 64.9, 65.2, 65.6, 65.7 and 64.6 with a mean of 65.3. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 7, 21, 14, 10, 7 and 7 with a mean of 10. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 6, 16, 10, 9, 7 and 4 with a mean of 7.7. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend is the NCCC Sprint Ladder on July 18. The Feld Hell Sprint and the VK/Trans-Tasman 160 Meter Contest (CW) are July 19. Look for the DMC RTTY Contest, the North American QSO Party (RTTY) and the CQ Worldwide VHF Contest on July 19-20. On July 20, check out the RSGB Low Power Field Day and the CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is July 21, the SKCC Sprint is July 23 and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (Data) is July 24. Next weekend is the NCCC Sprint Ladder on July 25 and the RSGB IOTA Contest on July 26-27. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, July 20, 2008 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, August 1, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010), Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001), Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006), Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009), Analog Electronics (EC-012) and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors

assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* No ARRL Audio News July 25: There will be no ARRL Audio News on Friday, July 25. The ARRL Letter will be available that day. ARRL Audio News will return on Friday, August 1.

* E-mails Asking for Personal Information Not from ARRL: We have received several reports from ARRL members with arrl.net e-mail accounts who have recently been contacted via e-mail asking for personal information, such as user names and passwords. Please be assured that these e-mails are fraudulent attempts at "phishing" and did not originate from ARRL. According to ARRL Information Technology Manager Don Durand, "This is a very crude attempt at phishing, using an easily determined spoof of the originating/return address. There is never a time when we would ask via mass e-mail for user names and passwords of arrl.net users. There is simply no need to ever do so." If you receive an e-mail asking for personal information and it looks like it originated from ARRL, please do not respond, just delete it.

* Robert Dickinson, W3HJ (SK): Robert Van Cleft Dickinson, W3HJ (ex-W2CCE), of Zionsville, Pennsylvania, passed away May 28. He was 79. A Fellow of the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers and a member of the IEEE, Dickinson, a long-time ARRL Technical Advisor, wrote the chapter on cable television interference in the second edition of "The ARRL RFI Book." ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, remembered Dickinson, saying, "In the early 1980s, as the cable industry was developing, the relationship between the cable industry and Amateur Radio was not good. Early systems were leaky and interference problems -- especially on 2 meters -- were common. Dickinson helped change that; he agreed to serve as a liaison between the ARRL and the National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA). It took years, but over time -- as improvements in the construction of cable plants and firm guidance from NCTA to cable operators who did not promptly correct interference problems -- his work helped the cable industry flourish with good coexistence with licensed radio services. This has served as a model for ARRL's relationship with other industries." ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, echoed Hare's thoughts: "We are saddened by the loss of Bob Dickinson, W3HJ, a good friend of ARRL and Amateur Radio. Bob's keen interest in League activities on behalf of our Service was evidenced by his generosity as part of the ARRL Diamond Club for five years, as well as his financial support of the Spectrum Defense Fund and the Education & Technology Fund." Dickinson is survived by his wife Jessie, four children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

* W1AW/KL7 to Operate from Arctic Circle: Just 300 miles south of the Alaskan Arctic Ocean -- where the Arctic Circle crosses the Dalton Highway (66 degrees, 33 minutes north) -- W1AW/KL7 will be on the air (grid square BP56) July 26-August 10 on all bands from 160-6 meters. This ARRL 2008 Alaska State Convention Special Event Station plans to run two HF stations operating CW, SSB and digital, one satellite station and one station devoted to 146.52 MHz. The Alaskan summer skies are ablaze with gray line-enhanced propagation effects, providing six to eight hour spurts of activity to most of the ham radio world. W1AW/KL7 plans to be active from 0600 UTC-1400 UTC to maximize gray line propagation. From Alaska, signals will take off in both directions at the same time: Europe to the East on one side, with Asia to the West on the other side. For an illustration of how Arctic gray line propagation works, see page 21 in the August 2008 issue of QST. The 2008 Alaska ARRL Convention will run from August 1-4, 2008 in Anchorage. For more information, please see the W1AW/KL7 Web site <http://www.akhamfest.com/arcticcirclespecial.php>.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW

bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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757. Interesting Amateur Radio Statistics

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-20 15:45:20 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <64baff32-579f-492c-9f38-a7adf13d07d3@d45g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2628

W3HF has posted some interesting license-number statistics at:

http://www.geocities.com/w3hf/LicenseStats.htm

These numbers are derived from his Callbook collection.

Some points of note:

- There were years in the 1960s-70s when the number of US hams
declined or grew very slowly.

- The Technician class appeared to grow very rapidly for a few years
after 1991. But the Tech Plus was not listed separately from Tech
until 1995. Once that change was made, the Tech Plus class grew very
quickly and the Tech actually declined for a while as licenses were
reclassified.

- At one point, just 14 years ago, there were over 101,000 Novices.

- There were only about 5,000 Extras in 1967, less than 2% of the
total. Conditionals, OTOH, made up about 15% of the total.

It's not clear if the totals include grace-period licenses or not.
>From comparisons to other sources it appears that the Callbook numbers
do include grace-period licenses. The grace period was one year when
the license term was 5 years and is now 2 years.

Thanks to W3HF for posting the info.

73 de Jim, N2EY

758. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-20 23:41:08 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <1vi784h0he8ob5mo0psdkk970lhkt1b4j9@4ax.com>
Source record: 2629

On Wed, 16 Jul 2008 15:30:19 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

>Another tactic is to ask if you can put up an antenna, and if the answer
>is no, then politely say, "Too bad-see you later!". If the real estate
>agent loses a few sales for something silly like that, then they will
>start looking into it.

We did that when we went looking for this house 9 years ago. Our
Realtor was firmly in our camp, but the houses just weren't there. We
turned down three houses that were nicer than the one we're in just
because of that. Our other "must have" was that it had to be within
one block of a bus stop. That we are.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

759. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-20 23:53:39 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <0fj784h6vkcdqdf272slhcvh91j6l44n44@4ax.com>
Source record: 2630

On Wed, 16 Jul 2008 20:45:50 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>There was also the issue that watching TV in one's home, be it a tiny
>studio apartment or a giant estate or anything in between, was a
>right of any resident, rental, owner, condo, etc. Nobody wanted to
>deny *that* right!
>
>Amateur radio doesn't have the same protections.

"... among those rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of
happiness.... (from that radical document, the Declaration of
Independence)

I pursue my happiness with a K2 and an all-band antenna....

What the _Howard_ case said is that an amateur license doesn't grant a
right to erect any antenna of the licensee's choosing (as against the
regulatory authority of the jurisdiction filtered through PRB-1).

It's still basic, though, that a HOA Rule or CC&R cannot prohibit
amateur radio operation per se.

(I don't play a lawyer on TV, I'm too busy being one...) < ggg >
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
ARRL Volunteer Counsel

email: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

760. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-21 00:20:30 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <u5l78491h6llt655o2v3n4ab7f0h6qhes4@4ax.com>
Source record: 2631

On Wed, 16 Jul 2008 20:51:14 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>There are, such as RF power amplifiers for HF and low VHF. While it is
>certainly possible to build the solidstate equivalent of, say, a
>single-3-500Z HF amplifier, the SS version costs more and is less
>efficient.

Yet the broadcast industry is going to SS as fast as they can.
Modular in design, if one "final" module fails, the power gets reduced
but they stay on the air. If a "final" tube fails, it's February
2009 much sooner. Reduction in maintenance costs outweigh capital
investment. I don't think that you can buy a new AM broadcast
transmitter below 50 KW that isn't SS all the way, and there are
plenty of SS 50 rigs in service.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

761. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-21 02:12:12 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <MuCdnSo2qMSJcB7VnZ2dnUVZWhednZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2632

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Wed, 16 Jul 2008 20:51:14 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>
>> There are, such as RF power amplifiers for HF and low VHF. While it is
>> certainly possible to build the solidstate equivalent of, say, a
>> single-3-500Z HF amplifier, the SS version costs more and is less
>> efficient.
>
> Yet the broadcast industry is going to SS as fast as they can.
> Modular in design, if one "final" module fails, the power gets reduced
> but they stay on the air. If a "final" tube fails, it's February
> 2009 much sooner. Reduction in maintenance costs outweigh capital
> investment. I don't think that you can buy a new AM broadcast
> transmitter below 50 KW that isn't SS all the way, and there are
> plenty of SS 50 rigs in service.
> --
>
> 73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
>
>>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
> Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon
>
> e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net
>

The SS transmitters don't sound as good as their tube counterparts: I
worked at a station that had a SS transmitter in the 5K class, and
whenever we switched the "old" unit on so we could maintain the new one,
I heard a noticeable improvement in sound quality. It was subtle, and I
was in the business, but it was definitely there.

The management loved the SS unit because it took less power, but I was
disappointed with the sound.

My 2ï¿½.

73,

Bill W1AC

--
Bill Horne
(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

762. Re: Interesting Amateur Radio Statistics

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-21 13:35:24 UTC
From: LA4RT Jon Kåre Hellan <dev@null.com>
Message-ID: <1mtzej1s1s.fsf@persaunet.uninett.no>
Source record: 2633

Are there statistics about tests taken anywhere?

We're never going to know what proportion of license holders are
active (whatever that may mean). Test numbers are a much more
sensitive (and possibly misleading) indicator.

73
LA4RT Jon

763. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-21 13:36:03 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <5363c8ea-1ea1-4f76-9a74-64a370aa1d43@l64g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2634

On Jul 20, 8:20 pm, Phil Kane <Phil.K...@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> On Wed, 16 Jul 2008 20:51:14 EDT, N...@aol.com wrote:
> >There are, such as RF power amplifiers for HF and low VHF. While it is
> >certainly possible to build the solidstate equivalent of, say, a
> >single-3-500Z HF amplifier, the SS version costs more and is less
> >efficient.
>
> Yet the broadcast industry is going to SS as fast as they can.
> Modular in design, if one "final" module fails, the power gets reduced
> but they stay on the air. If a "final" tube fails, it's February
> 2009 much sooner. Reduction in maintenance costs outweigh capital
> investment. I don't think that you can buy a new AM broadcast
> transmitter below 50 KW that isn't SS all the way, and there are
> plenty of SS 50 rigs in service.

Of course! But that shows the difference between Amateur Radio and
other services.

Perhaps I should have specified that the comparisons I was making were
between SS and tube amps meant for Amateur Radio service, particularly
HF and VHF service.

A broadcast transmitter has to be ultra-reliable and built for
continuous service. At 8760 hours in a standard year, it doesn't take
long for a component with an expected life of 10,000 or 20,000 hours
life to require replacement. Which BC folks tend to do on a schedule,
rather than waiting for failure to force the issue.

But with a very few exceptions, an amateur transmitter spends very
little time actually transmitting. I'd guess that most active amateurs
are on the air less than 1000 hours per year (that's about 2-3/4 hours
per day, every single day), and when they are on the air, most spend
at least half their time listening. OTOH, most amateurs will change
frequency at least once in a while...

So while the BC station owner can justify the purchase of an SS
transmitter based on lower maintenance costs, the amateur is usually
more limited by first-cost.

73 de Jim, N2EY

764. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-21 13:36:45 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <99b689d6-2b7c-4180-b4de-b6c468a02010@z66g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2635

On Jul 18, 7:28 pm, "Howard Lester" <heyles...@dakotacom.net> wrote:

> there is land and housing in Tucson that allows antennas, but in
> general, as far as I know either you have to be "out in the county," or i
n
> an older, very established neighborhood. That seems to be "in general," a
s
> I'm sure there are exceptions. But if you want a new, modest home in a
> typical family-oriented subdivision, it is not at all likely you'll find
one
> that allows antennas. If you've "got money," then your options are greate
r.

As previously observed, one can only buy what is for sale when one is looking to buy. There are several houses near me that I would gladly move to - but they're not for sale, and haven't been for at least a decade.

And unlike many other purchases, moving has a lot of upfront costs in the form of fees, taxes, and expenses connected with the sale of one place and the purchase of another. Many of them are priced as a percentage of the house price, too. While it is possible to get around a lot of them if you know what you're doing, most of us don't buy and sell real estate often enough to be any good at doing that, and are well-advised to hire pros for the job.

I am curious, though, about some things that seem pretty common in amateur discussions about HOAs and CC&Rs.

It seems to me that a lot of amateurs insist on a new house, or at least a newer house, meaning something no older than 10-20 years. Older homes are simply off the radar, for some reason. Is it just me, or is this a real trend? What's behind it?

73 de Jim, N2EY

765. Receiver kits?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-21 18:25:45 UTC
From: Richard Crowley <rcrowley@xp7rt.net>
Message-ID: <6ek2kqF7ierlU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2636

Does anybody make board-level, good-quality receiver kits anymore?
I'm talking about products like the Hamtronics receivers (which are
either discontinued, or no longer available in kit-form). Either fixed-
tuned, or user-adjusted.

Richard
KE7GKP

766. Re: Receiver kits?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-21 20:29:11 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <OICdnWQlg9wEchnVnZ2dnUVZ_gCdnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2637

They're taking orders for SoftRock V5.0 right now. Under $35.00 if I heard right.

Try this URL (I haven't checked it out)
http://www.amqrp.org/kits/softrock40/version5.html

Sebentytree,

K0HB
Most Reverend Sniffer of the Fumes of Flux

767. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-22 01:52:15 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g62ti2ups1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2638

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Jul 18, 7:28 pm, "Howard Lester" <heyles...@dakotacom.net> wrote:
>
>> there is land and housing in Tucson that allows antennas, but in
>> general, as far as I know either you have to be "out in the county," or i
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>> an older, very established neighborhood. That seems to be "in general," a
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>> I'm sure there are exceptions. But if you want a new, modest home in a
>> typical family-oriented subdivision, it is not at all likely you'll find
> one
>> that allows antennas. If you've "got money," then your options are greate
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>
> As previously observed, one can only buy what is for sale when one is
> looking to buy. There are several houses near me that I would gladly
> move to - but they're not for sale, and haven't been for at least a
> decade.

Respectfully Jim, I think that is just simplified too much.

While it is true within itself, It is possible to get the house that you want, and with the features you want.

You just might have to wait a while. We looked several times before we bought the place we are in now. Some times we just didn't buy.

This is the part that I do that is apparently foreign to many. The is no law that says that we have to buy a house, some house, any house. One can live in an apartment for a while, or as we did, a mobile home. It took about 2 years, but we got a real bargain at the price we wanted, in the neighborhood we wanted. Sold the mobile home for nearly what we paid for it, and were out only the lot rent. House rent would have been a bit more outlay, but it's still worth it to get the house you want.

I did the same thing with a motorcycle I bought recently. I could have bought new or what the dealers wanted and had the bike I wanted in around 15 minutes. I looked and waited for a month to find a motivated seller, and got a good bike for thousands less.

And back to Ham radio, I have bought all my used radios that way. Got an IC-745 for $250, and my latest, an IC-761 for 300 dollars. I just had to wait and pounce at the right time.

Patience will reward you. Buy exactly what you want, not the one that you think is best when you first start looking

> I am curious, though, about some things that seem pretty common in
> amateur discussions about HOAs and CC&Rs.
>
> It seems to me that a lot of amateurs insist on a new house, or at
> least a newer house, meaning something no older than 10-20 years.
> Older homes are simply off the radar, for some reason. Is it just me,
> or is this a real trend? What's behind it?

Jim, what I think it is is that we are hearing mostly from those who are having trouble putting up an antenna, and since they are mostly from the newr home group, they are more likely to be people who insist on a newer home. Just a guess.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

768. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-22 04:07:57 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <ee298ad5-6280-44c6-971a-1e8c16d3a48f@y38g2000hsy.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2639

On Jul 17, 4:17 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Jul 16, 7:45 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Jul 16, 3:30 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>
> > There are plenty of unrestricted places on the
> > market *now*, because of
> > the RE market slump and the mortgage crisis.
>
> Maybe in your area, but where I live CC&R's are the rule
> and they will
> all pretty much restrict antennas for ham radio use. It all depends
> on when the average house was built in your area. The standard > way
> this works here in the Dallas area is developer buys large tract of
> land, applies CC&R's to the tract, subdivides and develops the
> land to
> sell the houses he builds. He throws in a pool and play ground
> across
> from the model homes which is owned by the HOA that gets
> created by
> the CC&R's. 99-100% of the new homes available in the area
> I live will
> come with CC&R's based on these boilerplates. (Personally I
> know of
> NO new homes in my current price range for sale with 10 miles of
> my house that won't have CC&R's.)

That's pretty much the pattern for developments everywhere. And not
just large developments either.

There is an way, however. Doesn't work all the time but it has worked
in some, and may be worth a try in this RE market.

(insert standard "not a lawyer" disclaimer HERE)

The way deed restrictions & covenants work in the areas I know of is
that they are recorded when the property is first sold. And of course
one of the restrictions is that each owner has to pass the
restrictions on to the next owner.

But in some cases, the first buyer can say "NO!" to the developer, and
get restrictions removed *before* the sale. So while the rest of the
properties may be restricted, that one isn't.

HOA rules are another issue completely, but the same approach may
work.

In a market where the developer is desperate to sell, a buyer who is ready to sign on the dotted line if certain conditions are met may be a big incentive to remove some boilerplate.

However, this is not something to try without expert RE legal counsel to make absolutely sure you have airtight exemption *before* you sign anything. Verbal assurances mean nothing; it's gotta be in clear writing and properly recorded.

Of course you've got to be ready to simply walk away if they say no or even if they hem and haw.

> I've seen only ONE subdivision in my area that would have allowed
> antennas in their CC&R's but it was a very special case. The
> CC&R's
> didn't originate with a builder, but where adopted by the land
> owners
> AFTER the subdivision was plated. Those CC&R's where a model > of
> simplicity and basically dealt with keeping unsightly things to a
> minimum. (Keep your house painted a normal color and in good
> repair,
> no junk cars, lawns mowed, fences in good repair etc.)

That brings up another point: Local governments pawning off responsibility.

In every house I've lived in, things like no junk cars, lawn mowing, barking dogs, trash, general repair and such were handled by various government ordinances about nuisances. Be a bad neighbor and the local gendarmes will show up with a notice of violating some ordinance or other.

IMHO some local governments, rather than pass and enforce such ordinances, depend on the HOAs and CC&Rs to do it for them. "Keeps the taxes down" is their excuse, but of course the enforcement comes out of HOA fees.

> The problem is that the big builders have boiler plate CC&R's that
> change very little between subdivisions. All of these boiler plates
> contain restrictions on antennas and are constructed to never
> expire.

Not just big developers either.

> More and more land is becoming off limits to ham radio
> antennas and
> this is a bigger problem in areas that have been under active
> development for the last 20-30 years such as Dallas.

The cure is for lots of people to write Congress and get them to order FCC to expand the OTARD preemption. FCC has clearly said they will do it when Congress tells them to.

> Therefore I have to object to the "just move" response to the plight
> of hams in CC&R communities. It may be an option for some,

> but for
> others it may not. At some point I may choose to move, and
> CC&R
> restrictions on antennas will likely be something I look at. I can
> tell you that I won't be able to buy a comparable house for the
> same
> money without CC&R's in Murphy or the surrounding area. There
> are
> areas that allow them, but they do not compare with where I live in
> price or age.

IMHO, one of the things that keeps the price of restricted houses down is the restrictions! Another is the HOA fees and added cost of keeping the place up to HOA standards. I've seen it in action.

> Yes, I could drive 40 more miles a day and perhaps find
> something that would work, but with the cost of driving these
> days Iï¿½d
> be moving into less of a house for sure to make ends meet.

40 miles a day in a small car is maybe $6 in gas....

IMHO, a house where you can't have antennas is less of a house than one where you can.

> There are fundamental
> problems with CC&R's and pesky HOA's under the current
> law. Depending
> on how they are drafted, they can end up causing some
> seemingly very
> unreasonable consequences for homeowners that may not be
> obvious by reading them.

Such as?

The one I can think of off-hand has to do with energy. As far as I can tell, the days of cheap plentiful energy are ending, and we're going to see higher prices not just for gasoline but for electricity and natural gas.

One way to cope will be to use less energy and to use alternate technologies. For example, whenever the weather is nice I hang clothes on the line rather than use the dryer. Saves a couple of kWh per load. At 15 cents per kWh it adds up, plus in the summertime it reduces the load on the air conditioner.

Some folks around here have solar hot water heaters that reduce the need for the regular hot water heater to turn on. The panels are on the roof, facing south.

We may someday see low-cost wind and solar electric power systems for homes. Depending on the wind and sun conditions where you live, and how much electricity costs, they may someday be a reasonable

alternative for part of the electrical load.

But if CC&Rs ban such things, some folks will be very unhappy.

> Personally, I think they should be put under some
> really strict legal limits and the powers of HOA's strictly limited.
> But all that is another issue...

Not really. Part of the problem is that a lot of folks don't really know what they're getting into when they buy.

Friend of mine bought into such a place, and after some time discovered that the upstairs windows leaked. The construction was rather slipshod IMHO but caulk had worked for a couple of years. But now he had a major job to fix the problem.

But he couldn't just fix it - he had to get HOA approval every step of the way. He had to buy exact replacement windows, even though better ones were available for the same money, because the better ones weren't HOA approved. He had to get a certain kind of trim and paint and such, at high prices, not because it was high quality, but because the stuff wasn't stock anymore.

What was a simple project that could have been a major improvement turned into a major headache that cost lots more time and money.

> All in all I can only hope that this CC&R Craze comes
> to an end pretty
> soon. I don't think they are as much a benifit to
> landowners as they
> are thought to be. But until they fall out of favor to the public or
> get pre-empted by law they will only increase in coverage.
> Personally, that scares me.

Me too!

The problem is that it doesn't scare most folks.

They've been pretty standard for more than 30 years in some places. And in a lot of cases the homeowners don't really own the land!

73 de Jim, N2EY

769. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-22 06:00:04 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1216706402@panix.com>
Source record: 2640
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

770. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-22 06:05:02 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1216706701@panix.com>
Source record: 2641
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

771. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-22 12:58:21 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <89qdnfsOlt76TxjVnZ2dnUVZ_g6dnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2642

N2EY@aol.com wrote:

> The way deed restrictions & covenants work in the areas I know of is
> that they are recorded when the property is first sold. And of course
> one of the restrictions is that each owner has to pass the
> restrictions on to the next owner.
>
> But in some cases, the first buyer can say "NO!" to the developer, and
> get restrictions removed *before* the sale. So while the rest of the
> properties may be restricted, that one isn't.

While this might give you the legal right to erect an antenna (and it might not; I'm not a lawyer either), I would look carefully at other factors before considering it. Let me illustrate what I'm trying to say by building two scenarios:

1. The development has large lots and the neighbors are pretty laid back. You buy the house and erect an unobtrusive antenna. Your neighbors don't notice, and the ones who do don't care.

2. You erect a tower on your tiny lot and hang a bunch of antennas on it, creating what looks like a masterpiece to your eyes and an eyesore to your neighbors. Since the people who bought in the development are particularly sensitive to such things, they make your life miserable even though they have no legal recourse.

The scenarios are deliberately exaggerated to make the point that the legal situation is only one aspect of living in a community. If the other members of the community have a strong mindset about what's appropriate and you're outside that mindset, there will be an issue. You have to live with these people. If they, as a group, feel strongly enough that you're acting inappropriately they'll get their way, deed restrictions or not.

73, Steve KB9X

772. deed rescrtions was something else

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-22 17:55:42 UTC
From: an old friend <kb9rqz@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <fe04df80-f443-4476-b83d-1a181b9f0ccb@a70g2000hsh.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2643

On Jul 22, 8:58 am, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > The way deed restrictions & covenants work in the areas I know of is

> The scenarios are deliberately exaggerated to make the point that the
> legal situation is only one aspect of living in a community. If the
> other members of the community have a strong mindset about what's
> appropriate and you're outside that mindset, there will be an issue.
> You have to live with these people. If they, as a group, feel strongly
> enough that you're acting inappropriately they'll get their way, deed
> restrictions or not.

when did this become a nation of Sheep?

yes can have difficulties with neighboors but without legal recourse
sooner or later the nighboor would have the recourse of criminality or
moving themselves.

of course if you are more concerned about others wishes than your own
needs ....

thank the gods I live out in the country with my 50 plus acres of
treees

773. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-22 17:57:09 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g655ob$195q$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2644

Steve Bonine wrote:

> 1. The development has large lots and the neighbors are pretty laid
> back. You buy the house and erect an unobtrusive antenna. Your
> neighbors don't notice, and the ones who do don't care.
>
> 2. You erect a tower on your tiny lot and hang a bunch of antennas on
> it, creating what looks like a masterpiece to your eyes and an eyesore
> to your neighbors. Since the people who bought in the development are
> particularly sensitive to such things, they make your life miserable
> even though they have no legal recourse.

Steve, that is a good point. While I can put up anything within reason, I have went with unobtrusive antennas. Some of my neighbor know about the antennas, and some don't.

Get along with the neighbors!

> The scenarios are deliberately exaggerated to make the point that the
> legal situation is only one aspect of living in a community. If the
> other members of the community have a strong mindset about what's
> appropriate and you're outside that mindset, there will be an issue. You
> have to live with these people. If they, as a group, feel strongly
> enough that you're acting inappropriately they'll get their way, deed
> restrictions or not.

This brings up another thought. I wonder how many times a person who has trouble with the neighbors might have trouble with them in other areas. Some times an antenna fight might just be a proxy for personality clashes.

Also a bit of friendly explanation can go a long way. When I put up my first dipole, the neighbors across the street came out to ask what I was doing. Natural enough when they saw the crazy guy on the roof with a slingshot and fishing line. I explained exactly what it was, and told them about it's uses, especially about emergency communications. I gave a few examples, such as the lower Ontario disaster that happened a few years before.

I even noted that in really bad disasters, I could patch them through to their relatives to let them know they were okay - if the local phones went out.

It can be a lot easier sell when they can see that it might be a benefit to them. Our locale was the site of a couple major wintertime disasters in the last 10 or so years. Big winter storms that came early and brought trees down that still had leaves on them, knocking out power and phone for several days, as long as a week in some areas. The

collective response was, "I'll be, that's pretty cool".

A tray of cookies or brownies once in a while or the occasional beer doesn't hurt either! Hard to get too mad at people you break bread with.

Contrast that to demanding your right to put up whatever you darn well please, and if the neighbors don't like it, they can can it. We all know which one works better.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

774. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-22 18:00:00 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <f133333e-72ad-4574-bfb4-8a6a29502e5a@56g2000hsm.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2645

On Jul 21, 9:52 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Jul 18, 7:28 pm, "Howard Lester" <heyles...@dakotacom.net> wrote:

> > As previously observed, one can only buy what is for sale when one is
> > looking to buy. There are several houses near me that I would gladly
> > move to - but they're not for sale, and haven't been for at least a
> > decade.
>
> Respectfully Jim, I think that is just simplified too much.

Without being argumentative, Mike, I think not.

> While it is true within itself, It is possible to get the house that you
> want, and with the features you want.

> You just might have to wait a while. We looked several times before we
> bought the place we are in now. Some times we just didn't buy.

Agreed in most cases. But there are probably exceptions out there. I
don't know
what it's like trying to buy real estate in Tucson or Dallas, for
example.

> This is the part that I do that is apparently foreign to many. The is no
> law that says that we have to buy a house, some house, any house. One
> can live in an apartment for a while, or as we did, a mobile home. It
> took about 2 years, but we got a real bargain at the price we wanted, in
> the neighborhood we wanted. Sold the mobile home for nearly what we paid
> for it, and were out only the lot rent. House rent would have been a bit
> more outlay, but it's still worth it to get the house you want.

It all depends on the situation.

For one thing, there's the money aspect, which is a big one for a lot
of us. Living in a rented space means no deductions for interest or RE
taxes, and no equity building.

When the RE market is rising, waiting too long can be a big problem.
If the house values
are rising faster than your purchasing power, you can find that this
year you can't afford a house that you could have afforded last year.
(Of course this causes people to buy *now*, which raises prices, and
the circle keeps rolling...)

It is a common story here to meet folks who could not afford the house
they live in if they had to buy it today, because the house prices

went up much faster than their income.

Besides pure $$, there are factors like the kids' education. At least in PA, the public schools your kids attend depends on where you live, and different school districts have very different levels of quality. In many areas the house prices reflect that. I've seen similar houses on opposite sides of the same street priced 20% differently, because one was in the highly-rated Podunk School District and the other in the good-but-not-as-highly-rated Squeedunk School District. On top of that, pulling the kids out of one school and dropping them in another may not be the best idea if there's any other option.

> I did the same thing with a motorcycle I bought recently. I could have
> bought new or what the dealers wanted and had the bike I wanted in
> around 15 minutes. I looked and waited for a month to find a motivated
> seller, and got a good bike for thousands less.

Sure. But everyone needs a place to live; not everyone needs a motorcycle. More important, real estate isn't portable.

> And back to Ham radio, I have bought all my used radios that way. Got an
> IC-745 for $250, and my latest, an IC-761 for 300 dollars. I just had to
> wait and pounce at the right time.

(cue Jacques Coustea narration)

....ze barracuda waitz patiently for ze most taztee prey to svim by.....

> Patience will reward you. Buy exactly what you want, not the one that
> you think is best when you first start looking

Agreed, but RE is different. For one thing, it costs so much more. $300 for a rig is a different thing than $300,000 for a house. The ham who can afford a couple of $300 rigs probably can't afford a couple of $300,000 houses.

Plus if you choose right you can try a variety of used rigs for relatively little money. The main cost is shipping. Buying and selling RE you live in is a completely different game!

And in many areas $300,000 doesn't buy a lot of house.

Most of all, depending on your given set of criteria, it may be a very long time before the house you really want comes on the market.

> > It seems to me that a lot of amateurs insist on a new house, or at
> > least a newer house, meaning something no older than 10-20 years.
> > Older homes are simply off the radar, for some reason. Is it just me,
> > or is this a real trend? What's behind it?
>
> Jim, what I think it is is that we are hearing mostly fro
m those who
> are having trouble putting up an antenna, and since they are mostly from

> the newr home group, they are more likely to be people who insist on a
> newer home. Just a guess.
>
Possibly, but the question remains: Why a new or newer house?

73 de Jim, N2EY

775. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-22 20:30:28 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <150d0ac7-80c4-43ad-8024-b9babd79923e@p25g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2646

On Jul 21, 11:07 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> On Jul 17, 4:17 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> > On Jul 16, 7:45 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> > > On Jul 16, 3:30 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>
> (insert standard "not a lawyer" disclaimer HERE)

Same for me... I'm not a RE lawyer either...

>
> The way deed restrictions & covenants work in the areas I know of is
> that they are recorded when the property is first sold. And of course
> one of the restrictions is that each owner has to pass the
> restrictions on to the next owner.
>
> But in some cases, the first buyer can say "NO!" to the developer, and
> get restrictions removed *before* the sale. So while the rest of the
> properties may be restricted, that one isn't.

Well, looking at the legal process that went on before I purchased my
house, this isn't going to work. The CC&R's are actually recorded for
the whole property before it was plated and sold to the developer. At
least in my case, these restrictions where already recorded before the
developer owned the lot. There are over 300 lots in my subdivision
and for the developer to except one of the lots, he would have to own
them all, remove the restrictions on them all and reapply them to all
but one. I got a feeling that they won't go to this much trouble.
Yea, they may give you a "The HOA will allow antennas on your lot"
letter, but that would only be good for as long as the developer owned
enough lots to retain control of the HOA and actually cared to live by
the agreement. After that, it would be worthless.

> HOA rules are another issue completely, but the same approach may
> work.

In my case the HOA rules are spelled out in the CC&R's (for the most
part). They have some latitude in some areas of appearance, but not a
lot. My CC&R's actually specify the maximum heigth of the grass in
you yard.

> However, this is not something to try without expert RE legal counsel
> to make absolutely sure you have airtight exemption *before* you sign
> anything. Verbal assurances mean nothing; it's gotta be in clear
> writing and properly recorded.
>

Very good advice. Get a lawyer BEFORE you need one. Having all the
"I's" dotted and "T's" crossed legally is the best way to proceed. By
the time you need one, it's going to be too late.

>
> > More and more land is becoming off limits to ham radio
> > antennas and
> > this is a bigger problem in areas that have been under active
> > development for the last 20-30 years such as Dallas.
>
> The cure is for lots of people to write Congress and get them to order
> FCC to expand the OTARD preemption. FCC has clearly said they will do
> it when Congress tells them to.

We can also go to the City, County, and State and ask for preemptive
rules for Part 97 antennas. I get the impression that one might have
more luck in those venues than in Congress. I've seen more than one
antenna bill get introduced into congress with pretty good support
only to get buried in committee and never to be seen again. I don't
see that changing anytime soon.

>
> > Yes, I could drive 40 more miles a day and perhaps find
> > something that would work, but with the cost of driving these
> > days Iï¿½d
> > be moving into less of a house for sure to make ends meet.
>
> 40 miles a day in a small car is maybe $6 in gas....

Compared to my current 6 mile/day bill of $0.60 using that car is
pretty expensive. I'm also 6'7" so it's kind of hard to find a car I
can fit into and get good mileage.. But we are moving off track.

> > There are fundamental
> > problems with CC&R's and pesky HOA's under the current
> > law. Depending
> > on how they are drafted, they can end up causing some
> > seemingly very
> > unreasonable consequences for homeowners that may not be
> > obvious by reading them.
>
> Such as?

For example... Say the HOA doesn't like the current color of your
fence. You live on a fixed income and cannot paint the fence but the
ACC changed the rules and now your fence is unacceptable. HOA
eventually assess fines, charging you for each day the fence is not
painted. They file leans on your property to secure the debt and you
could loose your house, all because the "rules" changed and you didn't
agree to the change.

> > Personally, I think they should be put under some
> > really strict legal limits and the powers of HOA's strictly limited.

> > But all that is another issue...
>
> Not really. Part of the problem is that a lot of folks don't really
> know what they're getting into when they buy.

Some do but the fine details about what can happen would be lost on most of us. In Texas things get pretty crazy. I've read a case where a guy got a lot with deed restrictions that didn't allow "mobile homes". He started to have a pre-fab modular home built on the lot and got hauled into court by the HOA for trying to install a "mobile home". He ended up loosing the case after nearly 5 years of having a half completed house he couldn't live in. Paid substantial fines too. Crazy Texas courts where they attempt to take the most liberal interpretation in favor of the HOA they can.

> Friend of mine bought into such a place, and after some time
> discovered that the upstairs windows leaked. The construction was
> rather slipshod IMHO but caulk had worked for a couple of years. But
> now he had a major job to fix the problem.
>

Oh, I know how that goes. My dad made the mistake of getting the windows changed without consulting the HOA. Hooo Boy, what a mess that was.

I got a letter from the HOA telling me to mow my lawn... OK, but I had proof that my lawn was being mowed each week for the entire summer (can you say cancelled checks to the lawn care guys) and I'm sure the yard wasn't getting out of hand enough to warrant a nasty letter from the HOA in a week. I figure it was a mistake, but I can just see some guy hired by the HOA driving his Honda though the neighborhood looking for "violations" scratching notes in a book. (In our case it's a lady in a orange corvette that works for the management company. I know, I spotted her a few times before I saw her at the last HOA meeting.)

Also, I don't dare try and "hide" a stealth antenna in plain sight. It's like the SS is driving around looking for a justification for the high fees the management company charges. For some reason they can see 18 gauge bare copper coming off the back of my house heading for the back fence. (Oh yea, I got a letter on that one too.) I could barely see it from the street, knowing it was there.

I wonder what the smallest gauge wire I could try for a 75M dipole that would stay together for a reasonable length of time? I'm also got a bit of ladder line I'm thinking I'll use to feed a loop antenna running along the edge of the roof secured with Christmas light holders.. I wonder if they will see that too?

Flagpoles are a highly touted option (Just hide a vertical in one) but there are issues there too. In order to be safe, (and legal in some cases) I'd need to consider RF exposure limits and take steps to keep somebody from getting too close to the flagpole in the front yard. If

they allowed the flagpole to go up without comment a fence, or some kind of screening, is going to get HOA attention.

Iï¿½ve considered trying to appeal to the HOA board for some minor allowances. Like giving me the ability to put up things that are hidden behind the house with perhaps just the top 20ï¿½ of a vertical visible above my roof or allowing some antenna supports hidden behind my house with just small wire visible from the street. The problem with that is that I donï¿½t know where to start with them. Iï¿½ve considered running for the board to increase my pull, but I just donï¿½t have the time right now.

Has anybody had any success with getting an HOA to allow this kind of thing, in spite of the clear restrictions in the CC&Rï¿½s?

-= Bob =-

776. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-22 20:30:39 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <04382952-8d81-401d-ad38-a22368f6eeb6@y38g2000hsy.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2647

On Jul 22, 12:57 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>
> Contrast that to demanding your right to put up whatever you darn well
> please, and if the neighbors don't like it, they can can it. We all know
> which one works better.
>

Well I don't know about you but my wife has a LOT more to say about my
antenna aspirations than the neighbors ever will. She's not going to
allow anything she considers an eyesore to go up. She sees me gawking
at some of the antenna farms around and makes it clear I won't have
one that looks like that!

Of course this puts me in a difficult situation. When I retire to the
country and get the 20 acres on the hill side. She's going to want
the house on the top of the hill and the antenna farm someplace else.

-= bob =-

777. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-22 23:14:43 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <ac5eaf89-7fdf-4264-bcd0-eff497d6b010@k30g2000hse.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2648

On Jul 22, 8:58 am, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > The way deed restrictions & covenants work in the areas I know of is
> > that they are recorded when the property is first sold. And of course
> > one of the restrictions is that each owner has to pass the
> > restrictions on to the next owner.
>
> > But in some cases, the first buyer can say "NO!" to the developer, and
> > get restrictions removed *before* the sale. So while the rest of the
> > properties may be restricted, that one isn't.
>
> While this might give you the legal right to erect an antenna (and it
> might not; I'm not a lawyer either), I would look carefully at other
> factors before considering it.

> Let me illustrate what I'm trying to say
> by building two scenarios:
>
> 1. The development has large lots and the neighbors are pretty laid
> back. You buy the house and erect an unobtrusive antenna. Your
> neighbors don't notice, and the ones who do don't care.

The problem is, how do you know the neighbors are pretty laid back
before you move in? Also, some folks consider *anything* different to
be "obtrusive".

> 2. You erect a tower on your tiny lot and hang a bunch of antennas on
> it, creating what looks like a masterpiece to your eyes and an eyesore
> to your neighbors.

This is where the question of "reasonable" comes in. A big tower on a
small treeless lot may not be "reasonable", while a simple vertical or
wire antenna would be.

A big tower on a big lot, screened by trees, is another thing
entirely.

> Since the people who bought in the development are
> particularly sensitive to such things, they make your life miserable
> even though they have no legal recourse.

The problem is that usually you don't know beforehand what sort of
neighbors you'll get.

The point I was making is that universal antenna restrictions on new
homes may not be a foregone conclusion in all cases if you know the
right approach.

Repeating an earlier warning: This is definitely a situation where
you'd want professional counsel (RE lawyer) to make sure you get what
you think you're getting.

> The scenarios are deliberately exaggerated to make the point that the
> legal situation is only one aspect of living in a community. If the
> other members of the community have a strong mindset about what's
> appropriate and you're outside that mindset, there will be an issue.
> You have to live with these people. If they, as a group, feel strongly
> enough that you're acting inappropriately they'll get their way, deed
> restrictions or not.

Maybe; it all depends on the situation. For example, not everyone who
buys into a restricted community cares or really knows about all the
restrictions; they may be buying on price alone, low maintenance, etc.
I've talked to a lot of folks who have no idea of the restrictions
they live under until they cross one.

Couple of problems I see all the time:

1) In many new developments, there are no trees of any size, no
fences, and all the utilities are buried. The few inconspicuous places
are used for the A/C condensers and the utility meters. The result is
that *anything* you put up is extremely visible to many neighbors.

2) In many new developments the houses are close together and the
ratio of building to ground is very high, and the roof is useless for
antennas for a number of reasons. Again, this makes anything different
stick out.

Both 1) and 2) are examples of how a lot of modern housing, even if
unrestricted, is not ham-radio-friendly.

3) In many cases all it takes to cause a problem is one or two
neighbors who don't like something. IOW "the Gladys Kravitz effect".
IOW there are people you cannot ever please.

There's a balance between doing whatever the neighbors might want, and
saying the heck with them, you'll do whatever *you* want. That balance
is the concept of "reasonable". And like Quality in "Zen And The Art
of Motorcycle Maintenance", almost everybody knows what "reasonable"
is (to them, anyway)
but almost nobody can exactly define it.

One more point:

A question I see all the time from some hams is "why would anyone buy
into/want to live under such restrictions?" or variations thereof.
Often there are declarations of how these things are evil,
unconstitutional, whatever, be they zoning ordinances, HOA rules, etc.

The answer I give is that it's often due to bitter experience, either
one's own or another's. All it takes is one or two really bad
neighbors ruin a neighborhood.

IOW, a lot of what drives this is fear that neighbors won't behave responsibly, or reasonably. Like the person who puts his trash on the curb on Thursday, for a pickup on Tuesday of the next week. Or the person who can't seem to find a paintbrush or a lawn mower.

73 de Jim, N2EY

778. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-22 23:20:26 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <d936ad4a-d1d8-4b32-8370-c42bb5cc0562@x41g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2649

On Jul 22, 4:30 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Jul 21, 11:07 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> > On Jul 17, 4:17 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> > > On Jul 16, 7:45 pm, N...@aol.com wrote:
> > > > On Jul 16, 3:30 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
> > (insert standard "not a lawyer" disclaimer HERE)
> Same for me... I'm not a RE lawyer either...

I'm not any kind of lawyer.

> looking at the legal process that went on before I purchased my
> house, this isn't going to work. The CC&R's are actually recorded for
> the whole property before it was plated and sold to the developer.

Well, there goes that idea in your case. But in others it may work.

> There are over 300 lots in my subdivision
> and for the developer to except one of the lots, he would have to own
> them all, remove the restrictions on them all and reapply them to all
> but one.

Maybe. Even if he bought them all, he may not have the right to repeal
the restrictions. It depends on the exact wording.

> > HOA rules are another issue completely, but the same approach may
> > work.
>
> In my case the HOA rules are spelled out in the CC&R's (for the most
> part). They have some latitude in some areas of appearance, but not a
> lot. My CC&R's actually specify the maximum heigth of the grass in
> you yard.

Think why that is.....

> Get a lawyer BEFORE you need one. Having all the
> "I's" dotted and "T's" crossed legally is the best way to proceed. By
> the time you need one, it's going to be too late.

I look at it differently. Unless you are an RE lawyer yourself, assume
you need one.

> > The cure is for lots of people to write Congress and get them to order
> > FCC to expand the OTARD preemption. FCC has clearly said they will do
> > it when Congress tells them to.
>
> We can also go to the City, County, and State and ask for preemptive
> rules for Part 97 antennas. I get the impression that one might have

> more luck in those venues than in Congress.

Probably not. Here's why:

The thing about deed restrictions and covenants is that they are considered private contracts. Most governments don't want to bust in on private contracts - or at least that's the excuse they give.

The one exception is that you cannot make a valid, legal contract to do something that is clearly illegal. Suppose A hires B to murder C, writes up a contract that they both sign, and A pays B in advance. But then B decides not to do the job. A cannot use the courts to get his money back from C for non-comission of a crime.

The OTARD ruling stemmed from the idea that the anti-TV-antenna rules effectively created an illegal cable-TV-provider monopoly, and restricted interstate commerce in doing so. The satellite TV folks had to go all the way to the Supremes to get that ruling, too.

As another example, it used to be legal to put all sorts of discriminatory restrictions in CC&Rs as to who you could sell the property to - race, ethnicity, religion, etc. Civil rights and equal housing laws made these illegal.

On top of that, the local governments, if they have any sense, will say it's the FCC's area, not theirs, and to go talk to them.

> I've seen more than one
> antenna bill get introduced into congress with pretty good support
> only to get buried in committee and never to be seen again. I don't
> see that changing anytime soon.

What is "pretty good support"? How many hundred thousand letters to Congress supporting it?

> > 40 miles a day in a small car is maybe $6 in gas....

> Compared to my current 6 mile/day bill of $0.60 using that car is
> pretty expensive. I'm also 6'7" so it's kind of hard to find a car I
> can fit into and get good mileage.. But we are moving off track.

Maybe not.

One of the big problems we have in the USA is that we're overdependent on rubber-tire, fossil-fuel-powered transportation. Consider your 300-unit development - does it include a shopping center you can walk or bike to? Or does almost anything require a car or truck ride?

Too much of our country is designed around the automobile, which leads to all sorts of problems. But it doesn't have to be that way - look at Portland Oregon for how things could be. (And it didn't used to be that way - towns and suburbs used to be built so that a car wasn't an absolute necessity).

> Say the HOA doesn't like the current color of your
> fence. You live on a fixed income and cannot paint the fence but the
> ACC changed the rules and now your fence is unacceptable. HOA
> eventually assess fines, charging you for each day the fence is not
> painted. They file leans on your property to secure the debt and you
> could loose your house, all because the "rules" changed and you didn't
> agree to the change.

Good point. I wonder if it could be argued that such rules effectively
create a monopoly for the paint company that makes the approved kind
of paint?

> > Part of the problem is that a lot of folks don't really
> > know what they're getting into when they buy.
>
> Some do but the fine details about what can happen would be lost on
> most of us. In Texas things get pretty crazy. I've read a case where
> a guy got a lot with deed restrictions that didn't allow "mobile
> homes". He started to have a pre-fab modular home built on the lot
> and got hauled into court by the HOA for trying to install a "mobile
> home". He ended up loosing the case after nearly 5 years of having a
> half completed house he couldn't live in. Paid substantial fines
> too. Crazy Texas courts where they attempt to take the most liberal
> interpretation in favor of the HOA they can.

The fundamental problem was that he was doing something they didn't
like. That's the key issue and the key question: why didn't they like
the prefab modular home?

> > Friend of mine bought into such a place, and after some time
> > discovered that the upstairs windows leaked. The construction was
> > rather slipshod IMHO but caulk had worked for a couple of years. But
> > now he had a major job to fix the problem.
>
> Oh, I know how that goes. My dad made the mistake of getting the
> windows changed without consulting the HOA. Hooo Boy, what a mess
> that was.

My friend dotted all the Is and crossed all the Ts. Point is, it cost
him a lot more because he had to get the exact approved windows and
such; he couldn't get the windows he wanted.

Could that be a monopoly, again?

> I got a letter from the HOA telling me to mow my lawn... OK, but I had
> proof that my lawn was being mowed each week for the entire summer
> (can you say cancelled checks to the lawn care guys) and I'm sure the
> yard wasn't getting out of hand enough to warrant a nasty letter from
> the HOA in a week.

But how long was it? The rules go by the length, not how often it's
mowed.

> Also, I don't dare try and "hide" a stealth antenna in plain sight.
> It's like the SS is driving around looking for a justification for the
> high fees the management company charges. For some reason they can see
> 18 gauge bare copper coming off the back of my house heading for the
> back fence. (Oh yea, I got a letter on that one too.) I could barely
> see it from the street, knowing it was there.

SHEESH!

> Has anybody had any success with getting an HOA to allow this kind of
> thing, in spite of the clear restrictions in the CC&Rï¿½s?
>
I'm afraid the problem there would be that the HOA would hide behind
the CC&Rs, saying their hands are tied. And they'd be telling the
truth.

I can think of one thing hams could do - a sort of "guerilla theatre",
as it were. (Perhaps I listened to Arlo Guthrie's "Alice's Restaurant"
a few times too many when I was younger....)

Suppose that a developer is having an open house or similar promotion
(expect a lot of them with the RE market the way it is).

And suppose a lot of nicely-dressed radio amateurs and their spouse
show up to look. They act eager and interested, comment on how nice
everything is, and how the place is just what they are looking for and
well within their price range. They start talking about preapproved
mortgages, where the furniture will go and what kind of drapes they'll
install, plus how much cash is in the checking account to make the
deposit.

Then they pull out a big measuring tape and start measuring the yard.
The agent will ask what they are doing, and they say they're figuring
out where the amateur radio antennas will go. "There's no rule against
them, right?" they ask. Of course the agent will have to tell them the
truth, because of disclosure laws.

As soon as the agent says "no antennas", they put all the literature
down, roll up the tape, say "Thanks but no thanks, we wouldn't live
here if you gave us the house", get in their car and drive away.

If one person does it, they'll think it's an oddity.

If a few people do it, they'll look into it.

If a lot of people do it, they may think it's a movement, and get the
message.

Waddya think?

73 de Jim, N2EY

779. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-23 01:48:17 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <osednavvzv1XEBvVnZ2dnUVZ_qDinZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2650

<N2EY@aol.com> wrote

> I am curious, though, about some things that seem pretty common in
amateur discussions about HOAs and CC&Rs.

> It seems to me that a lot of amateurs insist on a new house, or at
least a newer house, meaning something no older than 10-20 years.
Older homes are simply off the radar, for some reason. Is it just me,
or is this a real trend? What's behind it?

==========

In my case, I like nice and new because it's nice and new and clean, everything's under warranty, uses the "latest technology," it was built with my choice of its internals, including having coax run through the walls from the roof to my "shack" area.... and I could live with relatively stealth antennas. Why? Because the house itself is for me more a priority than is ham radio.

As for CC&R's, I knew it all going in, and I knew that I would be working with an HOA that is not run by a bunch of... I won't use the term.... I would *never* live under a regime like that. While it's a 200 home development, they are fairly flexible in what you can and cannot do. As I said earlier, I have had an MFJ Hi-Q Loop mounted in my backyard for 10 years, and no one has ever said a word. It works very well, as evidenced by all the DX I've worked with it. I had a Diamond 2m/440 antenna (40") mounted on the roof, also as visible as possible.

An HOA can be fired. If the majority of homeowners want to throw them all out and change the CC&R's they can. (I know, not likely, but the point is that it can be done.)

So while there are choices, there are choices. Choose wisely.

Howard N7SO

780. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-23 06:26:26 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <h5id841b25341jsls72olmf3jnrk5pl8oi@4ax.com>
Source record: 2551

On Mon, 21 Jul 2008 21:52:15 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

>This is the part that I do that is apparently foreign to many. The is no
>law that says that we have to buy a house, some house, any house. One
>can live in an apartment for a while, or as we did, a mobile home.

We moved from a 2-bedroom condo apartment when we ran out of room for what we wanted our living arrangements to be. We had no guest room for our kids (big issue while my divorce from their mother was being negotiated), no separate office and studio for each of us, a kitchen that was the size of a telephone booth for my wife the catering chef, and all the office furniture and my professional library was in a 10X10 storage cubicle after I closed my law office. We bunked in our kids' guest room for a month while our goods were piling up storage fees because we had to wait for our condo apartment to sell and clear escrow before we could put our equity into another home. There was no way we were going into an apartment and then having to pay for another move to a place that we would find "later on". We spent a week with the Realtor checking out deed restrictions and looking at places that might meet our needs - space, number of rooms, proximity to public transit, specialized medical services (I was legally blind at the time), easy travel to our congregation (the only one of our denomination in the entire state), freedom for onerous anti-ham ordinances and deed restrictions, a decent and safe neighborhood, and so on. After turning down three nicer homes (including one brand-new townhouse that the Realtor's researcher said "no CC&Rs" although the development literally screamed "restrictive CC&Rs" in my experience, we settled for this one. We still ran out of storage room and had to do a fair amount of rebuilding but I could put up my 12 antennas and my wife could resume her contract catering business - "but it's only one-half block from the bus stop", as my wife reminds me when we discover another problem with the 30+ year old house.

Priorities....
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

781. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-23 06:31:20 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <opjd84lnqc9f3jegh35nroccf276epnvem@4ax.com>
Source record: 2552

On Tue, 22 Jul 2008 00:07:57 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>But in some cases, the first buyer can say "NO!" to the developer, and
>get restrictions removed *before* the sale. So while the rest of the
>properties may be restricted, that one isn't.
>
>HOA rules are another issue completely, but the same approach may
>work.

According to California law - the one that I work with - the CC&Rs
are recorded before the first unit is built, and both state law and
common law holds that the restrictions run with the land. The "first
owner" legally is the developer.

I was lucky with the condo because the restriction was no antennas
without permission of the board, and I got that permission while the
developer was the "board" and the permission ran with my ownership and
occupancy of the unit.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

782. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-23 06:38:30 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <l9kd849ofe3fm6ndbg8l5qvvotuv68vii0@4ax.com>
Source record: 2553

On Tue, 22 Jul 2008 00:07:57 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>What was a simple project that could have been a major improvement
>turned into a major headache that cost lots more time and money.

California has a process of getting out from under, but it's a long haul. The owner has to prove that the restriction is unreasonable. We couldn't do that for Jimmy Rich's 75 foot tower (See _Hotz v Rich_ in the ARRL Antenna and Zoning Handbook).
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

783. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-23 06:49:11 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <aikd84lsvcf67im4a6p90j0d40i41qe44l@4ax.com>
Source record: 2554

On Tue, 22 Jul 2008 13:57:09 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

>This brings up another thought. I wonder how many times a person who has
>trouble with the neighbors might have trouble with them in other areas.
>Some times an antenna fight might just be a proxy for personality clashes.

We have a neighbor across the street who had a real bad case for us
about the condition of our lawn (neither of us has the strength or
stamina to really care for it) and the leaves that fall on our lawn
and get blown onto her pristine and well-cared-for lawn (that's all
she has to do all day....).

When I put up my antennas, including the R-8 vertical that sticks up
50 feet above the ground - not a peep. When we finally had the
offending trees removed and contracted with a lawn maintenance
company to take care of the property, she stood there and watched them
work all day. Not a word of "thank you".

At least she doesn't pound on our door and make threats like she used
to.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

784. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-23 07:03:11 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <4qld84papcp75qs8021l0g7vn0ir0bev3i@4ax.com>
Source record: 2555

On Tue, 22 Jul 2008 19:20:26 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>As another example, it used to be legal to put all sorts of
>discriminatory restrictions in CC&Rs as to who you could sell the
>property to - race, ethnicity, religion, etc. Civil rights and equal
>housing laws made these illegal.

Actually a SCOTUS case called _Shelly v Kraemer_ broke that
restriction many years before The Congress got around to legislation.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

785. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-23 07:08:29 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <ntld8495t02vb5ad3mo5mep3q3eko466uj@4ax.com>
Source record: 2556

On Tue, 22 Jul 2008 19:20:26 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>On top of that, the local governments, if they have any sense, will
>say it's the FCC's area, not theirs, and to go talk to them.
>
At least one state (Florida ?. New Hampshire ?) incorporated that
preemption of private contracts into their state "PRB-1" statute. The
US Constitution inhibits Congressional interference with the right of
contract (subject to the usual time, place, manner and least
restrictive means exemptions) but civil contracts such as CC&Rs are
creatures of state law and can be regulated by the state.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

786. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-23 12:53:35 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <be5eb882-1c1f-419d-b0c5-922133bbb47a@d77g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2557

On Jul 23, 3:03 am, Phil Kane <Phil.K...@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> On Tue, 22 Jul 2008 19:20:26 EDT, N...@aol.com wrote:
> >As another example, it used to be legal to put all sorts of
> >discriminatory restrictions in CC&Rs as to who you could sell the
> >property to - race, ethnicity, religion, etc. Civil rights and equal
> >housing laws made these illegal.
>
> Actually a SCOTUS case called _Shelly v Kraemer_ broke that
> restriction many years before The Congress got around to legislation.

This is why I include that "I am not a lawyer" disclaimer so often.

Thanks for the correction, Phil.

I guess the reason for the equal housing and other laws was to outlaw other forms of discrimination, such as the realtor who wouldn't show a house to the "wrong" people, lenders who had different lending rules depending on ethnicity/race/gender/religion, etc.

73 de Jim, N2EY

787. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-23 12:54:13 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <1f24b6b1-5d7f-479e-ac37-906c863d88af@t54g2000hsg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2558

On Jul 23, 3:08 am, Phil Kane <Phil.K...@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> On Tue, 22 Jul 2008 19:20:26 EDT, N...@aol.com wrote:
> >On top of that, the local governments, if they have any sense, will
> >say it's the FCC's area, not theirs, and to go talk to them.
>
> At least one state (Florida ?. New Hampshire ?) incorporated that
> preemption of private contracts into their state "PRB-1" statute.

Gotta find out which states - and add to the list!

Pennsylvania isn't one of them yet, I know that much.

> The
> US Constitution inhibits Congressional interference with the right of
> contract (subject to the usual time, place, manner and least
> restrictive means exemptions) but civil contracts such as CC&Rs are
> creatures of state law and can be regulated by the state.

Now I'm a little confused.

I recall reading that FCC has been repeatedly asked to extend the TV-antenna-preemption thing to amateur radio antennas, but has responded that they will only do so when Congress tells them to (in the form of legislation).

But now it looks like the state (not local) governments can, if they want, incorporate PRB-1 into their civil contract statues. I think this means they could declare too-strict no-antenna CC&Rs as "unreasonable" and therefore illegal.

If I understand this correctly, we hams have two avenues to pursue; state and federal.

73 es TNX de Jim, N2EY

788. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-23 12:55:00 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <04edfe05-cbb5-4ae0-8530-0bce292d1d1f@e39g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2559

On Jul 23, 2:31 am, Phil Kane <Phil.K...@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
> On Tue, 22 Jul 2008 00:07:57 EDT, N...@aol.com wrote:
> >But in some cases, the first buyer can say "NO!" to the developer, and
> >get restrictions removed *before* the sale. So while the rest of the
> >properties may be restricted, that one isn't.
>
> >HOA rules are another issue completely, but the same approach may
> >work.
>
> According to California law - the one that I work with - the CC&Rs
> are recorded before the first unit is built, and both state law and
> common law holds that the restrictions run with the land. The "first
> owner" legally is the developer.

So that idea won't work in California.
>
> I was lucky with the condo because the restriction was no antennas
> without permission of the board, and I got that permission while the
> developer was the "board" and the permission ran with my ownership and
> occupancy of the unit.

So you did a version of the second idea. That's great!

CC&Rs, HOAs and such are of interest to me because although I've
managed to avoid them in the homes I've owned so far, the trends are
not promising for the future.

I see a lot of (to me) strange development going on.

The first is the McMansion, a huge frame house on a relatively small
lot, with all sorts of restrictions. Incredibly priced, too, and you
don't even get sidewalks. How people are supposed to heat, cool and
maintain them as prices rise is beyond me.

The second is the condo development, aka "above-ground-rabbit-warren",
where a lot of units are piled onto the absolute minimum of land, sort
of like city rowhouses. The problem is that the development is nothing
but homes and is sited on a busy road, so you have to get in your car
and drive a couple miles or more just to get groceries or go to the
post office. IOW, many of the disadvantages of the city and few of the
advantages.

73 de Jim, N2EY

789. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-23 17:20:41 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g67oiuuuo1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2560

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Tue, 22 Jul 2008 13:57:09 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>> This brings up another thought. I wonder how many times a person who has
>> trouble with the neighbors might have trouble with them in other areas.
>> Some times an antenna fight might just be a proxy for personality clashes.
>
> We have a neighbor across the street who had a real bad case for us
> about the condition of our lawn (neither of us has the strength or
> stamina to really care for it) and the leaves that fall on our lawn
> and get blown onto her pristine and well-cared-for lawn (that's all
> she has to do all day....).
>
> When I put up my antennas, including the R-8 vertical that sticks up
> 50 feet above the ground - not a peep. When we finally had the
> offending trees removed and contracted with a lawn maintenance
> company to take care of the property, she stood there and watched them
> work all day. Not a word of "thank you".
>
> At least she doesn't pound on our door and make threats like she used
> to.

Admittedly, we have been blessed neighbor-wise. DId you tell here that
your radials help you grass grow, and you'd be happy to extend them onto
her lawn? <evil grin>

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

790. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-23 19:45:08 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <r92f841ac64bm9c66dbfb53lrbo84ogbu5@4ax.com>
Source record: 2561

On Wed, 23 Jul 2008 08:54:13 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>If I understand this correctly, we hams have two avenues to pursue;
>state and federal.

Thus has long been recognized, but the states are too close to the
developers to want to take them on, and it would take 50 campaigns to
do what a single Federal campaign would do.

We've seen what happens when such a bill is introduced into The
Congress, even when it is cloaked in "equality" and "public service"
terms.

Maybe we need to get some pictures of someone or other.... :-)
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

791. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-23 19:51:04 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <fj2f84hkumkvcjtt23qif9m90gqlie2ase@4ax.com>
Source record: 2562

On Wed, 23 Jul 2008 08:55:00 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>The first is the McMansion, a huge frame house on a relatively small
>lot, with all sorts of restrictions. Incredibly priced, too, and you
>don't even get sidewalks. How people are supposed to heat, cool and
>maintain them as prices rise is beyond me.

We had a builder put up a MaxiMansion near here for his own residence.
They had to put in a new gas line up the street to provide enough gas
to heat the place. He has his own pole-pig too. The price was
several mills three years ago. The house across the road from that is
35 rooms occupied by a couple in their 90s - the largest car dealer in
the Portland area. I would suspect that both of those places have
live-in help.

Isn't it nice to have money?
--
Phil Kane
Beaverton, OR

792. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-23 23:18:02 UTC
From: Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
Message-ID: <fast-A211F2.15062623072008@netnews.worldnet.att.net>
Source record: 2563

In article <opjd84lnqc9f3jegh35nroccf276epnvem@4ax.com>,
Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:

> On Tue, 22 Jul 2008 00:07:57 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>
> >But in some cases, the first buyer can say "NO!" to the developer, and
> >get restrictions removed *before* the sale. So while the rest of the
> >properties may be restricted, that one isn't.
> >
> >HOA rules are another issue completely, but the same approach may
> >work.
>
> According to California law - the one that I work with - the CC&Rs
> are recorded before the first unit is built, and both state law and
> common law holds that the restrictions run with the land. The "first
> owner" legally is the developer.
>
> I was lucky with the condo because the restriction was no antennas
> without permission of the board, and I got that permission while the
> developer was the "board" and the permission ran with my ownership and
> occupancy of the unit.
> --
>
> 73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
>
> >From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
> Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon
>
> e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

One of the, few, "Nice Things" about living out in the "Middle of
No where", is that if your nearest neighbor is 5 miles away,
and there are 200 ft trees between them and you, it really doesn't
matter just how BIG, and Tall, the Antenna Farm gets.

--
Bruce in alaska
add <path> after <fast> to reply

793. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-24 01:33:21 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <g68m4b0279d@news1.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2564

Phil Kane wrote:
> We've seen what happens when such a bill is introduced into The
> Congress, even when it is cloaked in "equality" and "public service"
> terms.

The magic phrase is "For the children" or, now, "To fight terrorism."

Properly done, it could lead to anyone WITHOUT a tower will be viewed
with suspicion by the rest of the neighbors.

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

794. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-24 18:30:26 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <JS3ik.7979$3g.5376@fe107.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2565

Phil Kane wrote:

> We had a builder put up a MaxiMansion near here for his own residence.
> They had to put in a new gas line up the street to provide enough gas
> to heat the place. He has his own pole-pig too. The price was
> several mills three years ago.

Out here on Signal Hill, I have to share a pole pig with the neighbor
across the road.

> The house across the road from that is
> 35 rooms occupied by a couple in their 90s - the largest car dealer in
> the Portland area. I would suspect that both of those places have
> live-in help.

See! I could live in one of those places--as live-in help.

> Isn't it nice to have money?

I'd love to have the opportunity to find out if wealth could mess up my
life. Though indoor plumbing came to this area long ago, there's still
a WPA-built privy on our property. When I can afford to do it up in
gold leaf, I will know that I've arrived.

Dave K8MN

795. Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-24 18:41:36 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <6LWdnV779ZZIBRXVnZ2dnUVZ_vWdnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2566

There's an article in today's Washington Post

http://preview.tinyurl.com/6ego68

that describes a technology that's under development to provide Internet access using spectrum in the TV channel range. Apparently this scheme checks for a signal before it uses a specific frequency and switches to a different one if it detects that the frequency is in use.

I wonder how this will work and play with amateur radio. I remember when TV channel 2 was established in my home town, effectively shutting down six meter ham operation because the TV signal was so weak that even a correctly-operating six-meter rig would create serious TVI for the fringe reception of channel 2. Decades have passed and this new technology surely is much less sensitive to adjacent signals than the TVs of my childhood, but the analogy persists.

73, Steve KB9X

796. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-24 18:42:59 UTC
From: "David G. Nagel" <nagel.david@sbcglobal.net>
Message-ID: <KU3ik.17185$jI5.14119@flpi148.ffdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2567

Dave Heil wrote:
> Phil Kane wrote:
>
>> We had a builder put up a MaxiMansion near here for his own residence.
>> They had to put in a new gas line up the street to provide enough gas
>> to heat the place. He has his own pole-pig too. The price was
>> several mills three years ago.
>
> Out here on Signal Hill, I have to share a pole pig with the neighbor
> across the road.
>
>> The house across the road from that is
>> 35 rooms occupied by a couple in their 90s - the largest car dealer in
>> the Portland area. I would suspect that both of those places have
>> live-in help.
>
> See! I could live in one of those places--as live-in help.
>
>> Isn't it nice to have money?
>
> I'd love to have the opportunity to find out if wealth could mess up my
> life. Though indoor plumbing came to this area long ago, there's still
> a WPA-built privy on our property. When I can afford to do it up in
> gold leaf, I will know that I've arrived.
>
> Dave K8MN
>
Your name isn't Al Gore and you haven't purchased 10,000 acres of carbon
credits in West Ubanga Banga.....

Dave WD9BDZ

797. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-24 19:01:45 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <bk4ik.2548$pg.1667@fe087.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2568

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Wed, 16 Jul 2008 20:45:50 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>
>> There was also the issue that watching TV in one's home, be it a tiny
>> studio apartment or a giant estate or anything in between, was a
>> right of any resident, rental, owner, condo, etc. Nobody wanted to
>> deny *that* right!
>>
>> Amateur radio doesn't have the same protections.
>
> "... among those rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of
> happiness.... (from that radical document, the Declaration of
> Independence)
>
> I pursue my happiness with a K2 and an all-band antenna....

I love it.

> What the _Howard_ case said is that an amateur license doesn't grant a
> right to erect any antenna of the licensee's choosing (as against the
> regulatory authority of the jurisdiction filtered through PRB-1).
>
> It's still basic, though, that a HOA Rule or CC&R cannot prohibit
> amateur radio operation per se.

Some (and only some) West Virginia communities require permits for
erecting a radio tower. the CC&R situation is as ugly as it gets
anywhere else. Out in the counties, the situation is quite different.
Here in Marshall County, *no permit of any kind* is required to put up a
tower. Count elevation, cheap dirt and no antenna restrictions among
the reasons we chose to live here.

> (I don't play a lawyer on TV, I'm too busy being one...) < ggg >

Heh.

Dave K8MN

798. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-24 19:06:19 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <wo4ik.799$eg.375@fe119.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2569

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Wed, 16 Jul 2008 20:51:14 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>
>> There are, such as RF power amplifiers for HF and low VHF. While it is
>> certainly possible to build the solidstate equivalent of, say, a
>> single-3-500Z HF amplifier, the SS version costs more and is less
>> efficient.
>
> Yet the broadcast industry is going to SS as fast as they can.
> Modular in design, if one "final" module fails, the power gets reduced
> but they stay on the air. If a "final" tube fails, it's February
> 2009 much sooner. Reduction in maintenance costs outweigh capital
> investment. I don't think that you can buy a new AM broadcast
> transmitter below 50 KW that isn't SS all the way, and there are
> plenty of SS 50 rigs in service.
> --

We hams are starting to see some higher power amplifiers available but at rather breathtaking prices. I've drooled over a couple of the Tokyo Hi-Power offerings and I have a friend running the Yaesu Quadra. I think the MFJ/Ameritron folks will need to get into the solid state amp game before we see *affordable* solid state amps with outputs of 1 to 1.5 KW. Only when that happens will I make my move to a solid state amp.

Dave K8MN

799. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-24 19:16:30 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <1y4ik.800$eg.775@fe119.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2570

N2EY@aol.com wrote:

> It seems to me that a lot of amateurs insist on a new house, or at
> least a newer house, meaning something no older than 10-20 years.
> Older homes are simply off the radar, for some reason. Is it just me,
> or is this a real trend? What's behind it?

A lot of it might be in heating and cooling costs. Most newer homes are super insulated--built with 2x6 walls, wrapped with Tyvek and have joints sealed with expanding foam. Many of them offer geothermal heating/cooling systems as well. One of my pals lives in Indiana. His total energy bills this past year have averaged $125 per month with his geothermal system. That is for a five year old, all electric home with a geothermal system. That isn't bad for lights, cooking, heating water, watching TV, ham radio, computers, etc.

I've owned only two homes in my life. My Cincinnati home was a full masonry brick house (plaster inside directly attached to two courses of brick). That place was costing me $200-$250 per month during the winter for natural gas in the late seventies/early eighties. I don't like to think about what the gas bill might be these days. That's the only place I ever lived where I could find frost on a closet wall on a cold day.

Dave K8MN

800. Re: Something old and something new

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-24 20:15:39 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <kb4ik.2171$dg.1237@fe097.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2571

Kï¿½HB wrote:
> <N2EY@aol.com> wrote in message
> news:56a77f3a-7c10-4783-93eb-b9e817cef2fe@t54g2000hsg.googlegroups.com.
..
>
>
>> IOW, the competition would continue, just in a different way. But the
>> average operator would still not be able to beat the big guns, because
>> the true competitors would still have whatever advantages
>> were to be had.
>
> And wailing and knashing of teeth would still be heard throughout the "
Land of
> Average".

...or even gnashing. ;-)

> "Average operators" (those who voted for Diana Moon Glompers) would cry
> "unfair".

There are always those who raise the that cry. I think they've always
existed. While as a much younger fellow, I admired those with the
wherewithal to own vast expanses of land, who could afford to erect
numerous towers to the sky, populated with enormous antenna arrays, I
admired more the fellows who were real pileup artists. Those could slip
in and out of a pile in the wink of an eye.

> Let's just take one real-life example, not a strained speculation. SO2
R
> (SingleOp2Radio operating style) is a developed skill (not a technology
). It
> takes work to perfect, but once mastered it dramatically tilts the fiel
d in
> favor the operator who uses it. Join the CQ-Contest email reflector, a
nd
> mention you'll be operating "SO2R" in SS CW next November. The "averag
e
> operators who want rules to level the field" will rise up bemoaning the

> "unfairness of it all" and "there ought to be a rule".

I read K3ZO's article on SO2R some time back and gathered that I don't
have the necessary skills or dollars to try it. I enter so few contests
with serious intent these days that I don't know if I want to even give
it a try. My station would require some advances in antenna
switching/control before it would even become feasible.

> If radiosport contesting (the last great hope of saving ham radio, IMNS
HO) is to
> live up to it's potential to advance the state of the radio art, then w
e need to
> structure contest rules which encourage and nurture skill and technolog
y
> developers, and do not reward "average" operators or "average" stations.

I'll go along with you on this one, Hans, though there have been a number of things which I thought to be unfair/unethical over the years. Among them were rubber clocking (pretty much universally outlawed now), a few fellows (notably Europeans operating from Africa) who were running multiple high power amps on multiple arrays on the same band simultaneously. The latter involved not only an unfair advantage but an illegal one.

I think I can tell the following without creating scandal now, since most of the attendees are dead: I departed a meeting of what was (at the time) a well-known Cincinnati DX Club after some old timers I'd previously admired began discussing plans for the upcoming Field Day operation. This group always operated as a low power entry. At this particular meeting they began talking about which ops would bring their linear amps. That was the first and last meeting I attended.

Dave K8MN

801. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-24 22:56:44 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <3705d2a4-be9e-4893-9c9a-eecaa64e5a3a@a2g2000prm.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2572

On Jul 24, 1:41 pm, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> There's an article in today's Washington Post
>
> http://preview.tinyurl.com/6ego68
>
> that describes a technology that's under development to provide Internet
> access using spectrum in the TV channel range. Apparently this scheme
> checks for a signal before it uses a specific frequency and switches to
> a different one if it detects that the frequency is in use.
>
> I wonder how this will work and play with amateur radio.

Interesting story but a lot of information you need to determine how
much of a problem this would be is missing.

As it sits, the use of "unused" spectrum space in the current TV
broadcast band seems to be a non-issue to us. Seems that they are at
least trying to live within the part 15 rules and are working to
detect when other users pop up on the spectrum and they are working in
a band that will be open for new use in Feb 09. As long as they keep
part 15 power levels, don't try and connect directly to long
unshielded wires hung up high and stay out of the ham radio
allocations what can we say? However if they are demonstrating
something to the FCC, it would seem that they are looking for some
kind of operational waver or rules change. Worth keeping an eye on.

802. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-25 04:57:52 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <trmi841eaaoc2ndq2rm5jde03ef4m3epi4@4ax.com>
Source record: 2573

On Thu, 24 Jul 2008 15:01:45 EDT, Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
wrote:

>Here in Marshall County, *no permit of any kind* is required to put up a
>tower.

When Beaverton decided to rewrite its Wireless Communications Facility ordinance about 6 years ago, I made sure that I got on the committee that was doing it (my bona fides were that as an attorney I had drafted several in California). When it came to Ham Radio issues, it was like shooting fish in a barrel - besides myself, the ATT Wireless rep was a ham, and best of all, the Assistant City Attorney handling it was the son of an active ham. As a result, no use or zoning permit is required for towers under 70 feet, and only notification is required for towers above that height. Building permits are something else, though. The main problem here are CC&Rs and HOA issues.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
ARRL Volunteer Counsel

email: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

803. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-25 09:23:27 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.07.25.06.00.52.890971@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2574

On Thu, 24 Jul 2008 14:41:36 -0400, Steve Bonine wrote:

> There's an article in today's Washington Post
>
> http://preview.tinyurl.com/6ego68
>
> that describes a technology that's under development to provide Interne
t
> access using spectrum in the TV channel range. Apparently this scheme
> checks for a signal before it uses a specific frequency and switches to

> a different one if it detects that the frequency is in use.
>
> I wonder how this will work and play with amateur radio. I remember
> when TV channel 2 was established in my home town, effectively shutting

> down six meter ham operation because the TV signal was so weak that eve
n
> a correctly-operating six-meter rig would create serious TVI for the
> fringe reception of channel 2. Decades have passed and this new
> technology surely is much less sensitive to adjacent signals than the
> TVs of my childhood, but the analogy persists.

I'm not too worried about interference to/from amateur radio.

Users aren't going to recognize overload problems as coming from ham gear
.
The things are simply going to intermittently stop operating and they're
going to blame it on an outage of the ISP's base station. It won't play
your voice out their speakers the way it does with an analog TV set. And
they're never going to get FCC approved unless they know how to confine
their emissions to the TV channel they determined was unused. They're no
t
going to spill over into ham bands.

(at least not the legal ones. The illegal ones will spill even if the FC
C
never approves this technology.)

I'm a lot more worried about it as a TV engineer and semi-rural
over-the-air TV viewer. In early tests these things weren't very good at
determining whether a channel was unused. I can see that becoming a big
problem in semi-rural areas like this, where people might be using roofto
p
antennas to get TV but the Internet devices will probably be on makeshift
indoor aerials.

On the other hand, I'm not holding my breath waiting for someone to build a base station out here. The technology may well never come to places rural enough to be in TV fringe reception.

804. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1615 - July 25, 2008 - Prefeed - FDinal

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-25 10:40:57 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080725014615.016d3448@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2575
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1615 - July 25, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1615 with a release date of Friday, July 24th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Several popular digital audio programs that were pulled from the World Wide Web have returned, but with a different coding and decoding scheme. Are they as good as before? Also, hams help as hurricane Dolly hits the gulf coast, the ARRL and FCC meet to discuss B-P-L and a United Kingdom amateur radio club gets a public grant to go D-Star. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1615
coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO LAW: WINDRM AND OTHER SOUND CARD PROGRAMS GET CODEC CHANGE

Several popular digital voice programs that were pulled from distribution have returned with a different digital coding and decoding scheme. This following major rewrites to avoid problems dealing with intellectual property rights. Amateur Radio Newsline's Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, is in Cary, North Carolina, with the details:

--

Hams who tried to download any of the sound-card based Digital Voice programs - WinDRM, DRMDV and FDMDV - this past week, found them gone, as were the Google-Groups message boards that supported them.

The problem was licensing, or lack of it, for the codec that all the programs shared. That codec was developed for the US military and NATO, but was never licensed for free distribution. Several companies shared the intellectual property rights, and finally, one of them complained.

This caused a quick re-write of WinDRM and FDMDV with an open-source codec. At air-time, the new version of FDMDV was available again at the download site, N1SU dot COM, and WinDRM is expected to be back soon. DRMDV, little used since FDMDV was developed, has been dropped.

Digital Voice users will need to download the new version of FDMDV to maintain compatibility.

The new codec isn't quite as good as the old one, so audio quality, a hallmark of the Digital Voice programs, will suffer a bit. The old codec,

called MELP, was designed for high quality, low data-rate communication, and was particularly well suited for HF radio applications.

WinDRM occupies about 2.5 kHz of spectrum and sounds like FM with few artifacts when signals are good. FDMDV, uses only 1.1 kHz of spectrum. It sounds a little rougher, but still remarkable for that low bandwidth. It works closer to the noise level, and has almost no latency. Both programs use OFDM multiple carrier modulation schemes, and work with ordinary single-sideband transceivers.

This episode points out the need for someone - somewhere - to develop a codec for low-bandwidth digital voice on Amateur Radio. The sound-card based digital-voice programs have been a continuous "work in progress." But they need a codec for that work to continue.

Note that the AOR digital voice modems, and D-STAR radios, use a commercial product, the AMBE 2020 vocoder, so they are NOT affected by this license situation.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Gary Pearce, KN4AQ.

--

More on this in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (ARNewsline(tm), KN4AQ)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC AND ARRL MEET TO DISCUSS FUTURE OF BPL

The ARRL and the FCC have met to discuss the future of Broadband over Powerline Internet access. This after an appeals court ruled earlier in the year that the FCC handled the matter of B-P-L's introduction to the U-S improperly.

On July 9, ARRL officials including President Joel Harrison, W5ZN; Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, and General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD met with members of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology. According to Imlay, the meeting was hold to discuss a possible regulatory approach to BPL with the FCC. Suggestions put forth by ARRL addressed the needs and concerns of Amateur Radio operators in avoiding harmful interference from BPL systems while imposing the minimum necessary regulatory obligations on B-P-L deployments.

Imlay said, that there are at this point rules that could be adopted which would, at once, both protect Amateur Radio communications from predictable harmful interference from BPL; and permit broadband over power line systems to operate in the 3 to 80 MHz range without significant constraint and without substantial redesign or retroactive build outs.

Meantime, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit has ordered that the Federal Communications Commission \ reimburse ARRL for the docketing fee and the cost of reproducing copies of briefs and other documents in the ARRL's successful challenge of the FCC's Broadband

over Powerline rules. The Order, issued on July 9 following review of an opposition from the FCC and a reply from the ARRL, awarded the ARRL's full claim of $6,096.18. (ARRL)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: BREAKING NEWS- SATELLITE WEEKING STREAMING ON THE WEB

Thanks to the British Amateur Television Club this year's AMSAT-UK Satellite Weekend will be streamed live to the web. In fact it happening as this newscast hits air.

The event also known as the AMSAT U-K Soace Colloquium takes place over 3 days from Friday July 25th through Sunday the 27th at the University of Surrey, Guildford, England. Peter Blakeborough G3PYB, President of BATC, is streaming video of the presentations live to the Internet so that Radio Amateurs and SWL's can watch them from anywhere in the world. In addition to the webcast club is providing a Live Chat web page enabling viewers to post messages.

This streaming video is available at www.batc.tv with no log in or membership required,. More information on Satellite Weekend is on line at www.uk.amsat.org/Colloquium (G4TUT, Southgate)

**

RESCUE RADIO: VOIP HURRINCE NET ACTIVATES FOR DOLLY

The VoIP Hurricane Net was called up last Tuesday Evening as Hurricane Dolly threatened the U.S. shoreline. We have more in this report:

--

When hurruicane Dolly slammed into the Texas coastline on Wednesday morning, July 233rd, hams involved in the VoIP Hurricane Watch Net were already on the air. Dolly had became a Class 2 hurricane packing winds exceeding 100 miles an hour. The storm causing heavy damage to low lying areas on the border of the United States and Mexico, ripping off roofs, and leaving thousands of people without power or telephone service. Cellular service was also reportedly overwhelmed.

But hams involved in Skywarn and Hurricane Watch activities stood their ground. WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, had already activated its High Frequency network and its EchoLink, and IRLP station at 1800 U-T-C on Tuesday, July 22nd. Accordiong to Lloyd Colston, KC5FM, the VoIP Hurricane Net was called on 14.325 MHz on Tuesday evening, by Rob Macedo, KD1CY. Merecado is the Net Operations Manager. WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center monitored the net for field reports both by radio and by VoIP.

Dolly is the second hurricane of the Atlantic season., It dropped close to a foot of rain in the first few hours after coming ashore. Hardest hit was the area South of Port Isabel in the border town of Brownsville.

After making landfall it weakened to a tropical storm on Thursday July 24th but concern remains over flooding along the heavily populated Rio Grande Valley. As we go to air on Friday, July 25th, hams across the area involved in emergency response reportedly remain on alert.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in The studio in Los Angeles.

--

More on this story in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (KN4AQ, ARNewsline(tm))

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the K4LJP repeater serving West Palm Beach, FL.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: UK CLUB RECEIVES GRANT TO GO D-STAR

A United Kingdom based amateur radio organization has received a grant to go D-Star. The Worthing and District Amateur Radio Club has been awarded over ï¿½9,000 in lottery funding towards new radio equipment which will serve
a large area of Sussex.

The repeaters will be located in the Worthing Borough Council buildings serving an extensive area along the Sussex Coast. They will allow digital communication both locally and worldwide using radio and internet technology.

In addition to the repeaters, part of the funding will be used to replace the club's current radio equipment with new state of the art equipment. This will include new transceivers, antennas, microphones and several other pieces of equipment.

The Worthing and District Amateur Radio Society is an organization with well over 100 members. More about it is on-line at www.wadarc.org.uk (Southgate)

**

RESCUE RADIO: SERVICENATION TO HOST 911 SUMMIT

A major conference on volunteerism and emergency preparedness will be held this September in New York City and planners hope to have both Presidential froint runners attending. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, reports:

--

The two major presidential front runners have been invited to speak about the need for public service at a national symposium being held on the anniversary of the 911 terror attacks.

The ServiceNation Summit being held in New York September 11th and 12th. Planners hope it will bring together 500 leaders of all ages and from every sector of American life to celebrate the power and potential of citizen service. Planners also hope to lay out what the group calls a policy blueprint for addressing America's greatest social challenges through expanded opportunities for volunteer service.

Theres already talk on the blogs that ham radio operators could play a significant hole in some programs that ServiceNation plans to put in place. This, by providing volunteer communications for some of them. Some thoughts are that this type of involvement could breath new like into thousands of ham radio repeaters that currently lie dormant most hours of the day.

ServiceNation has invited Prseidential hopefulls Brack Obama and John McCain to speak at the event. As we go to air only Republican McCain has accepted. Also confirmed to address the meeting are New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The latter has already created a cabinet level post dedicated to service and volunteering.

Look for more on the ServiceNation volunteer program and just how ham radio might fit in coming in future Newsline reports.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Im Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, in Los Angeles .

--

ServiceNation is a non-partisan organization formed to promote volunteerism by creating target groups with a goal of having 100 million citizens involved as volunteers in schools, workplaces and faith-based and community institutions each year. The summit is part of that campaign. More information on this meeting and on ServiceNation is on-line at http://www.bethechangeinc.org/servicenation (ServiceNation release and other sources)

**

ENFORCEMENT: UNLICENSED FLORIDA BROADCASTER WARNED TO CEASE OPERATION

The FCC has told a Florida resident that he must immediately cease operation of an unlicensed broadcast transmitter. One that the FCC alleges he or someone on his premises has been operating.

In its July 14th letter to David A. Keir of Lake Worth the regulatory agency says that its Miami Office had earlier received information that an unlicensed broadcast radio station on 92.5 MHz. On June 18th agents from this office confirmed that radio signals on frequency 92.5 MHz were emanating from property in the Lake Worth area that Florida records showed as belonging to Keir.

The Commission says that its records show that no license was issued for operation of a broadcast station at that location in Lake Worth, Florida. It ordered Keir to immediately cease operation of this radio station and warned him of severe penalties if he did not comply. This could include monetary fines, in seizure of the offending radio equipment, and criminal sanctions including imprisonment.

Keir was given 10 days from the date of the notice to respond with any evidence that he has been granted authority to operate the station by the FCC. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: THAT'S NOT REALLY HAM GEAR

The owner of a company that sells wireless video solutions has pulled several wireless transmitters from his website. This after the FCC issued a Citation to Georgia based Range Video for importing and marketing unauthorized wireless video transmitters and failing to file the proper FCC forms with the US Customs office and the US Border Patrol.

In its July 21st Citation sent to Vladimir Reznik who is the owner of Range Video, the FCC says that it had previously sent him a Letter of Inquiry regarding this issue. Reznik responded to that Letter of Inquiry by fully admitting that he first imported the devices in 2006 and that he continues to import the units.

Reznik went on to say that before he ships a transmitter that he switches each unit to operate only in the Amateur Radio Service bands. He also claimed that equipment that transmits solely on Amateur Radio Service frequencies is not subject to the equipment authorization requirement prior to manufacture or marketing.

But in its letter of Citation the FCC says that it appears that the seven transmitter devices marketed on Reznik's website were equipped with external toggle switches. The FCC says that if these switches are engaged it would allow operation of the device on the restricted frequencies.

The FCC has warned Reznik that if he violates the Communications Act or the Commission's Rules in any manner after receipt of the Citation, that the regulatory agency Commission may impose monetary forfeitures for each such violation or each day of a continuing violation.

Reznik was given the customary 30 days to reply to the Citation. He was directed to specify the actions he is taking so as not to violate the Commission's Rules governing the marketing of radio frequency equipment in the future. But the federal regulators really don't have to wait. All they have to do is go to the World Wide Web to find a notice on the Range Video website next to each of these units that reads:

" This item is temporary not available. The FCC is not allowing us to sell these transmitter to the USA because they can be modified to transmit on restricted frequencies."

The Range Video website notice goes on to state that all future transmitter devices shipped to the USA will have this toggle switch permanently removed by the manufacturer to allow transmission only on 910 MHz.

The FCC noted that more than 2600 of these illegal transmitters have been sold by Range Video since 2006. (FCC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: K0DXC FEARURED ON KTSP TV

A teenage Minnesota ham has been featured on a local news show for his outstanding accomplishments as both a radio amateur and an athlete. 13 year old Cal Darula, K0DXC, of Waconia has been featured on Minneapolis St. Paul station KTSP in a story that highlights his love of baseball and his dedication to our world wide communications hobby.

Darula says that he has been playing baseball since he was a toddler. He discovered ham radio at age 10 when he got his Technician license . At 12 upgraded to General, and he has since worked the world using mainly Morse. In fact, Cal can handle Morse at speeds up to 30 words per minute.

In the KTSP news item, K0DXC says that ham radio is really a hobby for people of all ages. He also says that it has also helped him to become a straight A student in school.

In addition to his love of Morse, Cal Darula is a member of the ARRL, FISTS, the Minnesota Wireless Association, the Young Amateur Contest Ham Team and World Wide Young Contesters. He is also the ARRL Minnesota Youth Assistant Section Manager.

You can see the complete news item featuring Cal Darruls, K0DXC, on line http://kstp.com/article/stories/S519423.shtml?cat 6 (KQ0NN)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: ART BELL W66OBB INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL RADIO HALL OF FAME

A word of congratulations to ham radios own Art Bell, W6OBB. This on word that he has been inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame as a part of the hall's class of 2008.

In its press release the Hall of Fame said the following about W6OBB:

"Showing an early interest in radio, Art Bell became a licensed amateur radio operator at the age of 13. In 1989, he was offered a five hour time slot in the middle of the night by KDWN in Las Vegas. The original format was a political talk show, but Bell switched the focus to paranormal-themed topics in the mid 1990s.

At its peak, "Coast to Coast AM" was syndicated on over 500 stations and enjoyed an audience of 15 million. While Bell has reduced his schedule, he still occasionally hosts the weekend edition."

Others inducted along with Art Bell include radio legands Charlie Tuna and the late Dick Wittinghill. Art Bell, W6OBB, can usually be found on 75 meter SSB when he takes to the ham radio airwaves. (RW)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: AUSTIN SUMMERFEST CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Austin, Texas will be the spot to be on August 1st and 2nd for the 2008 Austin Summerfest ham radio show. 2008 marks the 25th anniversary of the Summerfest and to mark the event planners has set up an entire roster of happenings. These include presentations and meetings, a swapfest and lots of prizes.

The venue is the Wyndham Garden Hotel and Conference Center off Interstate 35 and Woodward Street, in Austin. More information is on-line at www.austinsummerfest.info (Via e-mail)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: DUKE CITY HAMFEST

The 2008 Duke City Hamfest takes place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, August 15th and 16th. Its venue this year is the Sandia Baptist Church on Constitution Avenue in the North East Heights area of the city. Admission is free but banquet tickets are not included. This years banquet speaker is ARRL's Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD.

Talk-in for the Duke City Hamfest is on the local 145.33 and 444.0 Mhz repeaters. Both require a 100 hertz access tone. More information is on the web at www dot qsl dot net slash dchf or by snail mail to the Duke City Hamfest, P.O. Box 30394, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87190. (Via e-mail)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: BOB SIEVERS. W9FJT - SK

A radio legend has become a Silent Key. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jim Davis, W2JKD, has the story of the passing of Mr. WOWO:

--

The ham known as Fort Wayne, Indiana's "Mr. WOWO" became a silent key last fall, but its only now hit the ham radio community that radio legend Robert Bob Sievers was also one of us and held the call W9FJT

Bob Sievers spent five decades with WOWO as host on the very popular morning shows "Little Red Barn Show" that aired from 5 to 7 a.m., and the
Bob Sievers show that was on from 7 to 10 a.m..

Sievers started his career at WOWO in 1932 as an unpaid announcer for a morning gospel while he was still a freshman at South Side High School. He was hired as a morning announcer in 1936, for $5 a week while still in high school.

The only break Sievers took from the station was when he served in the U.S. Navy. He did four years during World War II and two years during the Korean War. After his enlistment's ended it was back to W0WO where the stations 50,000-watt signal put Sievers' voice into 28 states and even overseas. He often received reception reports from listeners that included missionaries in places as far away as Africa.

In 1981 Bob Sievers was Inducted into the Indiana Broadcasting Hall of Fame. He retired from WOWO in 1987 after more than 50 years at the station.

In the world of amateur radio, Bob Sievers W9FJT had an equally big voice, though not quite as powerful as that of WOWO. He enjoyed 160 meter AM operation using an RCA transmitter that was retired from WOWO. W9FJT gave it a second life and his rich broadcasters voice became well known on Top Band.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline. I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD.

--

Bob Sievers, W9FJT, became a Silent Key on September 3, 2007. A note posted to his QRZ.com listing simply say that he will be greatly missed by all his friends. (W2JKD and various other sources)

**

HAM HAPENINGS: QCWA ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

Bob Roske, N0UI, will be the next Preident of the Quarter Century Wireless Association succeeding John B. Johnston, W3BE, in that post. Roske, a longtime Q-C-W-A Board member from Hutcninson, Minnesota, beat out Len Nathanson, W8RC, by a close vote of 1037 to 991.

Elected as QCWA Vice President is Ken Oelke, VE3AFO, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Walt Supina, N3WS, of State College, Pennsylvania was selected as Secretary and Frank Harris, WA4PAM, from Clewiston, Florida as Treasurer. 12 directors were also elected or re-elected as well. (QCWA)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: WIN A SOLAR POWERED RADIO FROM RNW

To mark the launch of its SMS texting service, shortwave broadcaster Radio Netherlands is offering liteners the chance to win a solar-powered shortwave radio and lots of Radio Netherlands Worldwide goodies. All you have to do is text the answer to a very simple question, plus supply your

name and email address. Full details are on line at a special Radio Nretherlands website at www.radionetherlands.nl/radioprogrammes/080714-sms-rnw-programmes (Media Network)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: VIDEO GAME HELPS TEENS FIGHT CANCER

Science OnLine reports on a new video game designed to give young cancer patients a sense of power and control over their disease. Re-Mission is the 3D game described as a 20 level journey through the bodies of fictional patients with different types of cancer.

Players control a nano robot named Roxxi. Its task is to destroy cancer cells, battle bacterial infections, and manage realistic, life-threatening side effects
.
But the game is more than a fun challenge. Studies show that young cancer patients who play the Re-Mission are more likely to take their medicine, undergo needed therapy and understand their illness. Thats because the game is geared to help teenagers better adhere to their cancer treatment and embrace vital behaviors to improve their health.

For more information on Re-Mission is available on-line at www.CIGNA.com/Re-mission. (Science OnLine)

**

RADIO RESEARCH: NEW 2 METER BEACON IN NC

A new two meter propagation beacon has become operational from Oriental, North Carolina. Its callsign is N7BHC slash B and it operates Morse on 144.290.8 MHz. Power out is 50 watts at the antenna which is a KLM yagi pointing 70 degrees. QSN reports go to n7bhc_ob_remote@carolina.rr.com (VHF Reflector)

**

WORLDBEAT - NEW ZEALAND: WAITAKERE SPRINTS TO CONTINUE

New Zealand's Papakura Radio Club inc. has announced that the Waitakere Sprints will continue. The dates of these mini-contests will be the same as previously held. The Phone Sprint will be on the last Saturday in July and the CW Sprint will be on the first Saturday in August. Both are one-hour duration on 80 meters and are open to all licensed amateurs in New Zealand, Australia and the Oceania call areas. (Papakura Radio Club)

**

DX

In DX, EP3BN is reported on from Iran. Listen out for him on 20 meter SSB between 13:30 and 16:00 UTC. QSL via JH1NBN.

The Hong Kong Amateur Radio DX Association will use the special call VR2008O on 40 through 6 meters during the upcoming Olympic Games. Operations will use SSB, RTTY and PSK31 through August 31st. QSL direct only by VR2XMT, Charlie Ho, P.O. Box 900, Fanling Post Office, Hong Kong..

LA3OHA, will be staying in Caucasus through September. He will operating on several bands and looks for QSLs during his time there. If you work him QSL to Terje Hovde, P. O. Boks 58, 0102 Tbilisi, Georgien.

Lastly, DL5XX, is on a business trip to Ghana through August 10th and will be active on CW on all bands as 9G5MM. Equipment is IC-706 and 1 kW power amplifier feeding a G5RV antenna. More information is on-line at www.rrdxa.eu/9g5mm .

(From various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: THE RADIO SPEEDGUN KID

And finally this week, since police can't be everywhere an 11 year old armed with a toy radio spredgun is filling in the gaps. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with more:

--

His name is Landon Wilburn. He is only 11 but he stands tall against speeders.

As he recently told the Louisville Courier-Journal newspaper, he used to shout at speeders to slow down. Then Landon got a better idea.

Dressed in a reflective vest, wearing a bicycle helmet and armed with a Hot Wheels brand radar gun, he points it at cars speeding through the sub-division where he lives and records the speed of passing traffic.

One of the subdivision residents is George Ayers. He told the newspaper that he has seen drivers lock up their brakes when they saw Landon clocking them.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the studio in Los Angeles.

--

Officials say the city will install speed bumps in the neighborhood if 70 percent of residents agree and are willing to put up half the money. Until that happens Landon, toy radio speed gun in hand, will likely continue to do his part to get speeders to slow down. (courier-journal.com)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the

RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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805. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-25 17:31:21 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.07.25.15.38.02.52839@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2576

On Fri, 25 Jul 2008 05:23:27 -0400, Doug Smith W9WI wrote:
> I'm a lot more worried about it as a TV engineer and semi-rural
> over-the-air TV viewer. In early tests these things weren't very good
at
> determining whether a channel was unused. I can see that becoming a bi
g
> problem in semi-rural areas like this, where people might be using roof
to
> p
> antennas to get TV but the Internet devices will probably be on makeshi
ft
> indoor aerials.

(which may end up being the vector by which this stuff bothers ham radio
-- it will interfere with TV reception and the viewers will blame us...)

806. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-25 17:32:44 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g6d22v$1864$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2577

Dave Heil wrote:
> N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>
>> It seems to me that a lot of amateurs insist on a new house, or at
>> least a newer house, meaning something no older than 10-20 years.
>> Older homes are simply off the radar, for some reason. Is it just me,
>> or is this a real trend? What's behind it?
>
> A lot of it might be in heating and cooling costs. Most newer homes are
> super insulated--built with 2x6 walls, wrapped with Tyvek and have
> joints sealed with expanding foam.

I wish I could say the same for my area. Many of the largest, most expensive houses have very little insulation. There is a dead giveaway - after a snowstorm, they are the first houses to lose the snow on the roof. A good bit of my wife's work comes from designing remodels on 2 or 3 year old McMansions.

I think maybe that during the 80's and early 90's home construction related to insulation was pretty good, but as the housing market took off, and people seemed to be willing to buy anything for any amount of money, the quality dropped.

Many of them offer geothermal
> heating/cooling systems as well. One of my pals lives in Indiana. His
> total energy bills this past year have averaged $125 per month with his
> geothermal system. That is for a five year old, all electric home with
> a geothermal system. That isn't bad for lights, cooking, heating water,
> watching TV, ham radio, computers, etc.

It is truly impressive what can be done with a little work. The caveat it that when you have a tightly sealed house, you have to be very careful about chemical exposure. My sister has something fairly similar. She lives in a large modified A frame with one side all glass. Has a wind generator, Geothermal heat system, and uses a wood pellet stove for the comfy glow you get from radiant heat. She lives on the first hill south of Lake Erie shore near Erie, so there is always some wind.

I would love to be able to put up a tower in the back yard

>
> I've owned only two homes in my life. My Cincinnati home was a full
> masonry brick house (plaster inside directly attached to two courses of
> brick). That place was costing me $200-$250 per month during the winter
> for natural gas in the late seventies/early eighties. I don't like to
> think about what the gas bill might be these days. That's the only

> place I ever lived where I could find frost on a closet wall on a cold day.

brrrr.. Was that the averaged out bill per month?

807. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-25 19:33:15 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <zTpik.2670$eg.1802@fe119.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2578

Michael Coslo wrote:
> Dave Heil wrote:
>> N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>>
>>> It seems to me that a lot of amateurs insist on a new house, or at
>>> least a newer house, meaning something no older than 10-20 years.
>>> Older homes are simply off the radar, for some reason. Is it just me,
>>> or is this a real trend? What's behind it?
>>
>> A lot of it might be in heating and cooling costs. Most newer homes
>> are super insulated--built with 2x6 walls, wrapped with Tyvek and have
>> joints sealed with expanding foam.
>
> I wish I could say the same for my area. Many of the largest, most
> expensive houses have very little insulation. There is a dead giveaway -
> after a snowstorm, they are the first houses to lose the snow on the
> roof. A good bit of my wife's work comes from designing remodels on 2 or
> 3 year old McMansions.

Wow, Mike, I don't know of many houses anywhere which are being built with other than 2x6 walls. Ceiling insulation is, of course, one of the cheapest and easiest things to fix. You can always add more. It is tougher to do much about wall insulation if the wall is already full of the stuff.

> I think maybe that during the 80's and early 90's home construction
> related to insulation was pretty good, but as the housing market took
> off, and people seemed to be willing to buy anything for any amount of
> money, the quality dropped.

Maybe folks in some areas aren't paying enough attention to the plans they see from their contractor.

>
> Many of them offer geothermal
>> heating/cooling systems as well. One of my pals lives in Indiana.
>> His total energy bills this past year have averaged $125 per month
>> with his geothermal system. That is for a five year old, all electric
>> home with a geothermal system. That isn't bad for lights, cooking,
>> heating water, watching TV, ham radio, computers, etc.
>
> It is truly impressive what can be done with a little work. The caveat
> it that when you have a tightly sealed house, you have to be very
> careful about chemical exposure.

It can be an issue, especially for the first couple of years with the
new flooring, carpeting and the like.

> My sister has something fairly similar.
> She lives in a large modified A frame with one side all glass. Has a
> wind generator, Geothermal heat system, and uses a wood pellet stove for
> the comfy glow you get from radiant heat. She lives on the first hill
> south of Lake Erie shore near Erie, so there is always some wind.

She's a good bit straight north of us. I wouldn't want to do an Erie
winter.

In talking to those who know, those geothermal systems can easily be
retrofitted to existing homes. They cost a couple of thousand more than
if installed at the time the home is built. For small yards, the drill
vertical holes rather than horizontal trenching.

>
> I would love to be able to put up a tower in the back yard

And there's simply no way to do it? Did I miss something? I thought
you had no antenna restrictions. The Indiana fellow I wrote about is
W8RHM. He's in farming country near Milan and is populating the first
of his two heavy duty crank up towers. Roger will have hard line runs
from the tower bases to the house. He has metal bulkheads fitted with
antenna and rotor cable disconnects.

>
>>
>> I've owned only two homes in my life. My Cincinnati home was a full
>> masonry brick house (plaster inside directly attached to two courses
>> of brick). That place was costing me $200-$250 per month during the
>> winter for natural gas in the late seventies/early eighties. I don't
>> like to think about what the gas bill might be these days. That's the
>> only place I ever lived where I could find frost on a closet wall on a
>> cold day.
>
> brrrr.. Was that the averaged out bill per month?

No, that was the typical monthly bill in winter. I never got on the
even billing plan. I liked having lower rates in summer for a few months.

I eventually installed a wood stove system but that was messy coming
into the basement and messay hauling the ashes out. The upstairs never
got warm enough at night though the first floor and the basement shack
were toasty. Almost all of the basement except for a 10x10 storage area
and the laundry room was ham shack. Collecting boat anchor rigs takes
lots of ROOM.

Dave K8MN

808. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-25 19:45:49 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <z3qik.27159$dg.21080@fe097.usenetserver.com>
Source record: 2579

David G. Nagel wrote:
> Dave Heil wrote:
>> Phil Kane wrote:
>>
>>> We had a builder put up a MaxiMansion near here for his own residence.
>>> They had to put in a new gas line up the street to provide enough gas
>>> to heat the place. He has his own pole-pig too. The price was
>>> several mills three years ago.
>>
>> Out here on Signal Hill, I have to share a pole pig with the neighbor
>> across the road.
>>
>>> The house across the road from that is
>>> 35 rooms occupied by a couple in their 90s - the largest car dealer in
>>> the Portland area. I would suspect that both of those places have
>>> live-in help.
>>
>> See! I could live in one of those places--as live-in help.
>>
>>> Isn't it nice to have money?
>>
>> I'd love to have the opportunity to find out if wealth could mess up
>> my life. Though indoor plumbing came to this area long ago, there's
>> still a WPA-built privy on our property. When I can afford to do it
>> up in gold leaf, I will know that I've arrived.
>>
>> Dave K8MN
>>
> Your name isn't Al Gore and you haven't purchased 10,000 acres of carbon
> credits in West Ubanga Banga.....

You may write those things on my grave stone!

I saw Al's daddy once when he flew into the Palm Beach County airport in
late 1957 or early 1958.

I plan to create some massive carbon footprints when the Consol Coal
Company buys me out (that could be anywhere from now until eight years
away). Those carbon diggin' rascals are buying people out right and
left at rather handsome prices. When my carbon ship comes in, I plan to
live out my days in showy ostentation. I'd planned on two of those
heavy duty crank up towers with the tilt feature but if Consol's price
is right, I may opt for three. Of course you always have to plan for
the event that the coal company changes its mind. If that happens, I'll
be a little less ostentatious and will just retain my two Rohn 25 towers

and will continue to burn free natural gas like it was goin' out of style.

73,

Dave K8MN

809. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-25 20:08:32 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <6lnpl5-v89.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 2580

In article <pan.2008.07.25.06.00.52.890971@invalid.nospam>,
Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam> wrote:

>I'm a lot more worried about it as a TV engineer and semi-rural
>over-the-air TV viewer. In early tests these things weren't very good at
>determining whether a channel was unused. I can see that becoming a big
>problem in semi-rural areas like this, where people might be using rooftop
>antennas to get TV but the Internet devices will probably be on makeshift
>indoor aerials.

According to an article in Moble Radio Technology magazine recently,
there's another issue in some areas (about ten major metro areas)
where various public safety agencies have already been authorized to
use the white space in the channel 14-20 range for various types of
public safety communication.

Some of these applications (e.g. video surveillance cameras) are
designed to be "indetectable" while in operation... which makes things
problematic for the proposed free-white-space-detection devices. The
police would be unamused by having their stakeout-surveillance video
feed stomped upon by web-browsing passersby!

The quick solution to this is to forbid the use of free-white-space
devices in this frequency range, in those cities where public safety
operations have already been authorized. This won't necessarily solve
the problem, if (for example) a user of such a device brings it from a
"wide open" city into a city with restrictions, and doesn't realize
that s/he has to change the device's mode to stay legal.

The pro-audio industry is also up in arms over these whitespace
proposals, as they've been depending for years on Part 15 (or similar)
wireless microphones which operate in the unused TV channel
frequencies. Having to face competition for these frequencies from a
whole bunch of non-coordinated new "find a 'free' frequency and camp
on it" devices could cause problems for them, to say the least!

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will
boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

810. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-25 21:06:30 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g6d4pr$1832$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2581

Doug Smith W9WI wrote:
> On Thu, 24 Jul 2008 14:41:36 -0400, Steve Bonine wrote:
>
>> There's an article in today's Washington Post
>>
>> http://preview.tinyurl.com/6ego68

I had to chuckle at the part where she holds the camera on herself at arms length. High budget reportage.

I also was in awe of the publc safety aspect touted by the one engineer. First responders, yada yada. Of course they could use it.

The manager who is talking about having a product out in less than a year, after tehy know what the "rules" are.

Finally the last guy in the red shirt who basically says that what they have doesn't work.

Golly, if it doesn't have to work, I could have something on the market in a week or so <evil grin>

>
> I'm not too worried about interference to/from amateur radio.

This isn't too likely to interfere with Amateur radio. Of course, I don't think it is too likely to work either. Given the nature of UHF, the system will have to look at the possible occupation of a frequency at both the broadcast site and receiver site. Picket fencing can be an issue. Let's take a look at a potential experience.

The home system (digital signal source) and receiver system (laptop) look around for a clear space. Say they find one. I am guessing that there is some sort of Pre-communication going on on some dedicated frequency. So they find a clear frequency. They start exchanging packets. Now the laptop moves and a picketed signal shows up, or say the local church starts it's Saturday evening service. So now the home system and the receiver system have to search around for a new frequency. Maybe they find one, and maybe they don't.

Immediate thoughts come to mind:

These systems have to be in some kind of communication to begin with. I suppose that the laptop could just start transmitting on different frequencies, hoping to hit the home system, but that would be a long process.

Talk about a system ripe for interference. There could be a new game in town, the opposite of Wardriving. If all it takes is another signal on the same frequency to start a search for a clear one, some social misfits might just have fun with a sweep generator. Keep the system hopping, and it will never settle on a frequency.

<snippage>

> I'm a lot more worried about it as a TV engineer and semi-rural
> over-the-air TV viewer. In early tests these things weren't very good at
> determining whether a channel was unused. I can see that becoming a big
> problem in semi-rural areas like this, where people might be using rooftop
> antennas to get TV but the Internet devices will probably be on makeshift
> indoor aerials.

Is is possible that this is another setup put together by digital engineers as opposed to RF engineers?

So I agree with Steve that it is likely to be another BPL. This one might get a little further before failure though, as I think ARRL's efforts went a long way toward getting BPL marginalized. Obviously we won't be spending our money on a problem that won't directly affect Hams. But it has th esame problems, likely interference, lack of robustness, and probably won't help th epeople touted as the beneficiaries.

Just my .$0.02

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

811. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-25 21:07:43 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g6dcqe$182a$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2582

Dave Heil wrote:
> Michael Coslo wrote:
>> Dave Heil wrote:
>>> N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>>>
>>>> It seems to me that a lot of amateurs insist on a new house, or at
>>>> least a newer house, meaning something no older than 10-20 years.
>>>> Older homes are simply off the radar, for some reason. Is it just me,
>>>> or is this a real trend? What's behind it?
>>>
>>> A lot of it might be in heating and cooling costs. Most newer homes
>>> are super insulated--built with 2x6 walls, wrapped with Tyvek and
>>> have joints sealed with expanding foam.
>>
>> I wish I could say the same for my area. Many of the largest, most
>> expensive houses have very little insulation. There is a dead giveaway
>> - after a snowstorm, they are the first houses to lose the snow on the
>> roof. A good bit of my wife's work comes from designing remodels on 2
>> or 3 year old McMansions.
>
> Wow, Mike, I don't know of many houses anywhere which are being built
> with other than 2x6 walls. Ceiling insulation is, of course, one of the
> cheapest and easiest things to fix. You can always add more. It is
> tougher to do much about wall insulation if the wall is already full of
> the stuff.

It's the poor construction, not the specific size of the walls.

>
>> I think maybe that during the 80's and early 90's home construction
>> related to insulation was pretty good, but as the housing market took
>> off, and people seemed to be willing to buy anything for any amount of
>> money, the quality dropped.
>
> Maybe folks in some areas aren't paying enough attention to the plans
> they see from their contractor.

And how! Here we have had people "build" a house and move to th earea
after it was finished. Did you ever see those commercials where someone
says "Just tell me what to do!" That was them. In boom times, some not
very good contractors show up, and when coupled with those inattentive
buyers, a lot of really poorly constructed houses have been put up.

>> Many of them offer geothermal
>>> heating/cooling systems as well. One of my pals lives in Indiana.

>>> His total energy bills this past year have averaged $125 per month
>>> with his geothermal system. That is for a five year old, all
>>> electric home with a geothermal system. That isn't bad for lights,
>>> cooking, heating water, watching TV, ham radio, computers, etc.
>>
>> It is truly impressive what can be done with a little work. The caveat
>> it that when you have a tightly sealed house, you have to be very
>> careful about chemical exposure.
>
> It can be an issue, especially for the first couple of years with the
> new flooring, carpeting and the like.
>
>> My sister has something fairly similar. She lives in a large modified
>> A frame with one side all glass. Has a wind generator, Geothermal heat
>> system, and uses a wood pellet stove for the comfy glow you get from
>> radiant heat. She lives on the first hill south of Lake Erie shore
>> near Erie, so there is always some wind.
>
> She's a good bit straight north of us. I wouldn't want to do an Erie
> winter.

She agrees! The odd thing about Erie is that the part right next to the shore isn't too bad, but within a mile of the shore, it gets brutal. The odd thing is that they hope for cold winters, so that the lake freezes over and stops putting so much moisture in the air.

In the summer it is gorgeous though, so they get a little compensation.

> In talking to those who know, those geothermal systems can easily be
> retrofitted to existing homes. They cost a couple of thousand more than
> if installed at the time the home is built. For small yards, the drill
> vertical holes rather than horizontal trenching.
>
>>
>> I would love to be able to put up a tower in the back yard
>
> And there's simply no way to do it? Did I miss something? I thought
> you had no antenna restrictions.

Oops, wrong context. I'd love to put up a tower in *her* back yard. It's just about the highest place in that neck of the woods. Of course I'd have to travel to Erie to do it.

I can still do it in our yard if I wanted to.

> The Indiana fellow I wrote about is
> W8RHM. He's in farming country near Milan and is populating the first
> of his two heavy duty crank up towers. Roger will have hard line runs
> from the tower bases to the house. He has metal bulkheads fitted with
> antenna and rotor cable disconnects.

This sounds like an excellent setup all the way around - he should look into giving tours! hi

>>> I've owned only two homes in my life. My Cincinnati home was a full
>>> masonry brick house (plaster inside directly attached to two courses
>>> of brick). That place was costing me $200-$250 per month during the
>>> winter for natural gas in the late seventies/early eighties. I don't
>>> like to think about what the gas bill might be these days. That's
>>> the only place I ever lived where I could find frost on a closet wall
>>> on a cold day.
>>
>> brrrr.. Was that the averaged out bill per month?
>
> No, that was the typical monthly bill in winter. I never got on the
> even billing plan. I liked having lower rates in summer for a few months.

Okay, that is still quite the bill for the time.

Don't you have access to Natural gas now from the gas company? Sounds like Karma compensating for the earlier expense.

> I eventually installed a wood stove system but that was messy coming
> into the basement and messay hauling the ashes out. The upstairs never
> got warm enough at night though the first floor and the basement shack
> were toasty. Almost all of the basement except for a 10x10 storage area
> and the laundry room was ham shack. Collecting boat anchor rigs takes
> lots of ROOM.

Wood does indeed heat you several times - cutting it, splitting it, stacking it, burning it, and hauling it out at the end. Yet still, I like our fireplace.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

812. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 29 (July 25, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-25 21:27:55 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080725212646.A09A430B58@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2583
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

****
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 29
July 25, 2008
****

IN THIS EDITION:

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ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
No ARRL Audio News July 25
FAR Scholarship Winners Announced

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>,
then e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========

==> ARRL Board of Directors Plans the League's Future at Second 2008 Board Meeting

The ARRL Board of Directors held its Second Meeting of 2008 July 18-19 in Windsor, Connecticut, under the chairmanship of President Joel Harrison, W5ZN. Radio Amateurs of Canada President David Goodwin, VO1AU/VE3AAQ, was a guest of the Board. The Board considered and acted on a number of organizational and Field Organization issues as well as regulatory and operating matters.

Organizational Issues

ARRL Strategic Plan: The Board voted to develop a timeline to review and revise the ARRL Strategic Plan. The Board directed Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, to release the Plans long-range goals to the membership and to solicit comments from members on the future direction and priorities of their national organization. Member input will be considered by the Board at its Annual Meeting in January 2009. At the Second Meeting in July 2009, the Board will review and revise the Plan. The current Strategic Plan was adopted by the Board in October 2006.

2009 ARRL National Convention: The Board voted to hold the 2009 ARRL National Convention at the Dayton Hamvention(r). Carl Rose, K8CPR, chair of the Dayton Hamvention Committee, extended an invitation to the League to hold its convention at Dayton May 15-17, 2009. The last ARRL National Convention was in 2007 at the Huntsville Hamfest.

ARRL Web Redesign: Fathom, a Web Development company based in Hartford, presented their plans for a new design for the ARRL Web site.

Field Organization

Improvements to Resources Available to Section Managers and SM Candidates: Following a report by the Boards Programs and Services Committee, which included the results of a Section Governance Study and survey, the Board voted to direct staff to implement a Section Manager candidate nomination package that is similar to the current Board nomination package. The Board also voted to direct the Membership and Volunteer Services Department to review the three surveys of Section Managers conducted as part of the Section Governance Study to attempt to identify beneficial and practical modifications to resources available to Section Managers and Field Organization processes.

The Board defeated a motion that would have extended Section Manager terms to three years and begin all terms on January 1. The Board directed ARRL HQ staff to implement an online method for Official Observers to file reports that could then be delivered from ARRL headquarters on behalf of the OO.

Operating Issues

The Board voted to create a Triple Play Award. This new award, set to be implemented by January 2009, will be given to those amateurs who achieve Worked All States (WAS) on voice, CW and digital modes. All 150 QSLs must be exclusively via Logbook of The World (LoTW). Only those contacts made after the awards start date will be eligible. The Board also acted on the Programs and Services Committee report, voting to eliminate Rule 5 from Section III of the DXCC Rules. The Committee realized that while publishing log data can have a detrimental effect on operating awards, it was not possible to control such actions and the rule cannot be enforced. As part of an effort to maintain the integrity of operating awards programs, the

Board called on staff to create resources and guidelines for QSLing and for QSL managers. These guidelines will help people who QSL to understand the "best practices" and help to support the work of the QSL manager so that access to log data won't degrade Amateur Radio's long tradition of the honor system.

Regulatory Matters

The Board voted to establish an ad hoc study committee to review Part 97 of the rules governing the Amateur Radio Service to ascertain what rule change(s) would be beneficial to promote wideband digital modes, while at the same time minimizing potential interference to narrowband modes.

Other Items

Awards

Hiram Percy Maxim Award: The Board selected Jim Fagan, KE7IDC, of Tucson, Arizona, as the recipient of the 2007 Hiram Percy Maxim Award.

Technical Excellence Award: The Board chose John Stanley, K4ERO, of Rising Fawn, Georgia, as the recipient of the 2007 Doug DeMaw, W1FB Technical Excellence Award.

Instructor of the Year Award: The Board selected Doug Loughmiller, W5BL, of McKinney, Texas, as the recipient of the 2008 Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award.

Technical Innovation Award: The Board chose Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ, of Wayland, Massachusetts, as the recipient of the 2008 ARRL Technical Innovation Award.

McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award: The Board selected Walter Palmer, W4ALT, of Lewes, Delaware, as the winner of the 2008 Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award for excellence in public relations.

Technical Merit Award: The Board conferred the ARRL Technical Merit Award on Ed Hare, W1RFI, ARRL Laboratory Manager.

Partnership with VanityHQ: The Board decided to partner with the VanityHQ Web site to get the ARRL Silent Key data that was published in QST included in the VanityHQ Web site history project in an electronically searchable format.

The complete Minutes of the 2008 Second Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors is available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/board-0807/>.

The next meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors is scheduled for January 16-17, 2009.

==> HIRAM PERCY MAXIM'S TELEGRAPH KEY RETURNS TO ARRL HQ

At the ARRL Board of Director's meeting this past weekend, the telegraph key that once belonged to Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, was returned to ARRL Headquarters. According to ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, the key had been in the collection of the Antique Wireless Association's Electronic Communication Museum near Rochester, New York for more than 20 years.

Craigie said that the AWA decided to return Maxim's key to the organization he co-founded almost 100 years ago. At the ARRL Atlantic Division Convention in May 2008, the museum's former curator, Ed Gable, K2MP, presented the key to Craigie and Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR. Craigie and Edgar then presented the key to ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, and ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, on Friday, July 18.

"The key will find a prominent place in the League's collection of historical artifacts," Craigie said. "The Old Man's key has come home".

==> AMSAT-UK COLLOQUIUM TO TAKE PLACE THIS WEEKEND

The 23rd Annual AMSAT-UK International Space Colloquium will be held July 25-27 at the University of Surrey in Guildford, about an hour's drive from London <http://www.uk.amsat.org/content/view/32/42/>. The Colloquium is a chance to talk to satellite designers and builders, as well as a place to discover how to use Amateur Radio satellites. A beginner's session on satellites is held prior to the formal opening on the first day of the event.

Chairman of AMSAT-UK Sir Martin Sweeting, G3YJO, will open the Colloquium on Friday, July 25. This will be followed by the keynote speech, given by Coordinator of the UK Lunar Penetrator Consortium Rob Gowen of University College London's Mullard Space Science Laboratory. He will present on "Science Penetrators for the UK MoonLITE mission."

There will be presentations from AMSAT-DL on both the eagerly awaited P3E High Earth Orbiting Satellite and the pioneering Mars Orbiter P5A during the event. According to colloquium organizers, the P5A is the first private venture spacecraft to travel to the Mars, providing radio amateurs with some true DX signals. The Delfi-C3 team will also be giving presentations on their new satellite. Its SSB/CW 435/145 linear transponder is due to be activated soon. The IARU Satellite Forum -- chaired by the IARU Satellite Adviser and President of AMSAT-SA Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV -- will also take place during the Colloquium.

The Colloquium will be streamed live on the Internet, thanks to the British Amateur Television Club (BATC) <http://www.batc.org.uk/>. According to BATC President Peter Blakeborough, G3PYB, the club will facilitate streaming video of the presentations live to the Internet so that radio amateurs and shortwave listeners can watch from anywhere in the world. As well as the live Webcast, BATC will also be

providing a "live chat" Web page, enabling viewers to post messages. Interested viewers can find the streaming video at <http://www.batc.tv>.

More information about AMSAT-UK's 23rd Annual Colloquium can be found on the AMSAT-UK Web site <http://www.uk.amsat.org/content/view/32/42/>.

==> FCC Issues Citation to Georgia Company for Selling, Importing Unauthorized RF Devices

On July 21, the Federal Communications Commission issued a Citation <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1685A1.pdf> to the owner of a Georgia company for selling unauthorized radio frequency devices (specifically wireless video transmitters) and importing radio frequency devices without filing the proper FCC forms with the US Customs office and the US Border Patrol.

The FCC found that Vladimir "Vova" Reznik, owner of RangeVideo <http://www.rangevideo.com/>, was "marketing in the United States unauthorized radio frequency devices, specifically, wireless video transmitters." The Commission sent Reznik a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) regarding this and noting the following specific items he had for sale on the RangeVideo Web site: 900 MHz 100 mW audio/video transmitters; 900 MHz 500 mW audio/video transmitters; 1.3 GHz 300 mW audio/video transmitters; 2.4 GHz 200 mW audio/video transmitters; 2.4 GHz 500 mW audio/video transmitters; 2.4 GHz 1000 mW audio/video transmitters, and 2.4 GHz 1000 mW cased audio/video transmitters.

According to the FCC, the 900 MHz devices are capable of operation on 980 MHz, 1010 MHz and 1040 MHz; the 1.3 GHz device is capable of operating on 1240 MHz, 1320 MHz and 1360 MHz, and the 2.4 GHz devices are capable of operating on 2490 MHz. "Thus, these transmitter devices cannot comply with the FCC's technical standards and therefore cannot be certified or marketed," the Citation reads.

Reznik responded to the LOI, admitting that he first imported the devices in 2006 and that he continues to import the devices. The FCC noted that he admitted to selling more than 2600 of the transmitters since 2006. Reznik also admitted to not filing the proper forms with the US Customs Office or the Border Patrol.

The FCC also noted that Reznik stated that before he ships a transmitter device, he "switches" it to operate only in the Amateur Radio Service ('ARS') bands. While radio transmitting equipment that transmits solely on ARS frequencies is not subject to the equipment authorization requirement prior to manufacture or marketing, it appears that the seven transmitter devices marketed on your website are equipped with external toggle switches on the unit, which if engaged would allow operation of the device on the restricted frequencies."

In 1996, the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) released a Public Notice "to clarify the Commission's Rules regarding equipment intended to operate in various radio services in the high frequency radio spectrum, including 10 meter Amateur Radio Service equipment" <http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Engineering_Technology/Public_Notices/1996/pnet6023.txt>.
The Notice states that transmitters intended for operation on non-amateur frequencies "must be approved prior to manufacture, importation or marketing." The Notice specifically includes Amateur Radio Service transceivers to be designed "such that they can easily be modified by the users to extend the operating frequency range into the frequency bands" of other non-Amateur Radio Services among those devices, subject to equipment authorization procedures.

The Notice also states that the FCC considers these transceivers as intended to be operated on frequencies where the use of type accepted equipment is required "because of the simplicity of modifying them to extend their operating frequency range." According to the Citation, "the transmitter devices listed on `Reznik's` website require a grant of equipment certification prior to the initiation of marketing in the United States, but, as noted above, cannot be certified because they operate on restricted frequencies."

Reznik has the following legal disclaimer posted on the RangeVideo Web site: "high power video transmitters operate in the Amateur Radio Service (ARS) frequency band, and according to FCC regulations users must obtain proper licensing for legal operation. There are no restrictions on the sale of this equipment, however RangeVideo urges users to become familiar with and observe all laws and regulations governing ARS licensing and the operation of ARS equipment. Please visit the FCC's Website for more information <http://www.rangevideo.com/index.php?main+AF8-page=page+ACY-id=5>. He then gives the FCC's Web site address that discusses how to receive an Amateur Radio license <http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/licensing>.

The FCC warned Reznik that if he violates the Communications Act or the Commission's Rules "in any manner described herein" after receipt of the Citation, "the Commission may impose monetary forfeitures not to exceed $11,000 for each such violation or each day of a continuing violation." Reznik was given 30 days to reply to the Citation, either through a personal interview at the FCC's Atlanta Field Office or via a written statement. Through the Citation, Reznik was told that his response "should specify the actions that you are taking to ensure that you do not violate the Commission's Rules governing the marketing of radio frequency equipment in the future."

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Turn thy wild wheel through sunshine, storm, and cloud" Cook, K7RA, this week reports:

For several days over the past week, we saw a couple of sunspots -- but just like other recent dying Solar Cycle 23 spots, they faded quickly. This group, lasting from July 18-20, was number 1000. No sign of Solar Cycle 24 in recent memory, just a couple of false starts. There are no predictions indicating more sunspots for the upcoming week. Predicted planetary A index for the near future is 5, with a slight increase to 8 on August 1 and a large increase to 20 on August 8. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet geomagnetic conditions through the end of the month, except July 27, which is quiet to unsettled. Sunspot numbers for July 17-23 were 0, 11, 12, 11, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 4.9. The 10.7 cm flux was 65, 65.3, 66.4, 65.9, 66.2, 65.8 and 65.5 with a mean of 65.7. Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 5, 3, 3, 6, 11 and 16 with a mean of 7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 5, 1, 2, 5, 9 and 12 with a mean of 5.3. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Alfred, Lord Tennyson's "Idylls of the King."

_____
==>IN BRIEF:

* In Virginia, ARES = RACES: On July 3, Virginia officials, along with representatives from that state's ARES and RACES groups, signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) <http://www.aresva.org/pdf/VDEM_ARES_MOU_3_July_2008.pdf> uniting the three groups. State Coordinator, Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) Michael M. Cline; State RACES Officer Mac McNeer, K4YEF; ARRL Virginia Section Manager Carl Clements, W4CAC, and ARRL Virginia Section Emergency Coordinator Ron Sokol, K4KHZ, signed what ARRL Emergency and Preparedness Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, called a "precedent setting" document.

* Hams Active as Hurricane Dolly strikes Caribbean, then Texas: The Hurricane Watch Net wound up about 19 hours of operation, experiencing some of the worst band conditions we've seen in many years. Most of the traffic to the National Hurricane Center on 14.325, was relayed off of 40 meter frequencies by Bob, K5SIV. The Net also put out regular advisories to those in the affected area in English and Spanish. -- tnx John Ellis, NP2B, Section Manager, Virgin Islands Section

Later, as Hurricane Dolly made landfall near Brownsville, Texas, on July 23, the VoIP Hurricane Net was active for a 24-hour period, reports Rob Macedo, KD1CY, of the VoIP Hurricane Net. We had N5CCW on the air from the National Weather Service in Corpus Christi, Texas, and W5DCH from the Driscoll Childrens Hospital EOC and several other Amateurs from the Corpus Christi, Texas area. They assisted with relaying reports from their area as well as from the affected area of Brownsville, Texas which included sustained hurricane force winds

with gusts to 105 MPH. We owe a debt of gratitude to these stations for being on the system with us despite their pressing issues locally, said Rob Macedo, KD1CY, Director of Operations for the VoIP Hurricane Net. The Driscoll Childrens Hospital briefly went to a code black emergency mode as a tornado, related to the outer rain bands of Dolly, was sighted near the hospital. The code black was lifted after it was determined the hospital would not be affected by the tornado. Lloyd Colston, KC5FM, relayed rainfall reports in excess of 10 inches from the Texas Emergency Net. Those reports were then relayed through the VoIP Hurricane Net to the National Hurricane Center.

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, the NCCC Sprint Ladder is on July 25 and the RSGB IOTA Contest is on July 26-27. Next weekend, the TARA Grid Dip Shindig and the European HF Championship are on August 2. On August 2-3, look for the 10-10 Int. Summer Contest (SSB), the National Lighthouse Weekend QSO Contest, the ARRL UHF Contest and the North American QSO Party (CW). The RSGB RoPoCo 2 and the SARL HF Phone Contest are both August 3. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

* W1AW/KL7 QRV: Special event station W1AW/KL7 will be on the air from grid square BP56 July 26-August 10 on all bands from 160-6 meters. This ARRL 2008 Alaska State Convention Special Event Station plans to run two HF stations operating CW, SSB and digital, one satellite station and one station devoted to 146.52 MHz.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, August 3, 2008 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, August 15, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Registration remains open through Sunday August 24 2008, for these on-line course sessions beginning on Friday September 5, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010), Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001), Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006), Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009), Analog Electronics (EC-012) and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing

helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* No ARRL Audio News July 25: There will be no ARRL Audio News on Friday, July 25. The ARRL Letter will be available that day. ARRL Audio News will return on Friday, August 1.

* FAR Scholarship Winners Announced: The Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) has announced the 2008 winners of 55 scholarships it administers. The scholarships were open to all licensed radio amateurs who met the qualification and residence requirements of the various sponsors. A non-profit organization incorporated in the District of Columbia, FAR represents more than 50 Amateur Radio clubs in Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. It is devoted exclusively to the scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service. For a complete list of recipients, please see the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/07/19/10214/?nc=1>. For more information, contact FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20783, or visit their Web site <http://www.amateurradio-far.org/>.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery: ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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813. Re: The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 29 (July 25, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-25 23:56:57 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <1f2dnXfJ5_M--hfVnZ2dnUVZ_srinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2584

"ARRL Letter Mailing List" <letter-dlvy@arrl.org> wrote in message
news:20080725212646.A09A430B58@www.arrl.org...

>
> Operating Issues
>
> The Board voted to create a Triple Play Award. This new award, set to
> be implemented by January 2009, will be given to those amateurs who
> achieve Worked All States (WAS) on voice, CW and digital modes.
>

Hey, ARRL listens, but they listen slowly!

I proposed the "USA Triple Play" award to them in 2004.

73, de Hans, K0HB

814. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-26 00:49:20 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <I9SdnU80_84d6RfVnZ2dnUVZ_srinZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2585

"Michael Coslo" wrote

>> Wow, Mike, I don't know of many houses anywhere which are being built
>> with other than 2x6 walls. Ceiling insulation is, of course, one of the
>> cheapest and easiest things to fix. You can always add more. It is
>> tougher to do much about wall insulation if the wall is already full of
>> the stuff.

> It's the poor construction, not the specific size of the walls.

Right. Apparently, regardless how much insulation is installed between the studs, if the house isn't very well sealed, that insulation's effectiveness is going to be reduced. I asked a builder in NY what their typical R-value is. He said it's not about R-value, but how well the house is sealed, inside and out. If I do have a new house built when I move to 1-land, it'll have expanding foam insulation to make sure the exterior shell is all well-sealed. That'll be done after the coax and ladder-line feed throughs are installed, of course. :-)

Howard N7SO

815. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-26 03:12:27 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net>
Message-ID: <Xns9AE6EA06B181Cmcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136>
Source record: 2586

KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com> wrote in
news:04382952-8d81-401d-ad38-a22368f6eeb6@y38g2000hsy.googlegroups.com:

> On Jul 22, 12:57 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>>
>> Contrast that to demanding your right to put up whatever you
>> darn well
>> please, and if the neighbors don't like it, they can can it. We all
>> know which one works better.
>>
>
> Well I don't know about you but my wife has a LOT more to say about my
> antenna aspirations than the neighbors ever will. She's not going to
> allow anything she considers an eyesore to go up. She sees me gawking
> at some of the antenna farms around and makes it clear I won't have
> one that looks like that!

My XYL alsp takes a dim view of some of the more gaudy antennas. I've bounced ideas off her, and over time have come up with what is acceptable. I've ended up with wire dipoles, a J-pole for 2 meter repeater work, and a Butternut vertical.

The Butternut was bought at a Hamfest for a paltry 35.00 It needed one of the tube insulators and a HV cap. Simple stuff. I took a chance and we made a deal if she didn't like it, I'd take it down. Oddly enough, it didin't bother her as much as I thoght it would - it only got the "rolled eyes" treatment. So we kept it.

> Of course this puts me in a difficult situation. When I retire to the
> country and get the 20 acres on the hill side. She's going to want
> the house on the top of the hill and the antenna farm someplace else.

Doesn't she know that the best place is down the hill a bit? Warmer in winter, and less likely to have lightning strikes? hehe

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

816. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-26 06:00:41 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <dfel849t6ume1anl92q5nd9s6fgealjgf7@4ax.com>
Source record: 2587

On Fri, 25 Jul 2008 16:08:32 EDT, dplatt@radagast.org (Dave Platt) wrote:

>According to an article in Moble Radio Technology magazine recently,
>there's another issue in some areas (about ten major metro areas)
>where various public safety agencies have already been authorized to
>use the white space in the channel 14-20 range for various types of
>public safety communication.

Dave, that's old news, at least 30 years old .It was originally pushed by the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department which up until that time had been using VHF low-band (39 MHz) equipment.

The so-called T-Band is almost totally loaded in the major metropolitan areas authorized for same (See FCC Rules Part 90, Sub part L). This spectrum is allocated in such a manner as to protect existing TV stations.

These are one type of systems that our company designs for public-safety clients. Many agencies are asking the FCC to reassign unused commercial channels in the T-Band for Public Safety use. We're in the thick of that. What we are trying to do also is to get the FCC to expand the radius around the authorized cities as urban growth moves outward.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

817. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-26 11:01:22 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.07.26.06.31.57.456648@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2588

On Fri, 25 Jul 2008 16:08:32 -0400, Dave Platt wrote:
> The quick solution to this is to forbid the use of free-white-space
> devices in this frequency range, in those cities where public safety
> operations have already been authorized. This won't necessarily solve
> the problem, if (for example) a user of such a device brings it from a
> "wide open" city into a city with restrictions, and doesn't realize
> that s/he has to change the device's mode to stay legal.

They'll probably have to ban them from T-band altogether. But see below.

> The pro-audio industry is also up in arms over these whitespace
> proposals, as they've been depending for years on Part 15 (or similar)
> wireless microphones which operate in the unused TV channel frequencies
.
> Having to face competition for these frequencies from a whole bunch of
> non-coordinated new "find a 'free' frequency and camp on it" devices
> could cause problems for them, to say the least!

One proposal I saw would require wireless-microphone users to transmit a
"beacon" signal at some predetermined location within the TV channel. Th
e
white-space devices would monitor for this beacon.

(both the DTV and analog TV standards essentially already have beacons)

So I suppose you could have the public-safety organizations also transmit
the beacons.

Yes, sometimes I get the impression the pro-audio folks are more upset
about this than the broadcasters.

818. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-26 11:01:43 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.07.26.06.34.29.504801@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2589

On Sat, 26 Jul 2008 02:00:41 -0400, Phil Kane wrote:
> These are one type of systems that our company designs for
> public-safety clients. Many agencies are asking the FCC to reassign
> unused commercial channels in the T-Band for Public Safety use. We're
> in the thick of that. What we are trying to do also is to get the FCC
> to expand the radius around the authorized cities as urban growth
> moves outward.

I think the problem you're going to have (with both of those projects) is
that the compression of the TV band is going to make unused channels in
T-band less common. And especially in the areas outside the existing
radius where you'd like to expand it.

I think the argument you'll get is that 24MHz above channel 51 has alread
y
been set aside for public-safety, should it really need more below channe
l
21?

819. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-26 11:02:09 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.07.26.06.36.38.87046@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2590

On Fri, 25 Jul 2008 17:06:30 -0400, Michael Coslo wrote:
> Is is possible that this is another setup put together by digital
> engineers as opposed to RF engineers?

Like BPL and IBOC I'd suggest it wasn't engineers who came up with this idea...

820. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-26 11:02:42 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.07.26.06.51.36.380148@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2591

On Sun, 13 Jul 2008 11:01:24 -0400, D. Stussy wrote:
> Only U.S. border-sharing areas will have DTV, because it's for stations
that
> have U.S. reception. TWIAR reported about 2 months ago that Mexico act
ually
> passed a referendum NOT to consider a change in non-border-sharing area
s
> until 2025.

I know of no such referendum. I have to presume TWIAR misinterpreted
something...

See the official Mexican government list:
http://www.cofetel.gob.mx/wb/Cofetel_2008/Cofe_canales_de_television_digi
tal_in

which shows eight stations in Mexico City; five in Guadaljara; and six in
Monterrey. None of these are close enough to the border to have any
audience in the U.S.. (except, possibly, for the Monterrey stations
during tropo openings!)

This list correlates well with press releases like this one:
http://broadcastengineering.com/RF/Grupo-Televisa-Mexico-DTV-20060222/

which indicate that as of two years ago, DTV transmitters were already
installed and operating in the three major interior cities. (and Tijuana
)

821. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-26 11:09:58 UTC
From: John Smith <assemblywizard@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <g6f0ci$m0g$1@news.albasani.net>
Source record: 2592

Steve Bonine wrote:
> There's an article in today's Washington Post
>
> http://preview.tinyurl.com/6ego68
>
> that describes a technology that's under development to provide Internet
> access using spectrum in the TV channel range. Apparently this scheme
> checks for a signal before it uses a specific frequency and switches to
> a different one if it detects that the frequency is in use.
>
> I wonder how this will work and play with amateur radio. I remember
> when TV channel 2 was established in my home town, effectively shutting
> down six meter ham operation because the TV signal was so weak that even
> a correctly-operating six-meter rig would create serious TVI for the
> fringe reception of channel 2. Decades have passed and this new
> technology surely is much less sensitive to adjacent signals than the
> TVs of my childhood, but the analogy persists.
>
> 73, Steve KB9X
>

These freqs, being opened up for the net, is a very exciting development
... I believe the opportunities and access provided will greatly expand
the availability to the net under adverse circumstances, and make
greater speeds available to those who were lacking the same ...

Regards,
JS

822. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-26 15:32:43 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.07.26.14.31.56.145186@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2593

On Sat, 26 Jul 2008 07:09:58 -0400, John Smith wrote:
> These freqs, being opened up for the net, is a very exciting developmen
t
> ... I believe the opportunities and access provided will greatly expand
> the availability to the net under adverse circumstances, and make
> greater speeds available to those who were lacking the same ...

Believe it when you see it...

BPL was promised as the way to get broadband to rural residents. Never
saw any of it deployed in rural areas - all the test systems ended up in
suburbia.

823. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-27 06:37:11 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net>
Message-ID: <Xns9AE7D42637E7Cmcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136>
Source record: 2594

John Smith <assemblywizard@gmail.com> wrote in
news:g6f0ci$m0g$1@news.albasani.net:
> These freqs, being opened up for the net, is a very exciting
> development ... I believe the opportunities and access provided will
> greatly expand the availability to the net under adverse
> circumstances, and make greater speeds available to those who were
> lacking the same ...

Hi John. What are the technical aspects of these systems that will do this? I read what they are doing, and what they have done so far to be technically not so good. It appears that the concept is flawed.

>From what I can piece together, it looks as if the main concept treats the RF spectrum as if it were wired for digital. That will not work.

Simple Wi-Fi and other digital transmission setups in use now are not close to the same. The system that comes closest in likely performance is cellular net access. That uses compression rather than frequency agility of course.

This is a presumed frequency agile system that won't interfere with other signals already on the band. If it works, one possible outcome is that no available frequency will be found, and no connection made. Failure is a built in option!

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

824. Re: Jesus knew about ham radio guys!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-27 14:10:45 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <b8ebf523-1f7c-46c4-a238-396672d38788@s50g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2595

On Jul 24, 3:16 pm, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > It seems to me that a lot of amateurs insist on a new house, or at
> > least a newer house, meaning something no older than 10-20 years.

> A lot of it might be in heating and cooling costs.
> Most newer homes are
> super insulated--built with 2x6 walls, wrapped with Tyvek and have
> joints sealed with expanding foam.

Some of them are. And the effectiveness of those things is highly dependent on the quality of the work and the design of the house. I've seen/heard of some pretty shoddy work in newer homes.

>Many of them offer geothermal
> heating/cooling systems as well.

Geothermal is the way of the future for both A/C and heating in many places.

>One of my pals lives in Indiana. His
> total energy bills this past year have averaged
> $125 per month with his
> geothermal system. That is for a five year old,
> all electric home with
> a geothermal system. That isn't bad for lights, cooking, heating
> water, watching TV, ham radio, computers, etc.

But how many kWh per month?

The price of residential electricity varies all over the place in CONUS; from almost 20 cents per kWh from ConEd to a nickle or so in some parts of the South and Pacific Northwest. Imagine if gasoline was $1 in some places and $4 in some other places, all in the USA.

There's also the issue of how big the place is, how many people live there and how they live. Things such as how much laundry they generate (kids who play certain sports tend to generate a lot of really dirty laundry), and whether they use a clothesline can make a big difference. Stuff like old inefficient appliances and leaving things on/doors open can be real money-wasters.

Older homes can be refitted to improve their efficiency, too. New double-insulate windows are not a big deal and can reduce maintenance cost. Insulation can be blown into the walls of a frame house from the inside or outside at low cost. Geothermal can be retrofitted too.

This all has a direct bearing on the subject, because too many folks (IMHO) set their house-choice criteria too narrowly.

At the same time, as the price-of-electricity variation shows, what is true in one place may not be true elsewhere. I know places where $300,000 will buy you a big house on a big lot in an excellent location, with all the modern stuff in excellent condition. And I know other places, maybe an hour or two away, where $300,000 will get you a tiny fixer-upper on a postage-stamp lot - if you're lucky.

> I've owned only two homes in my life. ?My Cincinnati home was
> a full
> masonry brick house (plaster inside directly attached to two
> courses of
> brick). ?That place was costing me $200-$250 per month during
> the winter
> for natural gas in the late seventies/early eighties. ?I don't li
ke to
> think about what the gas bill might be these days. ?That's the on
ly
> place I ever lived where I could find frost on a closet wall on a
> cold day.

When I moved to western New York State in the late 1970s I lived for a time in a rented two-bedroom all-electric townhome of then-recent construction. $300 electric bills in the winter were normal, even though there were two party walls and the thermostat was kept low.

My first house, a wood-frame single just a few miles away in New York State, was built in 1900 and had gas heat with radiators, gas hot water and gas stove. $85/month for gas in the winter was a big bill.

The house on RadioTelegraph Hill was a stone-and-stucco twin built in 1923. It cost a little more to heat and cool than the New York State house.

Present location was built in 1950, original heater replaced in 2000 and the whole house heavily modified/upgraded in 2005.

There's an easy test for how well insulated/sealed your house is: When it's very cold or very hot outside, let the heat or A/C run long enough to get the house to a reasonable temperature.

Then turn off the heat or A/C and see how long it takes for the house to cool off or heat up a certain number of degrees. Use the thermostat indication for uniformity.

I've had a setback-thermostat since the new heater was installed, but since 2005 it doesn't do much because the house doesn't cool or heat more than a couple of degrees in several hours with the thermostat on the maximum "nobody home" setting.

We hams have lots of options, but as it was said in the first post of this thread, we have to plan from the beginning.

73 de Jim, N2EY

825. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-27 15:21:54 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <36f5e439-ead0-4dcb-b7d0-6b5b0331d916@56g2000hsm.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2596

On Jul 26, 11:32 am, Doug Smith W9WI <w...@invalid.nospam> wrote:

> BPL was promised as the way to get broadband to rural
> residents. Never saw any of it deployed in rural areas -
> all the test systems ended up in suburbia.

AFAIK, the reason for that is the classic rural-utilities problem: how to get a usable return on investment from a low-density customer base. Given a reasonable rate structure, often there simply aren't enough revenue dollars to justify the expense of installation and maintenance.

Note that the last parts of the USA to get electricity were the rural ones, and it took government programs like the REA and TVA to make it happen. (See windmill/farm radio story below).

Access-BPL isn't a way to get broadband to cover more than a mile or two; that's a job for fiber optics. Access-BPL is all about the "last mile": getting the broadband signal into the customer's neighborhood and premises without new wires by using the power lines. It sounds like a good idea until the downsides are considered. Besides the obvious interference issues, there's the need to install devices to permit the BPL signal to bypass the distribution transformers (which raises a whole bunch of safety concerns) and how lossy the power lines are to the BPL signal (because it's radiating!).

Economics alone may be the doom of BPL.

And now the farm radio story:

Years after electric lighting and radio broadcasting were common in the USA, many farms and rural areas did not have electricity. In some areas, small local cooperative power systems were built, with varying degrees of success. But in many areas the distances were so great that such systems did not happen.

One solution that had a fair following was the windmill generator. Windmills had long been used for pumping water - in fact the artesian well and the water-pumping windmill were major factors in the cultivation of the Great Plains. Companies like Wincharger produced wind-powered electric systems for lighting. Typically these were ~32 volt DC systems with storage batteries for windless nights.

The farm folks wanted radio, too, but usually the cost of an electric system just to power a receiver was prohibitive.

So AM BC radios were developed to run from the windmill power systems. They used ordinary receiving tubes with the heaters in series and the plate supply direct from the 32 volts, for economy. The resulting low gain was dealt with by an additional stage or two and paralleled audio output tubes. Still cheaper and less trouble than a dynamotor or vibrator supply, and used less energy. These wind-powered radios are rare now because they were only sold in rural areas and became obsolete when rural electrification came through. Plus one more factor:

One unusual feature of the 32 volt systems was that they used the same hardware (lamp sockets, outlets, switches, wiring) as 110 volt AC systems. This seemed like a good idea at the time because it eliminated future re-work. But it was risky because if someone plugged the wrong-voltage device in, there could be a lot of smoke released. More than a few 32 volt radios met an untimely demise from such mistakes.

Another approach stemmed from the development of low-drain 1.4 volt filament receiving tubes. "Farm radios" designed around these tubes and powered by dry cell batteries were developed for the rural market. Special combination-block dry cell batteries were developed where the cells were sized for a particular set design so that the A and B sections wore out together. They were a staple of rural-area radio-sales-and-repair shops until the electrification came through.

Now, 60-odd years later, we are seeing a resurgence in wind power and off-the-grid technology. Everything old is new again.

73 de Jim, N2EY

826. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-27 20:17:10 UTC
From: John Smith <assemblywizard@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <g6i827dep1@news.schnuerpel.eu>
Source record: 2597

Mike Coslo wrote:

> ...
> Hi John. What are the technical aspects of these systems that will do
> this? I read what they are doing, and what they have done so far to be
> technically not so good. It appears that the concept is flawed.
>
>>From what I can piece together, it looks as if the main concept treats the
> RF spectrum as if it were wired for digital. That will not work.
>
> Simple Wi-Fi and other digital transmission setups in use now are not close
> to the same. The system that comes closest in likely performance is
> cellular net access. That uses compression rather than frequency agility of
> course.
>
>
> This is a presumed frequency agile system that won't interfere with other
> signals already on the band. If it works, one possible outcome is that no
> available frequency will be found, and no connection made. Failure is a
> built in option!
>
> - 73 de Mike N3LI -
>

Only compression working in conjunction with spread spectrum or other frequency-skipping/efficiency techniques makes any sense what-so-ever ... if the implemented systems do not include state-of-the-art techniques in these areas--they will eventually be forced too, as traffic climbs ...

Although it has been months since I have viewed the available/proposed plans, the best plans called for the freqs to be open to all--i.e., rented/leased, etc. from successful bidder(s), and at fair rates. And, included free and open wifi access from points along major traffic routes, cities, etc. through constructive funding methods (ads, city/town/county/state/federal participations, etc.)

However, you know as well as I, in this day-and-age--especially, what the pubic wants and sees benefits in are NOT always given major priority.

Or simply, we live in a world which maximizes profits for some at the expense of the majority. While this does what it intends and very efficiently at that, the quality-of-living/services for the multitudes suffers greatly ... but then, you have already seen that. (example: my city just ear marked 1,500,000 for "the arts"--and, LARGE holes in the roads are tearing chunks off car tires! Our water system needs a

billion+ dollar upgrade ... etc.

If you don't believe our politicians, even down to the minor ones in your/my town, are "owned", just where in the heck have you been taking that "Rip Van Winkle Nap" at?

Regards,
JS

827. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-27 20:18:27 UTC
From: John Smith <assemblywizard@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <g6ibl5jla1@news.schnuerpel.eu>
Source record: 2598

Mike Coslo wrote:

> ...
> This is a presumed frequency agile system that won't interfere with other
> signals already on the band. If it works, one possible outcome is that no
> available frequency will be found, and no connection made. Failure is a
> built in option!
>
> - 73 de Mike N3LI -
>

Sorry, in my haste I missed making a suitable response to this part of your post.

I never see a "failure", so to speak, occurring (other than catastrophic failure and requiring repair of hardware/firmware/software.) And, under peak-loads/hardware-failure/etc., slowdowns may occur. However, this would happen to any/all net traffic under adverse condition. Indeed, you really don't know how the net gets to you, satellite/hard-line/cell-tower/etc. are all being implemented behind the curtains and simply ends up looking seamless to us, the users.

The net should not be viewed as a long winded amateur who abuses "key down" time. The net is in packets, these packets are of a sensible size and sent "in turn." There are rules to prevent one or more "glutton(s)" from being able to adversely affect net traffic.

From my home wifi router/switch to the data streams off a major backbone, packets are handled this way. Usually some type of First-In-First-Out (or, FIFO) queue is implemented (packets may not always be transmitted "in order", however, they will always carry an id which allows the logical data stream to reconstructed.) Your packet is never "lost" or "ignored", it is simply "waiting in line", like a busy supermarket--your "shopping time" may vary.

Regards,
JS

828. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-27 21:53:45 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <d7e2966c-1f78-4b35-9a0f-7bedbd11c66c@p25g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2599

On Jul 27, 2:37 am, Mike Coslo <mco...@youknow.comcast.net> wrote:

> This is a presumed frequency agile system that won't
> interfere with other
> signals already on the band. If it works, one possible
> outcome is that no
> available frequency will be found, and no connection
> made. Failure is a built in option!

IMHO:

I think this whole business of "overlays", unlicensed users, and such, is not the way to go. I think we (and more important, the FCC) need to step back and get some basic concepts re-established.

The whole basis of licensing and regulation is to get the most and best use of a limited resource (the RF spectrum) with minimum interference. That's what started licensing in 1912, and is the whole reason for the radio part of FCC.

And for a long time, if you wanted to intentionally radiate RF, you needed at least one FCC license, and had to abide by the rules of that license. If you unintentionally radiated enough RF, FCC would not let you continue doing so.

Different parts of the RF spectrum were allocated for different uses. Sharing of the same spectrum between licensed services worked with varying degrees of success.

The idea of allowing unlicensed intentional RF emitters to share RF spectrum with licensed ones probably dates back to the first "phono oscillators" that used the AM BC band to let you play records through a radio. That was a marginal idea in its time, but it's turned into a very bad idea today.

The big problem of BPL isn't that it could interfere with us hams - lots of things can do that. The big problem was that an unintentional (and effectively unlicensed) RF emitter was and is being given priority over and above licensed users. (See many reports of hams who report interference from BPL, yet the BPL system is allowed to continue operating).

The idea that various unlicensed users can "overlay" on top of licensed ones, and that the whole business of licensing and regulation can be relaxed, sounds pretty good at first. But in reality, problems do arise, and then the unlicensed users don't want to shut down. Often they are unaware of the interference.

It's just bad engineering and bad planning. If RF spectrum is needed for new technologies, allocate it! License the new technologies to use their own allocations, rather than stepping all over other folks'.

And stop permitting so much RF pollution from unintentional emitters. It's just not necessary; the technology exists to do things right.

Old-fashioned ideas? Maybe, but that doesn't mean they are bad ideas.

I am reminded of the old story of the hobo who was discovered by the train conductor, and who ordered the hobo off the train because he didn't have a ticket.

The hobo argued that the train was going to go where it was going anyway, that there was plenty of unused space in the baggage car and plenty of seats with no one in them, so why should he have to buy a ticket? The hobo promised that if the train got crowded he would get off. But barring such crowding, he argued, his presence on the train would cost the railroad nothing. So why throw him off? Why not let him ride free?

73 de Jim, N2EY

829. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-28 03:09:23 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <mcoslo@youknow.comcast.net>
Message-ID: <Xns9AE8E340CD3ACmcoslocomcastnet@216.196.97.136>
Source record: 2600

N2EY@aol.com wrote in news:d7e2966c-1f78-4b35-9a0f-7bedbd11c66c@p25g2000hsf.googlegroups.com:

> On Jul 27, 2:37 am, Mike Coslo <mco...@youknow.comcast.net> wrote:
>
>> This is a presumed frequency agile system that won't
>> interfere with other
>> signals already on the band. If it works, one possible
>> outcome is that no
>> available frequency will be found, and no connection
>> made. Failure is a built in option!
>
> IMHO:
>
> I think this whole business of "overlays", unlicensed users, and such,
> is not the way to go. I think we (and more important, the FCC)
> need to step back and get some basic concepts re-established.

I couldn't agree with you more, Jim!

> The whole basis of licensing and regulation is to get the most and
> best use of a limited resource (the RF spectrum) with minimum
> interference. That's what started licensing in 1912, and is the whole
> reason for the radio part of FCC.
>
> And for a long time, if you wanted to intentionally radiate RF, you
> needed at least one FCC license, and had to abide by the rules of that
> license. If you unintentionally radiated enough RF, FCC would not let
> you continue doing so.

> Different parts of the RF spectrum were allocated for different uses.
> Sharing of the same spectrum between licensed services worked with
> varying degrees of success.
>
> The idea of allowing unlicensed intentional RF emitters to share RF
> spectrum with licensed ones probably dates back to the first "phono
> oscillators" that used the AM BC band to let you play records through
> a radio. That was a marginal idea in its time, but it's turned into a
> very bad idea today.
>
> The big problem of BPL isn't that it could interfere with us hams -
> lots of things can do that. The big problem was that an unintentional
> (and effectively unlicensed) RF emitter was and is being given
> priority over and above licensed users. (See many reports of hams who
> report interference from BPL, yet the BPL system is allowed to

> continue operating).

Somehow, somewhere, the concept of "the greater good" came into play. When coupled with the "regulation is bad" idea, it took on a new and dare I say evil life of its own. Normally the greater good is a buzzword for rwgulation fans. Here it was turned on it's head - since more people were/are unlicensed, their greater good could overwhelm the licensed users, who were part of the old, regulated paradigm.

> The idea that various unlicensed users can "overlay" on top of
> licensed ones, and that the whole business of licensing and regulation
> can be relaxed, sounds pretty good at first.

It only sounds good to those who believe in ideology based physics.

> But in reality, problems
> do arise, and then the unlicensed users don't want to shut down. Often
> they are unaware of the interference.

It is also very likely that they just don't care.

> It's just bad engineering and bad planning. If RF spectrum is needed
> for new technologies, allocate it! License the new technologies to use
> their own allocations, rather than stepping all over other folks'.

I think that steps on the toes of ideology though. Keep in mind that I think you are 100 percent correct.

> And stop permitting so much RF pollution from unintentional emitters.
> It's just not necessary; the technology exists to do things right.
>
> Old-fashioned ideas? Maybe, but that doesn't mean they are bad ideas.

Might it be that the new fashioned ideas are just plain wrong? There are some things that do not need regulation. If everyone were to get a very good education, most things would not need regulation. However, our society (in the US at least) tends toward specialization. Without a very liberal education (whoee, now that's PI!) people are dependent on other specialists to make policy for anything outside their own narrow specialty. This naturally tends toward regulation. I don't like it. I wish everyone was educated enough to make rational decisions on their own. Unless I misunderestimate people.

- 73 d eMike N3LI -

830. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-28 03:38:53 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <ifWdnSMQ6-BupRDVnZ2dnUVZ_uednZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2501

<N2EY@aol.com> wrote in message
news:d7e2966c-1f78-4b35-9a0f-7bedbd11c66c@p25g2000hsf.googlegroups.com...

> If RF spectrum is needed for new technologies, allocate
> it! License the new technologies to use their own allocations,
> rather than stepping all over other folks'.

[TIC]

Makes a lot of sense Jim. After all, there are huge expanses of fallow
un-allocated spectrum out there, waiting to be exploited.

Or maybe not.

[/TIC]

Be careful what you wish for. If FCC agrees with you (every intentional
radiator should be licensed to their own allocation), then I predict that
spectrum currently allocated to hobbyists will be among the first to be
harvested and re-assigned.

(Whoops!)

73, de Hans, K0HB

831. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-28 04:17:48 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <cqeq84tkm7bal6urq4l6vqksr9vguqj3bs@4ax.com>
Source record: 2502

On Sat, 26 Jul 2008 07:01:43 EDT, Doug Smith W9WI
<w9wi@invalid.nospam> wrote:

>I think the argument you'll get is that 24MHz above channel 51 has already
>been set aside for public-safety, should it really need more below channel 21?

Now you have me talking about my business but here I go anyway:

Every petition that we have submitted for our Public Safety clients
who need expansion into non-Public Safety Pool frequencies in T-Band
has been met with what I consider a boiler-plate query from the FCC
that has to be answered formally on the record about whether our
client has considered a 700 MHz system. What we say is this:

1. This is an expansion of existing system which already operates in
T-Band and there are no more Public Safety Pool T-Band channels
available that would not result in harmful interference to another
user of that band.

2. The characteristics of 700 MHz propagation and building
penetration are such that it would require anywhere from five to ten
times as many repeater sites as a T-band system, each one costing
three to five times as much as a T-Band site costs.

3. It is dangerous and unsafe to require a public safety officer
(police or fire) to carry two radios where the possibility exists that
the "wrong" radio would be used in a life-and-death situation.

4. There is no usable 700 MHz equipment on the market at the present
time. Existing 800 MHz equipment is not compatible with the operating
schemes proposed for the 700 MHz band.

5. The systems under consideration are taxpayer funded, and it is
egregious to abandon an existing system and procure a new system just
because the 700 MHz spectrum has been designated for future use. The
taxpayers won't stand for it, even in the name of "homeland security",
the magic words du jour, and obtaining additional sites is a
protracted and expensive procedure in today's environmental-conscious
urban and suburban environment (can you say NIMBY ?).

The documentation to support all the above literally runs into the
thousands of pages - all at the taxpayers' expense.

I'd say more but it would disparage a major manufacturer of equipment.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

832. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-28 04:18:37 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <g6gq84l3ut0jinlr46djf267los74qqrtf@4ax.com>
Source record: 2503

On Sat, 26 Jul 2008 07:09:58 EDT, John Smith
<assemblywizard@gmail.com> wrote:

>These freqs, being opened up for the net, is a very exciting development
>... I believe the opportunities and access provided will greatly expand
>the availability to the net under adverse circumstances, and make
>greater speeds available to those who were lacking the same ...

I do believe that the thrust of this group is to further Amateur
Radio, not "the 'net".

Then there are those of us who are professionals in spectrum
regulatory management who believe that this is a harebrained idea
from the get-go that violates good professional practice.

My NSHPO.

>Regards,
>JS
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

833. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-28 06:35:49 UTC
From: John Smith <assemblywizard@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <g6jj5jesn2@news.albasani.net>
Source record: 2504

Phil Kane wrote:

> ...
> I do believe that the thrust of this group is to further Amateur
> Radio, not "the 'net".
>
> Then there are those of us who are professionals in spectrum
> regulatory management who believe that this is a harebrained idea
> from the get-go that violates good professional practice.
>
> My NSHPO.
>
>
>> Regards,
>> JS
> --
>
> 73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
>
>>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
> Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon
>
> e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net
>

Phil:

Interesting point ... the not-too-distant-future (year? two? few years?) should either prove you right, or wrong ... "harebrained idea", huh, we'll see ... professional? Huh, I am one myself--does that mean "I am never wrong?" -- NO! (I find crystal balls are that way.) Professional means I must revise my facts constantly to keep up with new developments and be ready to revise "accepted notions" at any moment -- i.e., stand corrected! I am sure you are prepared to do the same -- being a "professional" and all ...

However, there are those who are like me, basically, we envision communication for what it is--freqs, protocols, purposes, reasons, traditional-justifications/historical-justifications, equipment, firmware, software, etc. be damned ... we/I see amateur radio simply interfacing to the net as seamlessly as the other forms of communications are/have done ... I frequently use magicjack/voip--I am certain this worries AT&T ... the possibilities with amateur radio are mind boggling -- and YET to be developed.

This means, your amateur broadcast may begin on your xmitter, transverse a cell tower, a hard phone-line, a trans-atlantic cable, satellite, etc. before it arrives at the fellow amateurs' shack--in Australia!--and the packets decoded to voice/video/data.

Regards,
JS

834. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-28 11:34:42 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <2cdfea4c-fde2-4b53-9efb-bdbd99e22893@m44g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2505

On Jul 28, 2:35 am, John Smith <assemblywiz...@gmail.com> wrote:

> However, there are those who are like me, basically, we envision
> communication for what it is--freqs, protocols, purposes, reasons,
> traditional-justifications/historical-justifications, equipment,
> firmware, software, etc. be damned ...

There's a fundamental problem with that viewpoint - see below.

> we/I see amateur
> radio simply
> interfacing to the net as seamlessly as the other forms of
> communications are/have done ...
> I frequently use magicjack/voip--I am
> certain this worries AT&T ... the possibilities with amateur
> radio are
> mind boggling -- and YET to be developed.

There's a difference between what can be done and what should be done.

> This means, your amateur broadcast may begin on your xmitter,
> transverse
> a cell tower, a hard phone-line, a trans-atlantic cable, satellite, etc.
> before it arrives at the fellow amateurs' shack--in Australia!--and
> the packets decoded to voice/video/data.

The problem is that such a mindset as you describe misses a
fundamental point about what amateur radio is all about. Indeed, it
misses a fundamental point about what *life* is all about.

What you describe is what could be described as "the mindset of the
destination" or "the mindset of the message". Meaning all that matters
is getting there, not the method or the journey. And for a lot of
things, that's perfectly OK; I don't really care what exact path or
technology routes my phone call or my email as long as it gets there
reliably and at low cost. Most people don't care if the TV show they
watch is delivered by magnetic tape, optical disc, RF in the air, RF
in a cable, or light in a fiber, it's the program content that matters
to them.

But there's another mindset to consider as well, which can be
described as "the mindset of the method" or "the mindset of the
journey". It's the mindset where the route, the technology, the
experience, etc., *do* make a difference to the person. In many cases
the journey is more important than the destination. And it's a big
part of what Amateur Radio is all about.

Because one of the main reason for Amateur Radio to exist is that it is "radio for its own sake". A thing done for its own intrinsic value to the doer, not just for the final result.

It's like asking why anyone goes fishing non-professionally when they can buy fish cheaper at the market. Or why anyone rides a bike, walks or runs when they have a perfectly good car, or cooks when they can go to a restaurant. Why anyone would paint or draw when there are perfectly good cameras of many types.

The answer is that they are doing those things for the doing, not just for the end result. A QSO from my radio to another ham's, direct by ionosphere, troposphere, aurora, etc., is not the same journey as a net-simulation, just as my homemade bread is not the same as a loaf bought in a store.

More than ten years ago, I saw discussions about how practically all that we radio amateurs do on HF from fixed points could be done on the net using various forms of simulation/emulation. And I'm sure it could be done.

The folks who proposed this simply didn't understand the difference between the journey and the destination.

That difference is very important.

There's another factor: Having an alternate system. Too much dependence on a single system is not always a good thing, because when (not if) that system fails there's no alternative - no backup. Too much dependence on a single system also stifles creativity because all thought tends to be conditioned to that system.

--

None of this means Amateur Radio must never ever connect to the 'net or to other communications systems. What it does mean is that such connections are an enhancement and/or interface, not a replacement for "A Boy And His Radio" (to use K0HB's phrase).

73 de Jim, N2EY

835. Emergency comms thought - good? not so good?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-28 23:10:07 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g6kkie$17m2$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2506

While reading another thread about spectrum and emergency comms, a thought came to me. Lessee if it makes sense.

Given that:

1. Spectrum is a finite resourece

2. Emergency comms (this term is used generically) is always interested in trying to get more of that spectrum

3. One of the major shortcomings of present day systems is lack of communications between the different systems in an area.

The cell phone industry deals with access to limited spectrum all the time.

Is is then a possibility that emergency comms might shift to a system similar to cell phones? It seems to me that trunking is kind of an old fashioned idea, and is ripe for replacement.

Even in our area we have a 10 year old trunking system that is going to have to be replaced because it isn't working properly. One that was supposed to last for 20 years.

But a cellular type approach might just work well for them. Before anyone thinks I'm bonkers, I'm not talking about using cell phones, just the type of compression/time sharing.

Now interopability is not necessarily so difficult.

This is just first thought conjecture, possibly impossible, so feel free to rip into it.

- 73 d eMike N3LI -

836. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-28 23:15:06 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g6knanuug1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2507

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Jul 28, 2:35 am, John Smith <assemblywiz...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
>> However, there are those who are like me, basically, we envision
>> communication for what it is--freqs, protocols, purposes, reasons,
>> traditional-justifications/historical-justifications, equipment,
>> firmware, software, etc. be damned ...
>
> There's a fundamental problem with that viewpoint - see below.
>
>> we/I see amateur
>> radio simply
>> interfacing to the net as seamlessly as the other forms of
>> communications are/have done ...
>> I frequently use magicjack/voip--I am
>> certain this worries AT&T ... the possibilities with amateur
>> radio are
>> mind boggling -- and YET to be developed.
>
> There's a difference between what can be done and what should be done.
>
>> This means, your amateur broadcast may begin on your xmitter,
>> transverse
>> a cell tower, a hard phone-line, a trans-atlantic cable, satellite, etc.
>> before it arrives at the fellow amateurs' shack--in Australia!--and
>> the packets decoded to voice/video/data.
>
> The problem is that such a mindset as you describe misses a
> fundamental point about what amateur radio is all about. Indeed, it
> misses a fundamental point about what *life* is all about.

We often get a mistaken notion, even among some Hams, that the whole point of Ham radio is for Hams to talk to each other. I've been taken to task time and again for saying that isn't the point, or at least it is only one of them.

If talking was the main point, I can pick up my cell phone and call around the world - to an absolutely huge base of people to talk to. Many more people to talk to than using Ham radio. Why use a radio at all?

A lot of Amateur radio is not about talking. It is about putting a system together, building antennas and other equipment. tinkering with software, having fun doing stuff. Learning things. For my self, I'm probably at about a 10 to 1 ratio of doing other Ham radio activities to

talking.

> What you describe is what could be described as "the mindset of the
> destination" or "the mindset of the message". Meaning all that matters
> is getting there, not the method or the journey.

I am always a little worried that it can give rise to "The ends justify
the means".

> And for a lot of
> things, that's perfectly OK; I don't really care what exact path or
> technology routes my phone call or my email as long as it gets there
> reliably and at low cost. Most people don't care if the TV show they
> watch is delivered by magnetic tape, optical disc, RF in the air, RF
> in a cable, or light in a fiber, it's the program content that matters
> to them.
>
> But there's another mindset to consider as well, which can be
> described as "the mindset of the method" or "the mindset of the
> journey". It's the mindset where the route, the technology, the
> experience, etc., *do* make a difference to the person. In many cases
> the journey is more important than the destination. And it's a big
> part of what Amateur Radio is all about.

One of the reasons that I stopped taking the interstates whenever
possible. I decided to let the majority white knuckle it out with the
trucks, the crazies going 100 mph, and the last mile dash to the
construction zone so that the driver is first in line to stop and wait.

While I take the old road at 5 miles over the speed limit, arrive stress
free, and surprisingly enough, at just about the same time as if I would
have taken the interstate.

It's the journey.

> Because one of the main reason for Amateur Radio to exist is that it
> is "radio for its own sake". A thing done for its own intrinsic value
> to the doer, not just for the final result.

And yet, the knowledge gained is most useful. SO many of the things
done by Amateur radio operators have a value in real life, even though
they seem like games, or reinventing the wheel.

As Riley Hollingsworth pointed out, contesters could give a lot of
pointers for emergency communicators. He made a comment about them
teaching NTS handlers lessons in rapid comms. Indeed to the point of
saying that by comparison, the contest would be over by the time the NTS
folks made the first couple exchanges. This is paraphrased.

Point is, learning how to put up a station, learning *how* the radios
work, learning how to listen to and work weak/noisy signals. Learning
how to make an accurate exchange of information. All those things are
fun, but a serious sort of fun.

> More than ten years ago, I saw discussions about how practically all
> that we radio amateurs do on HF from fixed points could be done on the
> net using various forms of simulation/emulation. And I'm sure it could
> be done.
>
> The folks who proposed this simply didn't understand the difference
> between the journey and the destination.

Boy howdy they didn't get it. Some people get the end result mixed up
with the process.

It is similar to a discussion about unmanned/automatic contest stations.
While it is possible to do such a thing, who the heck would do it? At
least beyond a "look what I can do" level. Set the station up, and do
something else while it is contesting for you. I dunno, maybe another
hobby? Because that certainly wouldn't be interesting.

Those arguing for such things, and those up in arms about such things
coming to pass just don't get it.

> That difference is very important.
>
> ---
>
> There's another factor: Having an alternate system. Too much
> dependence on a single system is not always a good thing, because when
> (not if) that system fails there's no alternative - no backup. Too
> much dependence on a single system also stifles creativity because all
> thought tends to be conditioned to that system.

This has been proven time and time again, Jim. Systems that rely on a
lot of structure will go down, and usually go down hard. And the people
who work these systems have no idea on how to put them back together
again when they do. They have to get a team of manufacturer techs in at
great cost in time and money. By then the disaster is over.

Oddly enough, the "cure" seems to always be the addition of more
complexity and structure.

Whereas Amateur radio (or whatever else works in these situations) is
much closer to the raw physics, and is operated by people who know a lot
more than just "push the button and talk". They know how to get things
working and keep them working.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

837. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-29 02:23:06 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <kars849mfsegvqm91la6kpnrddob1llnci@4ax.com>
Source record: 2508

On Mon, 28 Jul 2008 02:35:49 EDT, John Smith
<assemblywizard@gmail.com> wrote:

>This means, your amateur broadcast may begin on your xmitter, transverse
>a cell tower, a hard phone-line, a trans-atlantic cable, satellite, etc.
>before it arrives at the fellow amateurs' shack--in Australia!--and the
>packets decoded to voice/video/data.

There are still some of us who cling to the motto "When all else
fails...amateur radio". My concept of ham radio is to be free from
any non-ham intermediary transmission systems.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

838. Re: Emergency comms thought - good? not so good?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-29 02:32:04 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <u3ss84531u8anavqd7c7cr1qe7ot8qgeid@4ax.com>
Source record: 2509

On Mon, 28 Jul 2008 19:10:07 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

>Is is then a possibility that emergency comms might shift to a system
>similar to cell phones? It seems to me that trunking is kind of an old
>fashioned idea, and is ripe for replacement.

Welcome to the proposed world of 700 MHz. See my earlier posting
about why 700 MHz won't work at the present time and may even not be
suitable in the future.

>Even in our area we have a 10 year old trunking system that is going to
>have to be replaced because it isn't working properly. One that was
>supposed to last for 20 years.

If it is an 800 MHz system, I can understand it. Planned obsolescence
appears to be designed into those systems by the Majority
Manufacturer. Our major clients, however, are using UHF and T-Band
trunking systems of the same vintage - by the same manufacturer in
most cases - and they are working just fine. The only changes that
have to be made are adding more channels because the growth of
population in the served area(s) putting more demand on services than
was forecast.

As far as "working properly" - that's the kind of things we fix.

Relevance to Ham Radio -- as the Public Safety systems expand, the
wise agency will increase the commitment to Ham Radio EmComm backup
as a partner, not as a competitor.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

839. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-29 03:42:26 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <8d0t84900pd8qrimr6a936iiuklk463k43@4ax.com>
Source record: 2510

A bit of history may be in order.

Going back many decades, international radio spectrum managers (ITU/IFRB) designated several slices of spectrum for Industrial, Scientific, and Medical uses on a regulated-but-non-licensed basis. The most famous of these was the former 11-meter Amateur Radio band, centered around 27.12 MHz (Mc/s in those days) and the 960 MHz and the 2450 MHz bands where the "WiFi" stuff eventually landed.

These bands were and to most of us still are considered "electronic garbage cans" and Administrations could allocate uses of those spectrum slices on the basis that the users had to accept any interference from ISM operations.

The FCC decided to establish a class of non-licensed low-power operations regulated under what is now Part 15 which could operate in those spectrum spaces. The 11-meter band was allocated to the Citizens Band Radio Service, which at first was a licensed service but became "blanket authorization" when the renegade violators decided to ignore the law and the FCC caved in (if you can't beat 'em, join 'em). At the same time, ISM operations - which in general were high power with lots of harmonics) moved to screen rooms or elsewhere in the spectrum because their harmonics were causing interference in the VHF Aviation band. leaving that portion of the spectrum to the CBers.

This more-or-less orderly Part 15 operation lasted for a while until the FCC, in a stroke of lightheadedness, no doubt prodded by equipment manufacturers with product to sell, decided to allow Part 15 operations on other portions of the spectrum allocated to licensing users. There was quite an uproar while that was being proposed, and the objectors were told to "sit down and be quiet".

In other words, it was a done deal where politics or ideology overruled competent spectrum management.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

840. Re: Emergency comms thought - good? not so good?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-29 19:19:17 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <2a38fd58-df06-4534-bd52-47d4f7a8e17b@i76g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2511

On Jul 28, 6:10 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
> 1. Spectrum is a finite resourece

Well, I suppose it is if you are limited to the technically *useable*
spectrum space. Physically though, it's pretty much unlimited.

>
> 2. Emergency comms (this term is used generically) is always interested
> in trying to get more of that spectrum

As are all types of "services". Aircraft, Cell phone, Broadcast etc
all would love additional space.

> 3. One of the major shortcomings of present day systems is lack of
> communications between the different systems in an area.

This is an interoperability issue usually. It's not that the
technology isn't available to make it all play together, it's that
such infrastructure is expensive and the investment in the current
stuff is pretty big. The planning for integration of these systems is
not easy either. The biggest problem is getting every user to agree
to support a system that they don't "control" and be willing to buy
new equipment when what they have serves their needs just fine for
now.

> The cell phone industry deals with access to limited spectrum all the tim
e.

Using a standard set of protocols, significant planning costs, and
very expensive infrastructure behind each of those cell towers you see
(and many that you don't.) Just be aware that even the cell industry
has it's problems with interpretability, they usually push a lot of
complexity into the handset which in real terms starts to get pretty
expensive. You may not see the full costs because folks normally don't
pay full price for the handset. The cell companies pay most of the
costs, then make it up over time from the monthly fees.

They also spend a lot of time and money putting up antennas, running
around with receivers and doing survey work. Not to mention that they
donï¿½t cover 100% of everywhere.

> Is is then a possibility that emergency comms might shift to a system
> similar to cell phones? It seems to me that trunking is kind of an old
> fashioned idea, and is ripe for replacement.

Well, cell operations suffer from being heavily dependant on central
control points and a host of infrastructure that you may not notice.

They are quite complex and would be very subject to outages caused by long term power disruptions or flooding. All the things Katrina provided in vast amounts.

>
> But a cellular type approach might just work well for them. Before
> anyone thinks I'm bonkers, I'm not talking about using cell phones, just
> the type of compression/time sharing.

Trunking is a lot like the cell phones of old. But you may be right that a move to more spectrum friendly technology would be a good thing. The issue becomes getting everybody to play in the same field so interoperability is possible.

> Now interopability is not necessarily so difficult.

But it is, unless you plan for it. The solutions the cell phone industry was forced into are very expensive, complex and difficult to maintain compared to your standard analog repeater. Moving to digital transmission formats and frequency sharing would likely make this all the more difficult and costly and I don't see your local fire department or police force switching to some new system just because it integrates easily to other systems they might need to operate with for some hypothetical situation. For your smaller cities, the cost alone will pretty much preclude an upgrade.

I think Ham Radio offers quite the helping hand in situations where the ability to interoperate is needed. As an ad hoc emergency communications service ham radio shines. Where else can you get free radio equipment and trained operators to show up at the same time?

-= Bob =-

841. Re: TV frequencies up for grabs- lets lobby now

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-29 19:52:39 UTC
From: Rick T <rickw7rt@yahoo.com>
Message-ID: <488f6cf6$0$48217$815e3792@news.qwest.net>
Source record: 2512

Doug Smith W9WI wrote:
> On Wed, 02 Jul 2008 16:35:34 -0400, Rick T wrote:
>> Well, I count about 60 stations licensed for high-power
>> digital TV operations nationwide on 7-13.....not a huge
>> number by any means.
>
> I think you're working from a very early table. I count 137 stations
> currently licensed to operate DTV stations on these channels. Those are
> interim operations. Another 300 or so stations will be moving their DTV
> operations to 7-13 from other channels, usually UHF.
>
> Here in Arizona, there are very few
>> remaining after the transition. The public safety folks,
>> having failed to take any of the 138-174 spectrum from the
>> military here (Mainly because of the Army base at Ft.
>> Huachuca) are now looking at the possibility of getting some
>> of that 174-216. I doubt that it will happen though.
>
> I count eight. There are nine analog stations currently operating in tha
> t
> spectrum in the state.
>
> To pick two more states more or less at random:
>
> Kansas: 11 analog stations in 7-13 today.
> 2 interim DTV operations in 7-13 today.
> 13 permanent DTV operations in 7-13 after transition.
>
> Pennsylvania:
> 7 analog stations in 7-13 today.
> 4 interim DTV operations in 7-13 today.
> 9 permanent DTV operations in 7-13 after transition.
>
>> Yes, there is no deadline yet, and the Commission hasn't indicated if
>> they will eventually set a firm deadline for LPTV and Translators. Ther
> e
>> are a huge number of translators in northwest Arizona.....at a cost of
>> over $3,000 each to convert the translators times about 50, plus the
>> LPTV stuff in the Phoenix and Tucson metro areas. I think the FCC will
>> allow at least 5 years, if not more, unless they're in the 60's
>> spectrum. However, they're mostly already chased out of that area.
>
>>From a FCC document dated February 11th:
> "While the February 17, 2009 deadline for ending analog broadcasts does

> not apply to low-power, Class A, and TV translator stations, the FCC will
> require these stations to convert to digital broadcasting sometime
> thereafter. ... The FCC is currently considering the remaining issues inv
> olved with the
> low-power digital transition and will make decisions regarding these
> stations in the future. "
>
> I read that as meaning that they *will* set a firm deadline.
>
> My two-year figure, on the other hand, is just my gut feeling. Your five
> year + figure could well be right. (but I doubt it)
>

Well Doug, I noticed that on the FCC's 1999 R&O on DTV, they
said that they would have another ruling dealing with
Translators and LPTV "very shortly". Let's see, it's now
2008, and counting. :>)

My count is from a 2007 listing found on the FCC's
website.....but, the wildcard may be the number of VHF
analog stations who got their DTV allocation at UHF, but,
once the transition is complete, may want to move back to
VHF for it's better propagation
characteristics.....particularly the 7-13 channels.

Rick T.

842. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-29 20:45:01 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g6nsfi$n9g$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2513

Phil Kane wrote:

> There are still some of us who cling to the motto "When all else
> fails...amateur radio". My concept of ham radio is to be free from
> any non-ham intermediary transmission systems.

As a person who works with computers every day, I have to say that trusting one's well being would not be the wisest of moves. I would rather trust that there is some way of getting an rf signal through.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

843. Re: Emergency comms thought - good? not so good?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-30 00:12:06 UTC
From: Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
Message-ID: <fast-0D5931.12184229072008@netnews.worldnet.att.net>
Source record: 2514

In article <g6kkie$17m2$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>,
Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

> While reading another thread about spectrum and emergency comms, a
> thought came to me. Lessee if it makes sense.
>
> Given that:
>
>
> 1. Spectrum is a finite resourece
>
> 2. Emergency comms (this term is used generically) is always interested
> in trying to get more of that spectrum
>
> 3. One of the major shortcomings of present day systems is lack of
> communications between the different systems in an area.
>
>
> The cell phone industry deals with access to limited spectrum all the time.
>
> Is is then a possibility that emergency comms might shift to a system
> similar to cell phones? It seems to me that trunking is kind of an old
> fashioned idea, and is ripe for replacement.
>
> Even in our area we have a 10 year old trunking system that is going to
> have to be replaced because it isn't working properly. One that was
> supposed to last for 20 years.
>
> But a cellular type approach might just work well for them. Before
> anyone thinks I'm bonkers, I'm not talking about using cell phones, just
> the type of compression/time sharing.
>
> Now interopability is not necessarily so difficult.
>
> This is just first thought conjecture, possibly impossible, so feel
> free to rip into it.
>
>
> - 73 d eMike N3LI -

The one thing that MOST folks seem to forget about EmComms is, that
"SOMETHING" caused the EmComm System to be activated, over the standard
regular variety PublicService Comms, and that same something that is
distrupting the regular stuff, is very likely, to take out some, if not
MOST, of the basic Comms infrastructure, in the effected area.

SO, Any EmComm System MUST as a RULE, be self-sufficent, self-powered, and mobile, or at least portable, into the effected area. This is the lesson of 9/11, and Katrina. When the towers went down 998% of the PublicService Comms Major Remote Bases were lost, one, beacuse they were on the Roofs of Towers, and two, because the Telco Infrastructure was in the Basements of the buildings and went off line when they collapsed. Basically the SAME thing happened in Katrina, the Telco infrastructure was Flooded, and offline from the middle of the storm, on, and the winds took out most of the Microwave Links, that backed up the Telco lines. Without such interconnections, operational, Trunked, Cellular, and the like, will NOT Function, PERIOD. What does function, is VHF & UHF Simplex, VHF & UHF Repeaters that are Self-Contained, Self Powered, including Antennas, that can be placed in Highsites, AFTER the majority of the destruction has already past. Cop Shops with their own Base Stations, powered by their own EmGensets, talking to cars and portables out in the field. EmComm Designed Portable Repeaters including Antennas, and PowerSupplies that can be Airlifted (Choopered) to HighSites in the effected area, once the destruction has slowed or stopped.
This is where HAMS can, and do SUPPLY EmComm Capability. They can Bring in the Mobiles and Portables that WILL WORK, without Telco Infrastructure, and can have at the ready Portable HighSite Repeaters that are EmComm Designed, and ready to function, once placed in the effected Area. Public Service/Govt can also have Mobile Command Centers, Mobile EmComm Centers, and Portable EmComm Repeaters that can be activated and placed in strategic pre-planned Sites for their areas of Service. In the EmComms Business, you can only depend on YOUR pre-planned stuff, and sometimes some of that hardware isn't going to function, so then you go to Plan B, which is you do with what IS working, untill you get something better, working. Sometimes that is HOURS away, sometimes that is DAYS away, and in the some cases it is weeks away, and is supplied by the National Guard, if the hardware, isn't already in IRAQ.

--
Bruce in alaska
add <path> after <fast> to reply

844. Re: Emergency comms thought - good? not so good?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-30 00:50:51 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g6nvld$n8o$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2515

KC4UAI wrote:
> On Jul 28, 6:10 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>> 1. Spectrum is a finite resourece
>
> Well, I suppose it is if you are limited to the technically *useable*
> spectrum space. Physically though, it's pretty much unlimited.
>
>> 2. Emergency comms (this term is used generically) is always interested
>> in trying to get more of that spectrum
>
> As are all types of "services". Aircraft, Cell phone, Broadcast etc
> all would love additional space.
>
>> 3. One of the major shortcomings of present day systems is lack of
>> communications between the different systems in an area.
>
> This is an interoperability issue usually. It's not that the
> technology isn't available to make it all play together, it's that
> such infrastructure is expensive and the investment in the current
> stuff is pretty big. The planning for integration of these systems is
> not easy either. The biggest problem is getting every user to agree
> to support a system that they don't "control" and be willing to buy
> new equipment when what they have serves their needs just fine for
> now.
>
>> The cell phone industry deals with access to limited spectrum all the tim
> e.
>
> Using a standard set of protocols, significant planning costs, and
> very expensive infrastructure behind each of those cell towers you see
> (and many that you don't.) Just be aware that even the cell industry
> has it's problems with interpretability, they usually push a lot of
> complexity into the handset which in real terms starts to get pretty
> expensive. You may not see the full costs because folks normally don't
> pay full price for the handset. The cell companies pay most of the
> costs, then make it up over time from the monthly fees.
>
> They also spend a lot of time and money putting up antennas, running
> around with receivers and doing survey work. Not to mention that they
> donï¿½t cover 100% of everywhere.

I'm not proposing a cellular system as used for telephones. What I am
looking at is a compression scheme similar to what is used for cellular.
The system would physically resemble a typical repeater system, with a

tower, perhaps several with a voting system to pick out the best signal,
which is relayed to the main tower, then compressed and sent out

>> Is is then a possibility that emergency comms might shift to a system
>> similar to cell phones? It seems to me that trunking is kind of an old
>> fashioned idea, and is ripe for replacement.
>
> Well, cell operations suffer from being heavily dependant on central
> control points and a host of infrastructure that you may not notice.
> They are quite complex and would be very subject to outages caused by
> long term power disruptions or flooding. All the things Katrina
> provided in vast amounts.

Having a system such as I was thinking of would allow for a few towers
in a given area, all on high ground, with a lot of backup power.

>> But a cellular type approach might just work well for them. Before
>> anyone thinks I'm bonkers, I'm not talking about using cell phones, just
>> the type of compression/time sharing.
>
> Trunking is a lot like the cell phones of old. But you may be right
> that a move to more spectrum friendly technology would be a good
> thing. The issue becomes getting everybody to play in the same field
> so interoperability is possible.

On this, we agree. Generally speaking, most systems don't want to
budge, or there can be interagency infighting. One of the problems is
that while the different emergency teams operate with a high degree of
camaraderie within their team, outside groups are often viewed with
suspicion.

<some snippage>

> I think Ham Radio offers quite the helping hand in situations where
> the ability to interoperate is needed. As an ad hoc emergency
> communications service ham radio shines. Where else can you get free
> radio equipment and trained operators to show up at the same time?

It's a good resource, for sure. We do tend to eat up all the donuts
though! <evil grin>

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

845. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-30 00:51:48 UTC
From: Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
Message-ID: <fast-CB70B7.12232329072008@netnews.worldnet.att.net>
Source record: 2516

In article <8d0t84900pd8qrimr6a936iiuklk463k43@4ax.com>,
Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:

> A bit of history may be in order.
>
> Going back many decades, international radio spectrum managers
> (ITU/IFRB) designated several slices of spectrum for Industrial,
> Scientific, and Medical uses on a regulated-but-non-licensed basis.
> The most famous of these was the former 11-meter Amateur Radio band,
> centered around 27.12 MHz (Mc/s in those days) and the 960 MHz and the
> 2450 MHz bands where the "WiFi" stuff eventually landed.
>
> These bands were and to most of us still are considered "electronic
> garbage cans" and Administrations could allocate uses of those
> spectrum slices on the basis that the users had to accept any
> interference from ISM operations.
>
> The FCC decided to establish a class of non-licensed low-power
> operations regulated under what is now Part 15 which could operate in
> those spectrum spaces. The 11-meter band was allocated to the
> Citizens Band Radio Service, which at first was a licensed service but
> became "blanket authorization" when the renegade violators decided to
> ignore the law and the FCC caved in (if you can't beat 'em, join 'em).
> At the same time, ISM operations - which in general were high power
> with lots of harmonics) moved to screen rooms or elsewhere in the
> spectrum because their harmonics were causing interference in the VHF
> Aviation band. leaving that portion of the spectrum to the CBers.
>
> This more-or-less orderly Part 15 operation lasted for a while until
> the FCC, in a stroke of lightheadedness, no doubt prodded by equipment
> manufacturers with product to sell, decided to allow Part 15
> operations on other portions of the spectrum allocated to licensing
> users. There was quite an uproar while that was being proposed, and
> the objectors were told to "sit down and be quiet".
>
> In other words, it was a done deal where politics or ideology
> overruled competent spectrum management.
> --
>
> 73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
>
> >From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
> Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon
>

> e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

I remember as a Kid, my doctor had a "Dyeathermy?" Machine on
27.255 Mhz that had an 833 in it as a Self-excited Osc. I often
wondered if it took out all the CB Receivers in 20 miles when he fired
it up. Had to plugged into 220 Vac.

--
Bruce in alaska
add <path> after <fast> to reply

846. Re: Emergency comms thought - good? not so good?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-30 00:54:11 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <924711ab-7f65-4dbc-b54a-ff947d5e67c0@y38g2000hsy.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2517

On Jul 29, 2:19 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> I think Ham Radio offers quite the helping hand in situations where
> the ability to interoperate is needed. As an ad hoc emergency
> communications service ham radio shines. Where else can you get free
> radio equipment and trained operators to show up at the same time?
>

Oh.. And I'd like to add...

At very low cost (pretty much free for the asking).

The point is that Ham Radio can help "glue" the various systems
together and over come the cost and interoperability isues until such
time they can be worked out with new equipment. And by the time we
get to that point, there will be a whole new set of features that will
make the current crop of communications systems look down right
useless.

I can see it now.. With an SDR in everybodies hands, interoperability
will be a software load away. As it sits, SDR is way to expensive to
field for most applications, but that will be changing.

-= Bob =-

847. Re: Another BPL?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-30 06:34:27 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <g6ouic02pgv@news3.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2518

Bruce in alaska wrote:
> I remember as a Kid, my doctor had a "Dyeathermy?" Machine on
> 27.255 Mhz that had an 833 in it as a Self-excited Osc. I often
> wondered if it took out all the CB Receivers in 20 miles when he fired
> it up. Had to plugged into 220 Vac.

One of the true pleasures of (a) self employment and (b) a niche
market is I get some really odd service requests in the shop.

About a month ago a doctor calls about his diathermy machines.
4 new sweep tubes and a couple of oscillator doubler tubes and
we're back in business with 1600 Watts Peak pulse on 27 MHz.

It really did look like some Flash Gordon death ray machine.

What I found amusing was when I took it back to his office, his
method of testing it was to light it up with the antenna against
the small of his back, then hold up the light socket with the
coil of wire on it to his stomach and twiddle the knob for
maximum brightness.

Yehaw!

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

848. Re: Emergency comms thought - good? not so good?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-30 17:17:00 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <6fble5Fanj4qU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2519

In news:g6kkie$17m2$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu,
Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> typed, for some strange, unexplained reason:

[snip]

: Is is then a possibility that emergency comms might shift to a system
: similar to cell phones? It seems to me that trunking is kind of an old
: fashioned idea, and is ripe for replacement.
:
: Even in our area we have a 10 year old trunking system that is going
: to have to be replaced because it isn't working properly. One that was
: supposed to last for 20 years.
:
: But a cellular type approach might just work well for them. Before
: anyone thinks I'm bonkers, I'm not talking about using cell phones,
: just the type of compression/time sharing.

"Tetra" - the UK police have been using it for some time. It operates on
around 420-430 MHz.

The handportable radios can call one another, a central control room or a
normal phone number.

Some links:

http://www.tetra-association.com/

http://www.airwavesolutions.co.uk/Pages/default.aspx

Of course all the scaremongers are now claiming the system causes cancer
in the same way that mobile phones are supposed to, but that's another
issue ;-)

http://www.tetrawatch.net/main/index.php

http://www.lessradiation.co.uk/?page_id=6

73 Ivor G6URP

849. Re: Emergency comms thought - good? not so good?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-30 18:38:48 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g6qa8j$1dsa$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2520

Ivor Jones wrote:
> In news:g6kkie$17m2$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu,
> Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> typed, for some strange, unexplained reason:

Har! love it!

> [snip]
>
> : Is is then a possibility that emergency comms might shift to a system
> : similar to cell phones? It seems to me that trunking is kind of an old
> : fashioned idea, and is ripe for replacement.
> :
> : Even in our area we have a 10 year old trunking system that is going
> : to have to be replaced because it isn't working properly. One that was
> : supposed to last for 20 years.
> :
> : But a cellular type approach might just work well for them. Before
> : anyone thinks I'm bonkers, I'm not talking about using cell phones,
> : just the type of compression/time sharing.
>
>
> "Tetra" - the UK police have been using it for some time. It operates on
> around 420-430 MHz.
>
> The handportable radios can call one another, a central control room or a
> normal phone number.

Sounds just about right.

> Some links:
>
> http://www.tetra-association.com/
>
> http://www.airwavesolutions.co.uk/Pages/default.aspx
>
>
> Of course all the scaremongers are now claiming the system causes cancer
> in the same way that mobile phones are supposed to, but that's another
> issue ;-)

> http://www.tetrawatch.net/main/index.php
>
> http://www.lessradiation.co.uk/?page_id=6

Always interesting! I wonder why the fearmongers picked cancer as the
fear agent for Cell phones and RF.

I do believe that cell phones have an effect upon humans. But not in the sensationalist way so often given. It isn't ionizing radion, so while it may have heating effects, or perhaps some other obscure effects, runaway cell growth isn't likely.

There is no question the user of the device will put themselves in the near field of a RF emitter that pouts out around a watt, up to 4 or so watts.

The far field, is not so big of a deal, but the near field is something else.

It is my own premise, based on some RF knowledge, some common sense, and personal experience, that overuse of a cell phone causes a person to become stupid. I have been nearly killed by cell phone using drivers enough times to know that something is going on. And I don't completely buy that they are simply distracted. My favorite example is when I was driving out a local road, in a semi rural area. A person in a big SUV comes racing behind me and nearly rear ends me (I was doing 45 in a 40 mph zone) He backs off, and then slows down to maybe 25 mph. I got about a half mile ahead of him. Then he accelerates again, and nearly rear ends me a second time. Then slows again. I then slowed foe a red light, and he gets in the lane to turn. He stops, and yup, there it is - the cell phone. Then he proceeds to drive through the red light. Lots of other cell phone stories, especially on our own failed road, Atherton Street. Suffice it to say, just as it isn't too hard to spot a drunk driver, you can easily id someone using a cell while driving.

I'm not sure if the effects are permanent, but given that I've seen people text messaging while driving, I can't help but wonder. Would anyone ever start out thinking that it might be a good idea to look at a tiny phone and punch keys while driving a 3000 pound machine? But I digress.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

850. Ham radio article

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-30 20:41:31 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g6qhh0$r7g$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2521

Here's a ling to a story on Electronicdesign.com

http://electronicdesign.com/Articles/Index.cfm?AD=1&ArticleID=19467&bypass=1

Not all that in-depth, but at least its a positive article.

- 73 d eMike N3LI -

851. APRS and Igate

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-31 01:32:04 UTC
From: KI6SFG <keepitrunning123@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <7b7kk.16823$mh5.6870@nlpi067.nbdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2522

I am new here and as an amateur, I am interested in setting up an Igate and am looking for some assistance or advice. I am hoping that someone will take the time to walk me through the necessary steps. I have my packet radio working and can get position reports, however there seems to be some big holes. Maybe if we cover the basics here then we can get more folks to do this and fill in the holes.
Gary KI6SFG

852. Re: APRS and Igate

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-31 13:35:04 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <6d01acb2-6020-47f4-aea8-052954c65f63@27g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2523

On Jul 30, 8:32 pm, "KI6SFG" <keepitrunning...@hotmail.com> wrote:
> . Maybe if we cover the basics here then we can get more folks to
> do this and fill in the holes.

Well APRS and packet in general has been kind of a dying part of the hobby for years. I'm not sure exactly why that is, perhaps the data rates are a bit slow and the technology is a bit out of date. I think APRS is nice, although a bit expensive to get going, as is D-Star which has data features too.

The problem really is that it takes enough operators in an area to reach "critical mass" where communications are fairly consistant and wide spread enough to be useful. Some major cities have enough repeaters but a lot of the rural areas will be very spotty coverage.

I think that packet just didn't quite make it to critical mass in a lot of areas before it started hitting the decline. Now with the newer modes comming online (and comerical data services) it 's going to be hard to get enough interest in Packet generated to get it up past critical mass on a national scale.

Doesn't mean it's not useful as it is, or that you cannot have a lot of fun playing with it though. I have an old 2M rig that I've intended to get a TNC for so I could play on packet too. Right now the $$ isn't in the checking acount and the spare time is nowhere to be seen.

-= Bob =-

853. Re: APRS and Igate

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-31 20:34:25 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <_u6dnTf5Hv25RgzVnZ2dnUVZ_vCdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2524

KI6SFG wrote:
> I am new here and as an amateur, I am interested in setting up an Igate
> and am looking for some assistance or advice. I am hoping that someone
> will take the time to walk me through the necessary steps. I have my
> packet radio working and can get position reports, however there seems
> to be some big holes. Maybe if we cover the basics here then we can get
> more folks to do this and fill in the holes.
> Gary KI6SFG

Gary,

I suggest you get an old PC, put Linux on it, and become very familiar with the OS. Then, compile a custom kernel that includes the AX.25 features and leaves out what you don't need.

Keep it simple and small: you risk losing interest if you try too much at once.

73, Bill W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

854. Re: APRS and Igate

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-31 20:35:07 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g6smhq$17ig$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2525

KC4UAI wrote:
> On Jul 30, 8:32 pm, "KI6SFG" <keepitrunning...@hotmail.com> wrote:
>> . Maybe if we cover the basics here then we can get more folks to
>> do this and fill in the holes.
>
> Well APRS and packet in general has been kind of a dying part of the
> hobby for years. I'm not sure exactly why that is, perhaps the data
> rates are a bit slow and the technology is a bit out of date. I think
> APRS is nice, although a bit expensive to get going, as is D-Star
> which has data features too.

While packet has been at rock bottom for a while, APRS is really quite busy, and growing. In Pennsylvania, we have a lot of stations on the air. So many stations in fact that it is usually a big help to filter some of them out.

For a demo, there are some web sites out there that take APRS info from the RF side, and map it out on a webpage. literally thousands of APRS signals.

> I think that packet just didn't quite make it to critical mass in a
> lot of areas before it started hitting the decline. Now with the
> newer modes comming online (and comerical data services) it 's going
> to be hard to get enough interest in Packet generated to get it up
> past critical mass on a national scale.

Packet in the old sense, that of sending email and bulletins, has pretty much gone by the wayside, but fortunately APRS has arrived to keep things busy.

Gary, I can help you get something on the air. A few questions first.

Ar you right at the beginning, ie no rig, no gps, no software, or do you have something in mind? That will give us someplace to start.

- 73 d eMike N3LI -

855. Re: APRS and Igate

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-31 20:35:37 UTC
From: KI6SFG <keepitrunning123@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <x8lkk.19570$N87.17544@nlpi068.nbdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2526

>I think APRS is nice, although a bit expensive to get going, as is D-Star
> which has data features too.
I bought my 2 meter set up from Byonics (http://www.byonics.com/microtrak/)
and have it up and working for less than $200.

I have read that the only equipment required for an Igate was a receiver, a computer with a sound card and an internet connection. I have a scanner that covers 144.39 and a internet computer with a sound card. However I have not been able to get the software to function yet. This guy makes it sound easy (http://home.hiwaay.net/~sbuc/journal/igate.htm).

There must be some I gates around the area because there are Hams showing up on APRS.fi

I am still trying to understand TNC terminal node controllers and what they do. I have a lot to learn.

Gary

856. Re: APRS and Igate

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-07-31 21:02:14 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g6t8th$17n6$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2527

KI6SFG wrote:
>
>> I think APRS is nice, although a bit expensive to get going, as is D-Star
>> which has data features too.
> I bought my 2 meter set up from Byonics
> (http://www.byonics.com/microtrak/) and have it up and working for less
> than $200.
>
> I have read that the only equipment required for an Igate was a
> receiver, a computer with a sound card and an internet connection. I
> have a scanner that covers 144.39 and a internet computer with a sound
> card. However I have not been able to get the software to function
> yet. This guy makes it sound easy
> (http://home.hiwaay.net/~sbuc/journal/igate.htm).
>
> There must be some I gates around the area because there are Hams
> showing up on APRS.fi
>
> I am still trying to understand TNC terminal node controllers and what
> they do. I have a lot to learn.

Your basic station requirements:

A 2 meter rig.

A TNC, either software or hardware

A GPS antenna/reciever - not needed if you are setting up a base
station, but pretty necessary if you are going mobile.

There are some freeware packages out there, like UIview but I went for
APRSview, a commercial product. It can include a copy of MapPoint.

My system is as follows:

Microsoft Streets and Trips running on a laptop in conjunction with
MapPoint and APRSpoint. They all mesh together.

I use the GPS receiver included in Streets and trips. I'm no fan of
Microsoft, but this is one of their best products, and the receiver is
very good. I get connected within seconds almost always. Faster than the
other units I've seen anyhow.

The APRSpoint software has a software TNC, so I don't have to use one of
those.

My radio is a Kenwood D-700, probably the best unit to use for APRS. It does have a built in TNC, but I don't use it for my setup. If you use UIview, or the built in APRS setup within the D-700, you'll want that built in TNC. plus the APRS antenna would have to be plugged directly into the D-700 for the alternative setup..

With this setup, I can send and track over a wide range area while mobile. This is another area where the D-700 shines. I highly recommend it or it's successor, the D-710. Not cheap radios, but if you are serious about APRS, they are the gold standard. You can use the radio for voice comms at the same time you are squawcking APRS. 50 watts output into an efficient 2 meter antenna, and I can hit a APRS repeater from most places in Pennsylvania.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

857. Re: APRS and Igate

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-01 03:41:10 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <ff363368-bd00-4603-9502-164188201fc0@56g2000hsm.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2528

On Jul 31, 4:02 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
> KI6SFG wrote:
>
> Your basic station requirements:
>
> A 2 meter rig.

Check... OLD Icom 2 Meter rig and suitable antenna for moble use.

> A TNC, either software or hardware

Um... You say software? What is out there? I know they have software
for the HF digital modes, but I didn't see anything for the VHF/UHF
stuff... I have the laptop to run it on, and I can run both Linux or
Windoz on it...

> A GPS antenna/reciever - not needed if you are setting up a base
> station, but pretty necessary if you are going mobile.

Again Check....

>
> The APRSpoint software has a software TNC, so I don't have to use one of
> those.
>

I would assume that you would need some way to key the transmitter and
the proper cables between the radio and the computer (in my case it
will be a laptop).

I guess all I need is some software TNC. Wow, maybe the time will
show up soon.. A hardware TNC is hard to hide from the XYL, but
software is easy... :)

-= bob =-

858. Re: APRS and Igate

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-01 03:41:20 UTC
From: KI6SFG <keepitrunning123@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <W2ukk.8980$vn7.598@flpi147.ffdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2529

>
> Keep it simple and small: you risk losing interest if you try too much at
> once.

Thanks for the comments, I found the yahoo group for UI-view. They are more specific to what I am looking for.

Gary

859. Re: APRS and Igate

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-01 05:45:20 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <g6u7sp02dc9@news1.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2530

KC4UAI wrote:
> On Jul 31, 4:02 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>> A TNC, either software or hardware
>
> Um... You say software? What is out there?

I know it's a bit dated, but an example of a software TNC
would be the Baycom modem that was used with the Commodore
C-64 computer. Simply a tone modem IC and the actual bit
shuffling was done by the computer.

Kind of like the WinModem for the PC that let the computer
do all the "what's this" stuff and made the modems totally
useless under anything other than the Windows OS.

> I guess all I need is some software TNC. Wow, maybe the time will
> show up soon.. A hardware TNC is hard to hide from the XYL, but
> software is easy... :)

They make small TNCs, the Tigertronics Baypac comes to mind.

http://www.tigertronics.com/73magbp1.htm

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

860. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1616 - August 1, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-01 11:44:56 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080801015649.0159d200@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2531
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1616 - August 1, 2008

SOME WORDS OF THANKS

Ladies and gentlemen, with some more thank-you's to those who help keep these newscasts coming your way, here's Amateur Radio Newsline's Support Fund Administrator, Andy Jarema, N6TCQ

--

Last year in March we heard from the Ashland, Nebraska ARC and monthly contributors Joseph, KC8DKF, William, WA2IBM, and Scott in San Jose. Via PayPal there were Paul Meyers in Tempe, AZ and Scott Siegel, KB3JQQ in Baltimore.

In April we heard from The Raleigh, NC Amateur Radio Society and the South Orange Amateur Radio Association of Mission Viejo, CA.

In May we heard from Gordon Wai Sum Loui, KE6ETG in Honolulu. Via PayPal there were Robert Snyder, N2KGO in Sicklerville, NJ, Ray T. Mahorney on behalf of the Stoney Creek ARC, Rocky Mount NC and "Tweak a Whinger Day": find a ï¿½ "whinger" and push their buttons. I have only an inkling what that
means.

We at Newsline have always been volunteers, but the news doesn't come to us; we have to go get it. That costs money, and as you just heard, we didn't hear from many of you during that 3-month period. Please do your part to help keep these weekly newscasts stay on the air. Listen for how you can do that at the end of this broadcast.

Here's hoping I tweaked you,

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

--

Andy will be back with us in the near future with more than-you's to those who have so generously contributed to the support fund.

Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1616 with a release date of Friday, August 1st, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Ham Radio operators act as flooding hits New Mexico, Amateur radios response to the recent earthquake in China is highlighted in a U-S ham magazine, BPL becomes a nemesis for hams in Portugal, a C-B operator is fined $7000 for refusing to let the FCC inspect

his station and a well known ham station in Washington is forced to go Q-R-T. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1616 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS ASSIST IN RIUDOSO NM FLOODING

Ham radio was among the first services to responded as rain and flooding hit the city of Riudoso, New Mexico on July 27th. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, reports:

--

According to news reports about 300 people were evacuated from homes, campgrounds and a recreational vehicle park after flooding caused by the remnants of Hurricane Dolly. One person is confirmed dead after being swept away by the flooding. Four others were rescued after being trapped by rising water

The Rio Ruidoso went over its banks about midnight. According to Jay Miller, W5WHN, the Lincoln County ARES Group was activated a few hours later at 04:00 with hams sent to the Ruidoso Emergency Operations Center and to designated shelters. Tim Pettibone, K5OI, operated from the E-O-C much of the afternoon as Ric Sohl, K5RIC, coordinated the on-going ARES relief effort. Most of the emergency communications took place on the 146.98 Mhz K5RIC repeater because the local EMS relay systems were off line due to antenna problems.

Meteorologists said more than 6 inches of rain fell and flash flood watches were put in effect for central and eastern New Mexico. State officials estimated more than 60 homes were damaged or destroyed.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Im Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

--

As this newscast is prepared, the members of the New Mexico ham radio community involved in emergency communications remain on alert. (W5WHN, K5CEC)

**

RESCUE RADIO: CHINA QUAKE HAM RADIO RESPONSE COVERED IN AUGUST CQ MAGAZINE

Its called "Hams Respond to China Disaster" and it is an in-depth look at the amateur radio response following a magnitude 8 point 0 earthquake that hit the nations Sichuan Provence last May 12th. Written by Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, the six page article in CQ Magazine looks at the ham radio operations not only form the view of a reporter, but also from the point of view of radio amateurs who lived through the disaster and were among the first to respond.

One of the ham radio first responders was Liu Dan, BD8AM. At the very beginning of the article he describes not just his ham radio involvement but also the search for his wife and family. This, as a seemingly endless series of aftershocks continued.

Hams Resopond to China Disaster is must reading for any radio amateur who is in any way interested or involved in public service or emergency response operations. It begins on page 13 of the just out August issue of CQ Magazine, that's on newsstands right now. (ARNewsline(tm), CQ)

**

THE BPL SCENE: NEW INSTALLATION CAUSES PROBLEMS IN PORTUGAL

Broadband over Powerline Internet access is causing big problems for hams in Portugal This, according to Hugo Barata, CT2HMX, who says that the introduction of what Europe calls Powerline Communications or PLC technology is causing interference in most amateur service bands and to commercial broadcasting as well.

Ih his posting to QRZ.com, Barata says the the main culprit is a new three service system that provies video, data and telephone service using a broadband connection. He claims that consumers purchase the services and are unaware that it's the root cause of interference they are causing to others.

According to Barata, the worst offenders are PLC modems AV200 and AV300 from Corinex. He says that while the Corinex units have a notch filters for use in IARU Region 1, in most cases don't work properly. As a result, strong interference can heard inside of amateurs bands.

CT2HMX adds that Portuguese amateurs have filed complaints to that nations telecommunication regulator ANACOM. They are asking ANACOM to resolve this problem but nothing has happened yet. Barata says that so far, ANACOM has remained silent. (CT2HMX, QRZ.com)

**

THE BPL SCENE: UKQRM YAHOOGROUP FORMED TO FIGHT BPL

Radio Netherlands reports that a new Yahoo Group called UKQRM has been formed. This, as a meeting place for those who use the high frequency bands and who are suffering from interference caused by Broadband over Power Lines or BPL.

In announcing the group, Radio Netherlands Worldwide's Andy Sennitt is quoted as saying that the traditional DX clubs have been very slow to latch-on to the threat posed by this technology. Because of this it is encouraging to see that at least some listeners in the United Kingdom are trying to raise awareness of the problem.

Senitt says that behind the scenes, Radio Netherlands Worldwide has been involved in the effort to prevent the widespread use of this technology for several years. He says that one of his colleagues has been attending international conferences to raise objections on behalf of shortwave

broadcasters. Those interested in joining this group should go to groups.yahoo.com/group/UKQRM. (RN, UKQRM Group)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NEW P5-A MOVIE ON YOUTUBE

Amsat says that its Phase 5-A will be the first spacecraft built by radio amateurs to go to the Red planet and now there's a movie about it.

Titled "With AMSAT P5-A to Mars," the 10 minute video was produced by AMSAT Germany and covers almost every aspect of the AMSAT organization since its very beginning before taking us through the development cycle of P5-A. Here's a sample of the Phase 5 A story from the movie:

--

Actual audio from show.

--

Phase 5-A will not only be the first ham radio satellite to go to another world. It will also become the first ever private interplanetary spacecraft. Once on station in orbit around Mars, it will use frequencies in the Amateur Satellite Service at 2.4 and 10 GHz to communicate back home.

The story of its development and what it is expected to do during its mission is really what this video is all about. Its available on line at YouTube.com in several languages. You can watch and hear it in English at : http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iIJ548EyUME

We will have more ham radio space related news later on. (AMSAT)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N9QIP repeater serving Arlington, Wisconsin.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: THE LEGALITY OF WIRELESS MICS

Wireless microphones used in the entertainment industry and houses of worship -- among other places -- could turn out to be the next big problem for the FCC. This after a coalition of consumer groups accuses those who use them of not having the required FCC license to do so. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with more:

--

The complaint was filed Wednesday, July 16th, by the Public Interest Spectrum Coalition. It charges that manufacturers of these microphones use deceptive advertising in the way they market them. Also, that they sell high end, wireless microphones to people who the coalition claims are not legally permitted to use them.

The legal filing alleges that after the nation's conversion to digital broadcasting in February 2009, some of the microphones will threaten emergency communications. Others have the potential to interfere with commercial wireless carriers who have collectively spent over $19 billion dollars to use the same airwaves as the microphones now do, and use them interference free.

The coalition says that it is unclear how many people and other entities actually own and use wireless microphones. FCC records show only 952 people or organizations possess such licenses, but analysts say there may be millions, most of whom do not understand that FCC rules require a license to use them.

The consumer group is recommending that the FCC immediately act to halt sales of wireless microphones that operate between TV channels 52 and 69. It also wants the FCC to require microphone manufacturers replace the older units. It also recommends that the government agree to a general amnesty for unauthorized microphone users. The Public Interest Spectrum Coalition also wants the FCC to create a new general wireless microphone service to operate in other spectrum.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the Newsroom in Los Angeles.

--

The big question is whether or not the FCC will act quickly on the Public Interest Spectrum Coalition's demand or if other priorities including the digital television conversion and introduction of new wireless services will mean that it will languish in limbo for years to come. (RW, Media Access Project, others)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: NATIONAL NIGHT OUT -AUGUST 5

Hector Figueroa, KE6VRL, reminds us that Tuesday August 5th is the 2008 National Night Out. Its also a perfect night to demonstrate the utility of Amateur Radio to your local community.

National Night Out is an evening dedicated to bringing crime prevention and neighborhood spirit to the attention of everyone. It is also an evening to get out and meet your neighbors while letting criminals know that neighborhoods are organizing to help combat crime.

Ham radio by its very nature of mobility and instant communications is an excellent adjunct to any community watch program. As a result, a growing number of cities are now encouraging hams to be a part of ongoing safe neighborhoods programs.

More about this grass roots crime prevention program on line at www.nationaltownwatch.org (KE6VRL)

**

ENFORCEMENT: OREGON CB OPERATOR FINED $7000

An Oregon C-B operator has been fined $7000 by the FCC. This for refusing to permit an agent of the regulatory agency inspect hi station.

According to the FCC, in response to complaints it had received its agents from the Portland office this past February attempted to inspect the CB station owned by Jeremy William Barber in the city of Aloha, Oregon. They were unsuccessful when Barber denied them access.

On March 28th the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $7,000 to Barber. Despite evidence that Barber received the NAL, Barber never filed a response. Instead the FCC says that its Portland office continues to receive complaints concerning Barber's operation of his CB radio station.

Based on the information before it the FCC has now affirmed the $7000 fine and has given Barber the customary 30 days to pay it or to file an appeal. It has also directed its Portland office to attempt to conduct a follow-up inspection of Barber's CB radio station to determine whether his operation is compliant with the Commission's Rules regarding the Citizens Radio service. It also cautioned Barber that failure to allow this inspection will result in further sanctions. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: THAT TRANSMITTER IS UNAUTHORIZED

The Acting Interim District Director, of the FCC's Los Angeles District Office has issued an Official Citation to Wolfcom Enterprises of Hollywood. This for violation of the Commission's Rules by marketing unauthorized radio frequency devices in the United States.

The FCC says that an investigation by the Enforcement Bureau's Los Angeles Office revealed that this past June 11th Wolfcom Enterprises, at its Hollywood, California, store was found selling an unauthorized radio device known as the TB-1255CK. This is a 1.2 GHz wireless transmitter, which has not been certificated for sale or use in the United States.

The FCC letter released on July 17th tells Wolfcom that violations may subject the violator to substantial penalties. These could include monetary forfeitures, seizure of equipment through forfeiture action and criminal sanctions, including imprisonment.

Wolfcom Enterprises was told that it could request an interview at the closest FCC office if it wanted to discuss the matter face to face with the regulatory agency. The company was also offered the option of providing a written statement to specify what actions have been taken to correct the violations. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC WARNS UNLICENSED FLORIDA BROADCASTER

The FCC's Miami Office has warned the owner of property where an unlicensed transmitter is located to take it off the air or face severe consequences. On its July 16th letter to R. Bryce Gray, Jr. the FCC says that it has received information that an unlicensed broadcast radio station on 101.9 MHz is allegedly operating from his property in the Oakland Park area.

The FCC says that back on March 4th, 14th And June 3rd that gents from the Miami office confirmed by direction finding techniques that radio signals on frequency 101.9 MHz were emanating from an antenna mounted on a pole at Gray's legal residence. The FCC has warned Gray that operation of radio transmitting equipment without a valid radio station authorization constitutes a violation of Federal laws and could subject the operator to severe penalties, including seizure of the offending radio equipment, and criminal sanctions including imprisonment.

Gray was ordered to cease operations immediately. He was also given 10 days from the date of the FCC notice to respond to the agency with any evidence that he has written authority to operate granted by the FCC. (FCC)

**

EDUCATION: FAR ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Foundation for Amateur Radio has announced the 2008 winners of the 55 scholarships it administers for itself and various other ham radio organizations. The scholarships were open to all licensed radio amateurs who met the qualification and residence requirements of the various sponsors.

A complete list of winners is already on the ARRL website and should soon be posted to the Foundation for Amateur Radio website as well. The Foundation for Amateur Radio is a non-profit organization incorporated in the District of Columbia. (FAR)

**

WORLDBEAT - GERMANY: HILBERLING SUSPENDS PT-8000 PROGRAM

Production of the newly announced Hilberling PT-8000 high end H-F through VHF transceiver has been stopped. A notice on the company's website says that the project was abandoned due to ever changing requirements placed on the German designed transceiver by the European Union. This says Hilberling was making it nearly impossible to obtain an ongoing supply of the parts specified in the radios design.

The Hilberling PT-8000 was called the ultimate dream radio. Retailing in the $18,000 range it not only had almost impossible to duplicate specifications, and was to be available in several designer color schemes as well. It was to be offered in 10, 100 or 600 watt versions and was to be distributed in North America by Array Solutions.

More on the decision to suspend production of the Hilberling PT-8000 is on-line in German at hilberling .com. (DJ0QN, QRZ.com)

**

WORLDBEAT - UK: RADCOM NEEDS ARTICLES

The editors of the UK based Radio Communications Magazine are inviting readers to submit articles for publication. Constructional projects for HF and LF would be particularly welcome. If you are interesting in contributing an article or two please contact the Editor by e-mail to radcom@rsgb.org.uk (RSGB)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the down under in Auckland, New Zealand and from the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: DRM TESTS TO TAKE PLACE IN ALASKA

Digital Radio Mondiale may be coming to America's last frontier. Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, has the details:

--

The Digital Radio Mondiale Consortium says that the Federal Communication Commission has granted a license to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies. This, for the company to conduct a 2 year experiment using D-R-M technology to determine the feasibility for coverage of the state of Alaska with Digital Radio Mondiale signals in three shortwave bands at 5, 7 and 9 MHz.

Because of the severe ionosphere propagation conditions at the high latitudes, the Digital Radio Mondiale Consortium says that these experiments in Alaska will yield valuable information on what is needed to get excellent audio coverage at realistic power levels for this concept to work.

Alaska has a surface area of approximately 1,300,000 square kilometers. The Consortium says that if the tests show excellent results for digital radio broadcasts to cover the entire state, the next step would be to obtain approval to use the system and the transmission station for a regular broadcasting service.

Proponents of the project say that with one D-R-M transmission of either 10 or 20 kHz in bandwidth, the entire state could possibly be covered. This, with nearly FM-like quality and up to 4 simultaneous

program streams. Currently no single broadcaster in Alaska is capable of providing this kind of service.

That's it for this weeks future technology page. For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, in Los Angeles.

--

The full test plan by the The Digital Radio Mondiale Consortium includes several variations of D-R-M system in order to determine which combination works best under the different ionosphere propagation conditions that it expects to encounter. (Southgate, Media Network, DRM Consortium)

**

RADIO SCIENCE: MORE ON THE AURORA BOREALIS

Want to know more about the Aurora Borealis and what causes it? National Geographic magazine has an interesting story about a recent discovery in the triggering mechanisms for Aurora and a short video clip as well. The article makes interesting reading and you can find it on-line at http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2008/07/080724-auroras-lights.html (N1LF via VHF Reflector)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: DO-64 TRANSPONDER ON THE AIR

The 435 to 145 MHz linear transponder onboard the Delfi D Oh 64 satellite has been activated. The transponder uplink is 435.570 to 435.530 MHz and the downlink is 145.880 to145.920 MHz. All frequencies are +/- Doppler shift that can be up to 3 kHz at 145 MHz and the transponder is inverting. This means Lower Sideband is translated to a Upper Sideband signal on the downlink.

Delfi D Oh 64 was built at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. Since it was launched in Apri it has been collecting educational research data for use by the university students with the assistance of Radio Amateurs around the world.

More information on this satellite can be found at: Delfi-C3: http://www.delfic3.nl/ (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CP4 CONTROLERS NEED YOUR REPORTS

Jason Anderson, KI6GIV, at California Polytechnic State University is requesting amateur radio operators worldwide to assist with capturing the telemetry of the Cal Poly CP4 satellite.

According to Anderson there has been some unpredictable behavior on the CP4 satellite. He says that controllers only have contact with the bird once every 12 hours so would be extremely helpful if they could get some global support in collecting beacon transmissions. This, in order to get a more

complete picture of the satellite's health.

CP4 downlinks on 437.325Mz using FSK lower sideband modulation. The baud rate is 1200 with beaconing every minute. Audio or decoded binary data along with other reports go by e-mail to jander06 (at) calpoly (dot)edu (ANS)

**

WORLDBEAT - BANGLSDESH: SCOUT HAM RADIO OPS FROM JAMBOREE

Scouts in Bangladesh will establish two Amateur radio stations as a part of the 4th APR Air Internet Jamboree 2008. Bangladesh is the host country for this years Jamboree. The amateur stations using the call S-21-SHQ will be on-air from August 2nd to the 3rd operating in 40, 20 and 10 meter bands. The operators are mainly expected to make contact with scout stations in neighboring nations but also will look for DX in their leisure time. Special QSL will be available to those who contact S-21-SHQ but QSL routing is not available at this time. Organizers do say that electronics logs will be posted in EB7DX website. (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT - INDIA: INDIA LIGHTHOUSE IN ILLW

The first Indian lighthouse has registered for International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend on 16th and 17th August. Permission has been received by hams in that nation to activate a lighthouse in southern India. A callsign is pending but it will be activated from the Indian Independence Day, 15th August, through to the 18th, which includes the International Lighthouse Weekend. (GB2RS)

**

DX

In D-X, word that OE5OHO, OE5HDN and OE3GEA will portable MJ from Jersey Island between August 21st to the 25th. Activity will be holiday style with operations on all High Frequency bands using CW and SSB. QSL via the Bureau to their respective home callsigns.

And keep an ear open for TS28ASJ. He will be active until August 3rd from the 28th Arab Scout Jamboree in Tunisia. Operations are expected to be on the High Frequency bands using CW, SSB, RRTY, PSK and SSTV. QSL via the Tunisian Bureau.

Lastly, IK2RZP, will be active portable VP9 from Bermuda August 5th to the24th. His operation will be mainly SSB and the digital modes on the 17 and 12 meter bands. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: THE END OF AN ERA AS SMITHSONIAN STATION GOES QRT

And finally this week, NN3SI, the amateur radio station at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History was forced to go QRT on July 31st. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, talks with the man who holds the license to this historical ham radio call.

--

"It was originally located in the 1976 Bicentennial exhibit, 'A Nation of Nations.'

That's John Johnston, W3BE, trustee of NN3SI, who says that the amateur radio section of that exhibit was actually only expected to be around for a year.

"Now, when that was closed it was subsequently moved to a series of different exhibits which had a connection somehow with amateur radio,'' Johnston says. "Most recently, it was in an exhibit called 'Information Age.'

"But that was removed during a major renovation of the museum. So, our station closed along with that exhibit."

Johnston says NN3SI - a special call sign granted to the station by the FCC during a time when such licenses were rare - was staffed entirely by volunteers from the Washington D.C. area and Maryland and Virginia.

Johnston says there were recent negotiations to move the station to the new Air and Space Museum complex near Dulles Airport. But he says those talks ended without a resolution and the station now sits in limbo.

Johnston recalls spending many hours at NN3SI.

"We had operators from all over the world who'd come by," Johnston says. "The part I particularly enjoyed was in the spring when the school groups would come by and they would see our station.

"And we were one of the few exhibits that had live people in it. So we had an opportunity to talk with them directly and show them how amateur radio worked, and what it was all about, give them an introduction."

Johnston says he regularly scanned the station logs and was gratified to see during the over 32 years NN3SI was on the air, it served a unique role.

"The amazing part was the diversity of people from all over the United States, from all over the world," Johnston says. "They came and either visited the station or worked the station or sat down and did some operating."

He says NN3SI also had a prominent place on the Washington Mall.

"We were the closest station to the White House, we were the closest station to the FCC," Johnston says. "And, we were right on the mall in Washington D.C. It's some really prime real estate and it was a wonderful opportunity to show off ham radio."

Johnston remains optimistic that NN3SI will return - even though its equipment will be placed in storage for now by the Smithsonian.

"Well, I'm going to hang onto the license and I have every hope that we will establish an exhibit in one of the museums at some future date," Johston says.

We'll keep you posted.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.
--

QSL cards for previous two-way contacts made with NN3SI will remain available for some time. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Meachen,
ZL2BHF, in Auckland, New Zealand, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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861. Re: APRS and Igate

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-01 14:34:38 UTC
From: KI6SFG <keepitrunning123@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <F5Fkk.9351$L_.6118@flpi150.ffdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2532

> Gary,
>
> I suggest you get an old PC, put Linux on it, and become very familiar
> with the OS. Then, compile a custom kernel that includes the AX.25
> features and leaves out what you don't need.
>
> Keep it simple and small: you risk losing interest if you try too much at
> once.
>
> 73, Bill W1AC

Bill, I am wondering why linux as apposed to windows? Are you just trying to keep the system simple and inexpensive?

Could you explain a little more about the AX.25?

I downloaded the IU-view software and loaded it on to my desktop computer. I understood that with a radio that would receive 144.39 (in my case a scanner) that I could use the computer's sound card and IU-view to port packet signals on to the internet? I am not interested in transmitting from home at this point, just receiving signals and getting them to APRS.fi.

Gary

862. Re: APRS and Igate

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-01 16:04:26 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <08c694de9fbengt3pfocnmhbov62aehc2k@4ax.com>
Source record: 2533

On Fri, 1 Aug 2008 01:45:20 EDT, Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com> wrote:

>KC4UAI wrote:
>> On Jul 31, 4:02 pm, Michael Coslo <m...@psu.edu> wrote:
>>
>>> A TNC, either software or hardware
>>
>> Um... You say software? What is out there?
>
>I know it's a bit dated, but an example of a software TNC
>would be the Baycom modem that was used with the Commodore
>C-64 computer. Simply a tone modem IC and the actual bit
>shuffling was done by the computer.
>
>Kind of like the WinModem for the PC that let the computer
>do all the "what's this" stuff and made the modems totally
>useless under anything other than the Windows OS.

A modern software that works with windows is AGWPE created by SV2AGW.
You can download it here http://www.sv2agw.com/downloads/default.htm
This site tells you how to use it http://www.kc2rlm.info/soundcardpacket/
73 de Dick, AC7EL

863. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 30 (Friday, August 1, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-01 18:09:57 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080801180841.63EFE30B33@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2534
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 30
August 1, 2008
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Amateur Station at Smithsonian QRT after 32 Years
* + German Radio Manufacturer Halts Transceiver Production
* + HF Digital Voice Programs Once Again Available for Download
* + Dutch Amateur Radio Satellite Now Live
* + MARS Lends a Hand with Hurricane Dolly Operations
* + ARRL Membership Newsletters, Bulletins and Notifications
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ Steve Telenius-Lowe, 9M6DXX/G4JVG, Wins June QST Cover Plaque
Award
+ W1AW/KL7 Now QRV
From the DXCC Desk

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

============================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> AMATEUR STATION AT SMITHSONIAN QRT AFTER 32 YEARS

After more than 30 years on the air from the nation's capital, NN3SI
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/events/programdetail.cfm?newskey=48>, the
Amateur Radio station at the National Museum of American History
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/index.cfm> -- part of the Smithsonian
Institution <http://www.si.edu/> -- became silent on Thursday, July 31.
Originally located in the Nations of Nations exhibit, the station first
went on-the-air in 1976 in celebration of the US Bicentennial. The FCC
caught the patriotic spirit, giving the station a temporary call sign --
NN3SI -- standing for Nation of Nations, Smithsonian Institution. The
Commission later made the call sign allocation permanent.
```

According to NN3SI volunteer Carl Lagoda, W3CL, a Special Event operation was planned for earlier this week, with certificates available to those who contacted NN3SI. DX Summit <http://www.dxsummit.fi/> spotted NN3SI on 75, 40 and 20 meters SSB.

NN3SI has been situated in several different exhibitions in the Museum; it was most recently housed in the former Information Age exhibit. This exhibit chronicled the birth and growth of the electronic information age -- from Samuel Morse's invention of a practical telegraph in the 1830s through the development of the telephone, radio, television and computer. The Museum has been closed since 2006 while undergoing a major renovation and is scheduled to reopen to the public this fall.

The station participated in many special events throughout its history. During the dedication of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall, station operators made many contacts and taught children visiting the Museum how to spell their names in Morse code. Over the years, operators at NN3SI -- who hailed from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia (and the occasional guest operators from various parts of the globe) -- have logged contacts with amateurs in all parts of the world and with astronauts and cosmonauts in orbit. By operating the station, NN3SI ops promoted Amateur Radio as a national resource for emergency communications, trained operators, technicians and engineers -- as well as an outstanding hobby -- to the more than 4 million people who visit the Museum each year.

QSL via NN3SI, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History, 17701 Bowie Mill Rd, Derwood, MD 20855.

==> GERMAN RADIO MANUFACTURER HALTS TRANSCEIVER PRODUCTION

In a surprise move, Hilberling GmbH <http://www.hilberling.com/> has stopped production on the much anticipated PT-8000 series of HF/VHF Amateur Radio transceivers. Apparently due to CE marking regulations <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CE_mark>, Hilberling had to make constant adjustments to the design of the radio and was unable to repeat the performance of prototypes in production models and was not able to justify the expense involved with further redesign work. The CE mark certifies that a product has met European Union health, safety and environmental requirements, ensuring consumer safety. Array Solutions <http://www.arraysolutions.com> -- which had been set to be the North American distributor for the transceiver series -- featured the PT-8000 at its booths at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention.

Hans Hilberling, DK7LG, explained in German on the company's Web site why the company canceled production of the PT-8000 series:

"Production of the PT-8000 equipment series has been halted. Due to the persistent challenges we've had to overcome in the process of bringing the official EU-wide manufacturer's model to fruition, it became necessary to make more and more adaptations in the design of this cutting-edge transceiver. The lofty design goals of the PT-8000 could be attained in some prototypes. We encountered difficulties that we could

not overcome at justifiable expense in guaranteeing, without reservation, a high standard of mass production involving many suppliers. We appreciate the great interest this project has attracted over its entire course." -- Translation by Rick Lindquist, WW3DE

The PT-8000 was featured in a 4-page pull-out advertisement in the May 2007 issue of QST. The ad stated that Hilberling had not yet received approval by the FCC to market the radio in the US. All digital devices -- including Amateur Radio equipment -- must be approved by the FCC, meeting the requirements of FCC Part 15 and RSS 210 (Radio Standards Specifications, Industry Canada) to ensure its compliance as an unintentional radiator and as a generic receiver. Approval was granted in May 2008. Testing was done in April and May 2008 by Professional Testing (EMI) of Round Rock, Texas.

According to the QST ad, the PT-8000 was set to feature:
* An automatically tuned preselector
* Precision matched first and second mixers, designed by Synergy Microwave, with third intercept points at 40+ dBm
* Three roofing filters at 2.7, 6 and 12 kHz
* Six hybrid amplifiers from LF to VHF with third intercept points at 50+ dBm
* Seven 16-pole ladder filters working in combination with DSP filters in the 10.7 MHz second IFs of each filter
* 13.8 V HF MOSFETs (metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor) in the 100 W power amplifier; high efficiency (70 percent) SD3933 HF MOSFETs in the 600 W final amplifier
* Three additional 70.7 MHz roofing filters in the transmitter stages for clean output
* Designed with UHF and microwave transverters in mind, 1 Hz frequency resolution with the ability to connect transverters to both receivers simultaneously
* Taps at the first and second IFs for analysis, monitoring and experimentation
* Easily updatable firmware

The price for a 10 W PT-8000 started at $12,000, going up to $16,000 for the 600 W model. Commercial and military grades were priced at an additional $10,000.

==> HF DIGITAL VOICE PROGRAMS ONCE AGAIN AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

Citing codec (coding/decoding) licensing issues, three free Windows programs for sound card-based HF digital voice were yanked from their download site for a short time recently, surprising hams who are interested in HF digital voice operation; several online groups that supported the software were also closed for a short time.

WinDRM, DRMDV and FDMDV, all written by Cesco Lanza, HB9TLK, used a codec that was developed for the US Department of Defense and NATO. Rights to various forms of the codec are held by several companies. According to Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, the companies have "winked" at ham

radio use for several years, but a recent complaint caused the programs to be pulled from the download site. "Lanza did a quick rewrite to use an open-source codec, and now WinDRM and FDMDV are back," Pearce said. "DRMDV, an intermediate program between the other two, has been abandoned. WinDRM could always use the open-source Speex codec, but FDMDV users will need to download the new version."

Pearce said these three programs all allow hams to transmit and receive digital voice by connecting their PC sound card to an ordinary SSB transceiver: "The result has been surprisingly high quality audio, with virtually no noise -- sort of like listening to FM, but in the narrow bandwidth of a sideband signal. WinDRM, the best sounding program, uses 2.5 kHz of spectrum. FDMDV sounds a little rougher, but uses only 1.1 kHz of spectrum. They both use OFDM modulation, a set of close-spaced carriers that are each modulated with a little bit of data to add up to the final digital signal. The main problem with HF digital voice is that it needs fairly strong signals. FDMDV works better with weaker signals than WinDRM."

Pearce said that none of the available open-source codecs work as well as the old one: "MELP <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MELP>, or Mixed Excitation Linear Prediction, was designed specifically for high-quality, low data-rate voice communication. So the on-air audio might suffer some with the new version. Digital voice users have been waiting and hoping for someone to concentrate on developing a codec optimized for ham radio use, but none has been forthcoming."

FDMDV and WinDRM can both be downloaded from Jason Buchanan's, N1SU, Web site <http://www.n1su.com/>.

The AOR digital voice modems and D-STAR radios both use the AMBE 2020 vocoder, and are not affected by the coding changes; the AMBE 2020 vocoder is a proprietary chip that is embedded in each unit.

For more information on WinDRM, check out QST Editor Steve Ford's, WB8IMY, article ["Life Could Be a DReaM," pages 38-40] in the April 2007 issue of QST.

==> DUTCH AMATEUR RADIO SATELLITE NOW LIVE

The linear transponder aboard the new Dutch OSCAR 64 satellite <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/05/22/10117/?nc=1> (otherwise known as Delfi-C3 <http://www.delfic3.nl/>) is now open for CW and SSB operation.

The spacecraft boots into transponder mode whenever it is in full sunlight. Ground controllers will briefly switch the satellite to either "basic" or "science" configuration once every two weeks; otherwise, the linear transponder will be the default mode. The transponder uplink passband is from 435.530-435.570 MHz with a downlink passband from 145.880-145.930 MHz. The transponder CW beacon can be heard at 145.870 MHz.

Delfi C-3 was successfully launched April 28, 2008 from India aboard a Polar launch vehicle <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/28/10067/?nc=1> and was successfully commissioned, currently transmitting telemetry on the 2 meter amateur band. In addition to its 2 meter downlink, Delfi C-3 has an uplink on the 70 cm band.

The satellite was developed by a team of some 60 students and facility members from various polytechnic schools in The Netherlands. Delfi C-3 carries two experiments -- one involving thin film solar cells developed by Dutch Space, and an autonomous wireless Sun sensor from the Dutch Government Research Institute (TNO). E-mail reports are welcome <info@delfic3.nl>.

==> MARS LENDS A HAND WITH HURRICANE DOLLY OPERATIONS

When Tropical Storm Dolly turned into Hurricane Dolly <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/07/22/10221/?nc=1>, various Amateur Radio Emergency Communications groups, such as WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center, the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) and the VoIP WX Net (VOIPWX), began tracking the storm. One other group -- the Army's Military Amateur Radio Service (MARS) -- also helped out with storm communications.

According to Texas State MARS Director Dave Martin, MARS leadership began to track the storm while it was still in the Atlantic. MARS established a liaison with the Texas Military Forces (TXMF) and the Texas State Operations Center (SOC). An Alert Notification message was sent to all MARS members on July 18, informing Texas Army MARS that the SOC was at full operations and would announce when they would request full mobilization of all agencies. This decision was made just two days later and an additional Alert Notification was sent to the membership to begin emergency net operations on July 22 at 8 AM.

"Our mission was to support the TXMF and the SOC with HF communications by expanding the normal net schedule and establishing a full-time liaison," Martin said. "In addition, requests were sent to the other MARS services in the region asking for liaison stations to participate in the Army nets. Fortunately, a hurricane exercise had been completed a week before and the exercise operations order was used to execute this mission. We reacted to the storm the same way we trained for the emergency."

Beginning on July 22, Texas MARS opened E-nets at 8 AM, 1 PM, 7 PM and 10 PM, with a 6 AM net opening the next day. While the Net Control Stations were in Texas, support was received from Oklahoma and Louisiana Army MARS. TXMF was notified that Texas Army MARS had received permission from Army MARS Headquarters to deploy HF communications teams with their deploying elements as was done during a previous exercise. During the emergency, the nets had an average of 25-30 check-ins; all traffic was sent via MT63 or Winlink 2000.

Martin said that all MARS stations in the affected area were off the air during the height of the storm. MARS member Tom Whiteside, N5TN/AAR6CQ, was able to facilitate the use of the Winlink network, exchanging traffic with the Harlingen Emergency Operations Center; Harlingen is about 27 miles north of the Mexican border, in Texas's southern tip. This area was one of the hardest hit areas in the state.

As Hurricane Dolly approached Harlingen, Sergeant Gerald Manthey, KC6CNN, Harlingen's Director of Emergency Communications, was on duty at the EOC. Manthey has been the driving force in the Rio Grande Valley for Winlink, as well as pushing amateur voice capabilities in the area with surrounding agencies. Harlingen became the South Texas ARES' fifth EMCOMM PMBO in December of 2007 with both local VHF Packet and HF PACTOR capability.

Due to a localized power failure, the EOC was soon running on generator power. During the storm, Manthey kept in touch with both the SOC and the Emergency Operations Center in San Antonio. He also kept in touch with other hams in the valley via both voice and Winlink.

"Winlink is the perfect tool for this sort of thing," said Manthey. "You can send messages and get them when you have time. The system works very well even without the Internet."

Manthey communicated with the City of Brownsville EOC, the Cameron County EOC, the Valley Baptist Medical Center and individual amateurs via Winlink throughout the storm. One of those hams was ARRL West Gulf Division Vice Director David Woolweaver, K5RAV, who operates a Winlink RMS Packet station in Harlingen. The AE5R station was the first test of the new RMS Relay program that provides for local message hubbing during an Internet outage.

MARS emergency operations continued until 10 PM on July 24 when Kevin Lemon, the State RACES officer, stood down the Amateur Radio operation. Army MARS also ceased operations at the SOC, but remained on call in case of a flooding event. "Hurricane Dolly was a serious but not major storm," Martin said. "Even at that, there were times when communications were out due to winds or flooding. Volunteers in MARS and the Amateur Radio community provided what was needed to get through the storm and are standing by for any after effects." -- Thanks to Texas State Army MARS Director Dave Martin, K5YFO/AAA6TX, and Tom Whiteside, N5TW/AAR6CQ, for the information

==> ARRL MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTERS, BULLETINS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than The ARRL Letter? One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the ARRL Contest Update (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the ARES E-Letter (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News and the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter.

You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all

Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplerian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service to members, letting them know when their membership and license are due to expire.

Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Lost in a shaft of sunlight" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: July ended with no sunspots at all -- save for three days, July 18-20, when one weak sunspot group appeared and faded from view. Sunspot numbers for those days were 11, 12 and 11. Sunspot numbers for July 24-30 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 65.4, 65.8, 66.1, 66.3, 66.3, 66 and 66.5 with a mean of 66.1. Estimated planetary A indices were 11, 3, 5, 7, 7, 3 and 5 with a mean of 5.9. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 7, 2, 4, 4, 6, 2 and 4 with a mean of 4.1. The outlook from the US Air Force Space Weather operations for many weeks now has shown a predicted solar flux of 66; their prediction from July 31 shows the same for the next 45 days. This tells me that there isn't any period where we might expect more sunspot activity, or at least no way to foresee it. They predict the next geomagnetic activity of any note for August 10, with a planetary A index of 20. They predict a planetary A index of 8 for August 1, then 5 for August 2-6 then 8 again on August 7. Geophysical Institute Prague echoes that prediction with quiet to unsettled conditions for August 1 and 7, and quiet conditions August 2-6. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by "The Dry Salvages," one of the poems by T. S. Eliot known as The Four Quartets.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, look for the the ARRL UHF Contest August 2-3. The TARA Grid Dip Shindig and the European HF Championship are on August 2. On August 2-3, look for the 10-10 International Summer Contest (SSB), the National Lighthouse Weekend QSO Contest and the North American QSO Party (CW). The RSGB RoPoCo 2 and the SARL HF Phone Contest are both August 3. Next weekend, the WAE DX Contest (CW) and the Maryland-DC QSO Party are August 9-10. The SKCC Weekend Sprintathon is August 10 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is August 13. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more

info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, August 24, 2008 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, September 5, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001); Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006); Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009); Analog Electronics (EC-012), and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Steve Telenius-Lowe, 9M6DXX/G4JVG, Wins June QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for June is Steve Telenius-Lowe, 9M6DXX/G4JVG, for his article "The FSDXA 3B7C St Brandon DXpedition." Congratulations, Steve! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>.

* W1AW/KL7 Now QRV: Special event station W1AW/KL7 will be on the air from grid square BP56 July 26-August 10 on all bands from 160-6 meters. This ARRL 2008 Alaska State Convention Special Event Station <http://www.akhamfest.com/arcticcirclespecial.php> plans to run two HF stations operating CW, SSB and digital, one satellite station and one station devoted to 146.52 MHz. The Convention itself runs from August 1-4 in Anchorage.

* Notes from the DXCC Desk: Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the 5X4X operations in Uganda -- from 2007 to present -- have been approved for DXCC credit. "If you had cards rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk <dxcc@arrl.org> to have your DXCC record updated," Moore said.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call
860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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864. Re: APRS and Igate

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-01 19:07:38 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <H7KdndLXRpJxqg7VnZ2dnUVZ_jOdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2535

KI6SFG wrote:
>> Gary,
>>
>> I suggest you get an old PC, put Linux on it, and become very familiar
>> with the OS. Then, compile a custom kernel that includes the AX.25
>> features and leaves out what you don't need.
>>
>> Keep it simple and small: you risk losing interest if you try too much
>> at once.
>>
>> 73, Bill W1AC
>
> Bill, I am wondering why linux as apposed to windows? Are you just
> trying to keep the system simple and inexpensive?
>
> Could you explain a little more about the AX.25?
>
> I downloaded the IU-view software and loaded it on to my desktop
> computer. I understood that with a radio that would receive 144.39 (in
> my case a scanner) that I could use the computer's sound card and
> IU-view to port packet signals on to the internet? I am not interested
> in transmitting from home at this point, just receiving signals and
> getting them to APRS.fi.
>
> Gary

Gary,

AX.25 is the protocol that was used for packet transmission on ham radio when I was using packet: I assume it's still the standard, since Linux still has the option. It might help you to think of it as TCP/IP with ham calls signs added.

If the Windows-based software is free, reliable, and meets your needs, and you already have a Windows-based PC you're willing to dedicate to an Igate, then you can certainly use that. However, I find Linux to be an excellent substitute for Windows, especially for "single function" machines such as a BBS or packet gateway. Linux is also able to run on much older hardware than Windows, and (most importantly) offers native support for the AX.25 protocol stack, allowing full use of higher-level applications without modification: to Linux, AX.25 and TCP/IP are just two different MAC layers.

Not to mention that Linux is free-as-in-speech, and the license says so.

73, Bill W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

865. Re: APRS and Igate

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-01 20:08:23 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <fm6cm5-4nb.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 2536

In article <H7KdndLXRpJxqg7VnZ2dnUVZ_jOdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>,
Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:

>Gary,
>
>AX.25 is the protocol that was used for packet transmission on ham radio
>when I was using packet: I assume it's still the standard, since Linux
>still has the option.

Yes, it is. It's showing its age but is still in use.

> It might help you to think of it as TCP/IP with
>ham calls signs added.

I think it's more proper to think of it as a lower-level protocol...
more like Ethernet, with callsigns taking the place of Ethernet MAC
addresses.

AX.25 can transmit its own style of datagrams, or data streams
(analogous to UDP and TCP respectively), and it can also carry IP
packets (and thus TCP and UDP).

>If the Windows-based software is free, reliable, and meets your needs,
>and you already have a Windows-based PC you're willing to dedicate to an
>Igate, then you can certainly use that. However, I find Linux to be an
>excellent substitute for Windows, especially for "single function"
>machines such as a BBS or packet gateway. Linux is also able to run on
>much older hardware than Windows, and (most importantly) offers native
>support for the AX.25 protocol stack, allowing full use of higher-level
>applications without modification: to Linux, AX.25 and TCP/IP are just
>two different MAC layers.

Yup. 'Tis a definite advantage.

Once you've cut your teeth on handling a single AX.25 hookup on a
Linux system, you can (if desired) expand to running a whole stack of
AX.25 ports on the same system, with the same applications... doing
AX.25 routing, running a BBS, and so forth.

There are at least four ways to run ham packet on Linux:

- A full-powered TNC (like a PackRatt or a TAPR or MFJ TNC-2 or clone),
connected via a serial port - just like Windows. In this
arrangement, the TNC itself handles the full AX.25 protocol, and
you talk to it (via Linux) using a terminal emulator.

- With a TNC (full-featured or limited function) in "KISS" mode.
In this mode, the TNC handles the over-the-air transmission and

reception of packets, the Linux kernel handles all of the higher-
level AX.25 protocol support, and Linux applications provide the
connection management, BBS capability, etc.

- With a sound-card interface and a "soft modem" application. There's
no separate TNC - Linux uses the CPU (as a DSP, in effect) and sound
card to implement a modem, which then registers itself with the Linux
kernel as a "KISS" TNC... everything above this point is just like
the previous approach.

- Linux kernel AX.25, encapsulated into Ethernet (and then into
IP if you want). Good for connecting together multiple packet
nodes into a network via the Internet.

You can run two or more of these approaches on the same Linux system
at the same time, if you wish.

>Not to mention that Linux is free-as-in-speech, and the license says so.

And also very close to free-as-in-beer, if you're already paying for a
broadband connection through which you can download it. With Linux
you can also see the source code to the full software stack (which can
be very good at times, and can also cause you the screaming horrors
occasionally) and make changes if you wish.

In fairness, Windows also supports at least three of these modes (full
TNC, KISS TNC, and sound-card "softmodem TNC"). I don't know about
Ethernet/IP encapsulation of AX.25.

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will
boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

866. Handheld, Utah, N.W of Delta

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-03 06:54:55 UTC
From: parkes.eric@gmail.com
Message-ID: <1963cd24-aeb4-46aa-a754-2d88e941442d@r15g2000prh.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2537

Hi,

I'm thinking about buying a handheld to take along on my offroad motorcycle travels. I will be between Wendover, NV and Delta, UT. It is about 120 miles of very barren territory, sand dunes, salt flats and rocky mountains. My wife is concerned - and probably rightfully so - that mechanical failure or a crash will leave me in the middle of nowhere. I plan on following a known route (GPS), so if I go missing too long folks will know where to look for me.

I have 20 years of desert riding experience, but never in an area I couldn't walk out of (perhaps 7 miles to nearest road). So I'm thinking she has a good point. Attempting to walk that far with limited water might lead to a tragic situation.

I am a electrical engineer and have ordered a book off amazon, and either way plan on taking the FCC test. Would a 5 watt handheld have a chance of getting out a signal in this area? It is fairly close to an Air Force proving grounds, so perhaps? My enduro motorcycle does have 12 VDC and I could mount a smaller unit with an external antenna but wonder if it is worth it? On this trip I would use it only for life-threatening conditions, so perhaps a handheld can use law enforcement repeaters???

Any thoughts on the subject from those with experience would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks, Eric

867. Re: Handheld, Utah, N.W of Delta

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-03 14:29:37 UTC
From: richgr@panix.com
Message-ID: <g74b97pip1@reader1.panix.com>
Source record: 2538

In article <1963cd24-aeb4-46aa-a754-2d88e941442d@r15g2000prh.googlegroups.com>,
<parkes.eric@gmail.com> wrote:
>Hi,
>
>I'm thinking about buying a handheld to take along on my offroad
>motorcycle travels. I will be between Wendover, NV and Delta, UT. It
>is about 120 miles of very barren territory, sand dunes, salt flats
>and rocky mountains. My wife is concerned - and probably rightfully
>so - that mechanical failure or a crash will leave me in the middle of
>nowhere. I plan on following a known route (GPS), so if I go missing
>too long folks will know where to look for me.

If you want RELIABLE communications from "very barren territory", forget
amateur radio.

Get a satelite phone.

--
Rich Greenberg N Ft Myers, FL, USA richgr atsign panix.com + 1 239 543 1353
Eastern time. N6LRT I speak for myself & my dogs only. VM'er since CP-67
Canines:Val, Red, Shasta & Casey (RIP), Red & Zero, Siberians Owner:Chinook-L
Retired at the beach Asst Owner:Sibernet-L

868. Re: Handheld, Utah, N.W of Delta

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-03 18:47:50 UTC
From: Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
Message-ID: <fast-B3F5C0.10031403082008@netnews.worldnet.att.net>
Source record: 2539

In article
<1963cd24-aeb4-46aa-a754-2d88e941442d@r15g2000prh.googlegroups.com>,
parkes.eric@gmail.com wrote:

> Hi,
>
> I'm thinking about buying a handheld to take along on my offroad
> motorcycle travels. I will be between Wendover, NV and Delta, UT. It
> is about 120 miles of very barren territory, sand dunes, salt flats
> and rocky mountains. My wife is concerned - and probably rightfully
> so - that mechanical failure or a crash will leave me in the middle of
> nowhere. I plan on following a known route (GPS), so if I go missing
> too long folks will know where to look for me.
>
> I have 20 years of desert riding experience, but never in an area I
> couldn't walk out of (perhaps 7 miles to nearest road). So I'm
> thinking she has a good point. Attempting to walk that far with
> limited water might lead to a tragic situation.
>
> I am a electrical engineer and have ordered a book off amazon, and
> either way plan on taking the FCC test. Would a 5 watt handheld have
> a chance of getting out a signal in this area? It is fairly close to
> an Air Force proving grounds, so perhaps? My enduro motorcycle does
> have 12 VDC and I could mount a smaller unit with an external antenna
> but wonder if it is worth it? On this trip I would use it only for
> life-threatening conditions, so perhaps a handheld can use law
> enforcement repeaters???
>
> Any thoughts on the subject from those with experience would be
> greatly appreciated.
>
> Thanks, Eric

A "Personal Locator Beacon" would seem to fit the "Emergency Panic
Button" requirement for your trip. If you are looking for "Direct Comms",
the Ham Radio, MAY, be able to do the job, depending on the location
and elevation of the local Repeaters in the area of you transit. You
can expect 20 miles from a VHF 5 Watt Radio, which gets you to a bit
farther than the horizon, and if there is a HighSite Local Repeater,
then 75 miles would be about the limit. You will need to research,
what coverage is in the area, and don't forget HighSite Cellphone
coverage, as there maybe some of that out in that area as well.
For 100% Voice Comms, SAT based service is the only for sure option.

--
Bruce in alaska
add <path> after <fast> to reply

869. Re: Handheld, Utah, N.W of Delta

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-03 19:00:44 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <KvydnXyyBevRnQvVnZ2dnUVZ_i2dnZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2540

"Bruce in alaska" wrote

> the Ham Radio, MAY, be able to do the job, depending on the location
> and elevation of the local Repeaters in the area of you transit. You
> can expect 20 miles from a VHF 5 Watt Radio, which gets you to a bit
> farther than the horizon, and if there is a HighSite Local Repeater,
> then 75 miles would be about the limit.

>From a mile-high site near Mt. Rainier, WA, I got into a Vancouver, BC repeater with my 2-watt HT -- a distance of 150 miles. The VE7 I talked with was on a bicycle in Vancouver.... We talked for at least several minutes.

As for being able to use a [modified] 2-way amateur radio to access law enforcement repeaters... absolutely not. There was a big flap about that several years ago where someone did just that -- life-threatening and all. I don't know what the eventual outcome was, but the reported intermediary events were not pretty.

Howard N7SO

870. Re: Handheld, Utah, N.W of Delta

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-03 20:33:44 UTC
From: "David G. Nagel" <nagel.david@sbcglobal.net>
Message-ID: <ofolk.6223$np7.4202@flpi149.ffdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2541

parkes.eric@gmail.com wrote:
> Hi,
>
> I'm thinking about buying a handheld to take along on my offroad
> motorcycle travels. I will be between Wendover, NV and Delta, UT. It
> is about 120 miles of very barren territory, sand dunes, salt flats
> and rocky mountains. My wife is concerned - and probably rightfully
> so - that mechanical failure or a crash will leave me in the middle of
> nowhere. I plan on following a known route (GPS), so if I go missing
> too long folks will know where to look for me.
>
> I have 20 years of desert riding experience, but never in an area I
> couldn't walk out of (perhaps 7 miles to nearest road). So I'm
> thinking she has a good point. Attempting to walk that far with
> limited water might lead to a tragic situation.
>
> I am a electrical engineer and have ordered a book off amazon, and
> either way plan on taking the FCC test. Would a 5 watt handheld have
> a chance of getting out a signal in this area? It is fairly close to
> an Air Force proving grounds, so perhaps? My enduro motorcycle does
> have 12 VDC and I could mount a smaller unit with an external antenna
> but wonder if it is worth it? On this trip I would use it only for
> life-threatening conditions, so perhaps a handheld can use law
> enforcement repeaters???
>
> Any thoughts on the subject from those with experience would be
> greatly appreciated.
>
> Thanks, Eric
>

Eric;

Have fun on your trip. For emergency communications the other responders have all provided good information.

My addition to this thread is to suggest you also pack a FRS radio. Tune to channel one tone off for emergency communications. If it is necessary to call in airborne search and rescue assets the Civil Air Patrol most likely will be one of the agencies. One of the tools we use is the FRS radio tuned to channel 1 for communications with lost individuals and parties. Make sure that your trip plan specifically mentions FRS channel one.

You can rent sat phones and personal locater beacons for your trip. The cost is cheap insurance. Then use the FRS for close in communications.

Dave Nagel, Major CAP
WD9BDZ

871. Re: Handheld, Utah, N.W of Delta

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-04 06:18:16 UTC
From: parkes.eric@gmail.com
Message-ID: <7f491c8e-7751-4822-815b-b2b318060c25@u6g2000prc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2542

> Have fun on your trip. For emergency communications the other responders
> have all provided good information.

Thank you all for the helpful advice. I cured my wife's worryies by inviting her along. Now she's excited to go. I thought the area would be just rabbit trails through open desert. Turns out the largest part of my journey will take place on the historic "Pony Express" trail. I didn't realize the Pony Express went through this area of Utah! Essentially it is a 135 mile long dirt road, with perhaps 1 or 2 ranching trucks passing through per day. Hopefully we'll see the wild horses that are claimed to live out there.

I did find a very well done video describing the history of the area and monuments:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwOZTezO6mM&feature=related

Here's a simple HTML page with a few pictures from the BLM:
http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/salt_lake/recreation/back_country_byways/pony_express_trail/pony_express_trail.html

Thanks again, Eric.

872. Re: APRS and Igate

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-04 17:56:39 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g775u3$1ius$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2543

Dick Grady AC7EL wrote:

> A modern software that works with windows is AGWPE created by SV2AGW.
> You can download it here http://www.sv2agw.com/downloads/default.htm
> This site tells you how to use it http://www.kc2rlm.info/soundcardpacket/
> 73 de Dick, AC7EL
>

Plus the APRSPoint software has a software TNC. If software TNC is all that is desired, it is overkill, but for a complete setup, maps, dots, and internet or RF station placement, it is pretty good.

Around 50 dollars for the program by itself, around 70 for the Programs plus MapPoint.

Only problem I had was when I changed my call sign, it wouldn't work for me. An email to their support fixed that in a couple hours. Service is good.

note: I am not affiliated with APRSPoint in any way, and the above is just the musings of a happy customer, and not an invitation to buy or sell the product.

- 73 de

873. Re: Handheld, Utah, N.W of Delta

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-04 18:47:58 UTC
From: Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
Message-ID: <fast-2588A2.10195404082008@netnews.worldnet.att.net>
Source record: 2544

In article <KvydnXyyBevRnQvVnZ2dnUVZ_i2dnZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>,
"Howard Lester" <heylester@dakotacom.net> wrote:

> "Bruce in alaska" wrote
>
> > the Ham Radio, MAY, be able to do the job, depending on the location
> > and elevation of the local Repeaters in the area of you transit. You
> > can expect 20 miles from a VHF 5 Watt Radio, which gets you to a bit
> > farther than the horizon, and if there is a HighSite Local Repeater,
> > then 75 miles would be about the limit.
>
> >From a mile-high site near Mt. Rainier, WA, I got into a Vancouver, BC
> repeater with my 2-watt HT -- a distance of 150 miles. The VE7 I talked with
> was on a bicycle in Vancouver.... We talked for at least several minutes.
>
> As for being able to use a [modified] 2-way amateur radio to access law
> enforcement repeaters... absolutely not. There was a big flap about that
> several years ago where someone did just that -- life-threatening and all. I
> don't know what the eventual outcome was, but the reported intermediary
> events were not pretty.
>
> Howard N7SO

Just a note here, Mt Rainier to Vancouver BC is a KNOW Inversion Path
that has been worked for many years.

--
Bruce in alaska
add <path> after <fast> to reply

874. Wireless and Steam Museum

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-04 22:04:23 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <g77q78upk1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2545

Whille steampunkin' around, I founs a museum in Rhode Island that fits both radio and steam.

The new England Wireless and Steam Museum. I'm going to have to hit there soon.

http://www.newsm.org/Wireless/wireless.html

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

875. Re: Wireless and Steam Museum

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-05 01:39:20 UTC
From: John Smith <assemblywizard@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <g7850c$n19$2@news.albasani.net>
Source record: 2546

Michael Coslo wrote:
> Whille steampunkin' around, I founs a museum in Rhode Island that fits
> both radio and steam.
>
> The new England Wireless and Steam Museum. I'm going to have to hit
> there soon.
>
> http://www.newsm.org/Wireless/wireless.html
>
>
> - 73 de Mike N3LI -
>

You have not seen the "shacks" I have ... LOL!

Regards,
JS

876. Re: Handheld, Utah, N.W of Delta

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-05 04:28:53 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <7hlf9494e8nm6o5p70djl5tt8i6hlrkovn@4ax.com>
Source record: 2547

On Sun, 3 Aug 2008 10:29:37 EDT, richgr@panix.com (Rich Greenberg)
wrote:

>>I'm thinking about buying a handheld to take along on my offroad
>>motorcycle travels. I will be between Wendover, NV and Delta, UT. It
>>is about 120 miles of very barren territory, sand dunes, salt flats
>>and rocky mountains. My wife is concerned - and probably rightfully
>>so - that mechanical failure or a crash will leave me in the middle of
>>nowhere. I plan on following a known route (GPS), so if I go missing
>>too long folks will know where to look for me.
>
>If you want RELIABLE communications from "very barren territory", forget
>amateur radio. Get a satelite phone.

If you want to avoid a lengthy legal hassle with the law enforcement
agencies and the FCC arrayed against you, forget about using a
hand-held radio on law enforcement frequencies ANYWHERE unless you
have (1) advance agreement from them and (2) use a radio that is type
certified for such use. Amateur hand-helds are not.

--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
ARRL Volunteer Counsel

email: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

877. 40 Meter Phone - and How Time Flies

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-06 14:34:34 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <01e721e4-18b4-4b8e-9a67-7ce5359fc2b7@f63g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2548

Just noted a new thread over on eham.net about how SWBC is supposed to vacate 7100-7200 kc. Which will make 40 meters much more usable for 'phone, particularly at night. It will also hopefully take some pressure off 7000-7100, because non-US Region 2 hams on 'phone won't need to go below 7100 to get away from SWBC QRM.

The thing that got me was that the change goes into effect March 29, 2009 - less than 8 months from now! I remember reading about it back in 2003 and thinking "that's years away...."

73 de Jim, N2EY

878. Re: 40 Meter Phone - and How Time Flies

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-06 17:18:31 UTC
From: an old freind <konstans@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <070d369c-4421-4533-8a9b-1ba63cd92883@m3g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2549

On Aug 6, 10:34 am, N...@aol.com wrote:
> Just noted a new thread over on eham.net about how SWBC is supposed to
> vacate 7100-7200 kc. Which will make 40 meters much more usable for
> 'phone, particularly at night. It will also hopefully take some
> pressure off 7000-7100, because non-US Region 2 hams on 'phone won't
> need to go below 7100 to get away from SWBC QRM.
>
> The thing that got me was that the change goes into effect March 29,
> 2009 - less than 8 months from now! I remember reading about it back
> in 2003 and thinking "that's years away...."
>
> 73 de Jim, N2EY

I certainly hope it does result in improvement but Just how binding is
it this action

Truly I hope for improvement although I can sometime null out europe
to the point I don't hear em and south south and southwest but my
spainish is not yet realy good enough to be very sucessful but I do
have fun

879. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1617 - August 8, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-08 12:36:47 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080808015006.0178e038@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2550
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1617 - August 8, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1617 with a release date of Friday, August 8th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Jamming hits repeaters in the UK and system owners are urged to act. Also, two ham radio satellites are lost in a launch mishap, Australia says it will develop a new emergency communications tracking system, a popular United States based ham radio website says no more discussions of politics and a trip back through time to old radio in the South Pacific. Come and enjoy the voyage with us on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1617 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

ENFORCEMENT NEEDED: REPEATER JAMMING WAVE HITS THE UK

It's a story all to common in the United States but this time its coming from overseas. A wave of jamming and other abuses has hit repeaters in the United Kingdom and repeater owners are being urged to act against the offenders. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH. is in Nottingham with the story:

--

There has unfortunately been a recent upsurge in repeater abuse in a number of areas of the UK with the London area being particularly badly affected. Repeater Keepers have advised to take positive action and this has resulted in the recent temporary closure of GB3EL.

In other areas, a number of Keepers have taken the initiative and imposed closedown 'cooling off' periods and `curfews' on their repeaters at times when abuse has been observed to be at its worst.

It must be recognized that similar actions may be imposed by the Regulator if Keepers are not prepared to take the lead themselves.

The RSGB are in ongoing discussions with Ofcom on how offenders can be identified and dealt with. They are determined that perpetrators will be brought to book and not be allowed to continue their mindless behavior on air.

I'm Jeremy Boot, G4NJH, and you are listening to the amateur Radio Newsline.

--

The United Kingdom's telecommunications regulator Ofcom and its predecessors have a long history of dealing very sternly with regulatory violators in any radio service. In years past we have reported on cases where telecommunications officials in the U-K have taken alleged violators into court where, if found guilty, they were fined and even sent to prison. Though the latter is fairly rare, if generally believed that if Ofcom gets involved, it's a sure bet that those causing the problem will be
quickly taken off the air.

And less we forget, a repeater keeper in the U-K is the equivalent of a repeater owner operator here in the USA. (GB2RS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: TWO HAM RADIO CUBESATS LOST AT LAUNCH

Two Amateur radio cubesats were lost during a lunch mishap on Sunday, August 3rd. This after a privately funded Space Exploration Technologies Corporation Falcon-1 rocket failed shortly after liftoff.

The cubesats lost were Presat and NanoSail-D. Both were part of the payload on board the third Falcon-1 rocket that was launched from the Reagan Test Site, in the Republic of Marshall Islands. Unfortunately the flight ended a couple of minutes later when a problem occurred with stage separation.

Space Exploration Technologies first effort to put a vehicle into orbit was back in March 2006. It failed due to a leaky fuel line. A year later, a second attempt had to be written off after the rocket made it into space but then wobbled off its vertical axis and tumbled out of control.

The primary payload on board the Falcon -1 was the Trailblazer satellite for the Jumpstart Program of the United States Department of Defense's Operationally Responsive Space Office If the satellites had reached orbit Presat and NanoSail-D would have operated in the 70 centimeter amateur radio satellite band. Whether or not the sponsors of either of the two lost ham radio birds will try again at some later date is at airtime unknown. (ANS, other reports)

**

RESCUE RADIO: VK TO DEVELOP RADIO LOCATION EMCOMM FINDER

A new radio based technology to aid in search and rescue work is being developed by Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization or CSIRO. Trevor Taege VK4BAT, of the W-I-A News has the details:

--

CSIRO has signed a $1 million collaboration to develop the technology for emergency purposes in conjunction with Emergency Management Australia (EMA), Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency and the National Security Science and Technology Branch within the Department of

the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Federal Attorney-General, Mr. Robert McClelland, who is the Minister responsible for EMA, says the technology could prove "an invaluable tool for Australian emergency service workers, especially when searching for injured or lost people in hazardous situations.

The system use radio frequency tracking technologies and consists of a network of wireless nodes which can be combined with sensors to enable monitoring of environmental variables.

The System could see emergency personnel sent into dangerous situations wearing sensors which monitor their heart rate and core temperature, as well as gas or radiation levels in the surrounding environment.

Trevor Taege VK4BAT for VK1WIA News

--

If it works, the new high-accuracy radio based terrestrial localization systems would be suitable for applications as diverse as tracking workers in emergency situations to following cyclists racing around a track. (WIA News)

**

RESCUE RADIO: NEW NEXT OF KIN NOTIFICATION STANDARD

Emergency workers searching for next-of-kin contact information for an injured person now have a globally recognized way of doing so, thanks to a new standard from International Telecommunications Union.

According to the organizations' July 23rd release, simply prefixing the Arabic numerals 01, 02, 03, and so on to a nominated contact, written in any script in the mobile telephone directory, will help emergency workers in any part of the world identify contacts in order of priority and notify them. For example, 01 for father or 02 meaning wife and 03 standing for a husband.

The International Telecommunications Union says that it will work with non-profit organization ICE 4 SAFETY to promote this new way of identifying an emergency contact in a mobile handset's directory. The new standard, which is a clause to ITU-T Recommendation E.123, internationalizes the ICE concept and recommends the use of Arabic numerals 0 through 9 to denote emergency contact numbers. (ITU release)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the East Cape Linked Repeater Network serving all of South Africa

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM RADIO ON THE NET: QRZ.COM AYS NO MORE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS

No more non ham radio politics will be permitted on one of the worlds best known ham radio websites. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has more:

--

The QRZ.com website has banned discussion of political issues that are not directly related to ham radio. This as it takes down its Political Junkie discussion pages due to abuse by a number of those posting to it.

In a statement on the site its owner Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ, said that he really would have preferred that the Political Junkie forum remain open. However, the rudeness, hate, and vicious nature of many of its participants, killed it.

Lloyd went on to say that for every reasoned and articulate argument there were at least 10 that were either senseless or otherwise non-contributing. AA7BQ added that nobody at QRZ dot com wanted to police the postings and letting it go completely un-moderated would have been an even worse disaster.

Reaction to the decision to remove the Political Junkie discussion area from the website has been generally supportive. Most of those who opposed the change say that the Political Junkie discussion area was their main reason for coming to QRZ dot com. Very few say that they are likely to abandon posting on the site in the other areas that are directly related to ham radio.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

On a much happier note, QRZ dot com has announced that it is about to launch a new service designed especially for web-enabled PDA's and Smart Phones. This will give folks fast and convenient access to QSL information wherever cellphone coverage is available, 24 hours a day. The new service provides access to the QRZ Callsign Database that is optimized for the small screens found on most web enabled phones. The callsign data is presented in a simple text style with no images, graphics or biography data. You can read more about both these items and comment at www.qrz.com. (ARNewsline(tm) from information on QRZ.com)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FINE AFFIRMED FOR SELLING NON CERTIFIED CB RADIO

The Federal Communications Commission has affirmed a $7000 fine it issued to Michael T. Kersnowski doing business on the World Wide Web as www.radioactiveradios.com. This after the Salem, Oregon, resident failed to reply to a Notice of Apparent Liability issued for willful and repeated violation of the Communications Act and the Commission's Rules dealing with

the sale of non-certified Citizens Band transceivers

Back on March 28th, the Enforcement Bureau's Portland Resident Agent Office
issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $7,000 to Kersnowski for offering for sale non-certified CB transceivers. Despite evidence that Kersnowski and his counsel received the Notice of Apparent Liability, Kersnowski has not filed a response. Based on the information before us, the FCC has now affirmed the forfeiture and given him 30 days to pay it or to file an appeal.

A check of the company's website shows its still in what it calls the competition radio business. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: UNLICENSED FLORIDA TRANSMITTER ORDERED OFF THE AIR

The Miami FCC Office has told a West Palm Beach resident to take an unlicensed transmitter off the air. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has the details:

--

In a July 10th letter to John Venuti the FCC says it received information that an unlicensed broadcast radio station on 101.1 MHz was allegedly operating in the West Palm Beach, Florida area. On June 18th agents from that office confirmed by direction finding that radio signals on 101.1 MHz were emanating from property owned by Venuti.

The FCC letter demanded that Venuti immediately cease operation of the unlicensed transmitter. He was also told that failure to comply could lead to severe sanctions that might include seizure of the offending radio equipment, substantial monetary fines and even criminal sanctions including imprisonment. A high price to pay for having an unlicensed station on the air.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

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John Venuti was given the customary 10 days from the date of the letter to respond to it. That period is now past. (FCC)

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RADIO TECHNOLOGY: COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS MOVING AM BROADCAST BAND

A group made up primarily of broadcast consulting engineers has proposed that the United States AM broadcast stations be made to move to TV Channels 5 and 6. This, after their current occupants of that spectrum migrate to digital.

The group, calling itself the Broadcast Maximization Committee, recommends the conversion and migration of all AM stations over an extended period of

time and with digital transmissions only. It also proposes relocating the LPFM service to a portion of this spectrum.

The group made its proposal in a filing to the FCC as part of the broadcast diversity proceeding in Docket 07-294.. Other organizations also used the proceeding to discuss how the radio spectrum should be structured; but the Broadcast Maximization Committee comments are likely to draw new attention to the plight of AM stations and possible ways to help the occupants of that broadcast band cope with changing technology. (RW)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC OK'S XM SIRIUS SAT RADIO MERGER

The XM and Sirius Satellite radio merger has been approved by the FCC. According to the Wall Street Journal and Broadcasting & Cable Magazine the 3 to 2 vote came late Friday, July 25th. This, after most FCC staffers had gone home.

In order for the deal to go through XM and Sirius have agreed to pay about $20 million for their unauthorized use of certain terrestrial relay stations and for marketing overpowered FM modulators used in certain models of mobile receivers.

The merger which was opposed by terrestrial broadcasters and public advocacy groups is expected to save both companies 10's of millions of dollars in operating expenses. Had it not been approved its likely that one or the other of the nations only two satellite radio broadcasters would eventually have failed. (Published reports)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: EI4GXB NEW IARUMS COORDINATOR FOR IRELAND

Some names in the news. First up is Ger McNamara, EI4GXB. He has been appointed the new International Amateur Radio Union Monitoring System Coordinator for Ireland.

The International Amateur Radio Union Monitoring System has a well-documented file of successful actions taken against intruders on the amateur radio bands. The latest of these from Ireland being the shutdown of church broadcasts on 10 meter FM.

Hams in Ireland are welcome to communicate with McNamara to report intruders, or for any information on the monitoring system. Contact him by e-mail to ei4gxb at g mail dot com. (Southgate)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS : W6AWO SAYS KPH IS STILL SENDING MORSE

Richard Dillman, W6AWO, reports over the W-I-A News that the KPH transmitting and receiving sites north of San Francisco are one of the last places left where one can see a real coast station in operation. Their transmitters cause the whole building to vibrate as their mercury vapor

rectifiers flash in time with the Morse being sent. At the receive site the operating room is flooded with the music of Morse as it was in the golden years.

For those who can't pay a visit, 3 videos will give you an idea of days at the station. The videos include "KSM Station Operations", "Antenna Maintenance at KPH/KSM" and "Press Wireless PW-15 Transmitter". To see them go to Web site www.radiomarine.org/ and scroll down to "MRHS Videos". (WIA News)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: D-STAR REPEATERS AT HAM FAIR 2008

Two temporary D-Star repeaters will be available for hams attending this year's Ham Fair in Tokyo, Japan. JP1YJJ dash A will output on 439.25 with a minus offset. JP1YJJ stroke B will output on 1291.33 and also will use a minus offset. Both machines will be on the air from 01:00 to 08:00 U-T-C on August 23rd and 24th. If you come from a nation with reciprocal agreements with Japan and want to use the repeaters please stop by the Japan amateur radio League's booth at Ham Fair 2008. (D-Star Remailer)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: INTERNATIONAL YL MEET IN SOUTH AFRICA

An International YL Meet is scheduled to be held in South Africa. This, during October when YL's and their partners will be arriving from Japan, Korea, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Canada, Australia and France.

The tour starts on 0ctober 3rd at the Lesedi Cultural Village in the Cradle of Mankind. From there they will visit the Pilanesberg National Park and then travel to Durban and Cape Town. For details contact ZS6ZEN for the Johannesburg and Cape Town events and ZS5JAN for the Durban event. Addresses and e-mail for each can be found under their calls on QRZ.com. (SARL News release)

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SOCIAL SCENE: 30 CLIPPERTON DX CLUB HAMVENTION SEPT IN FRANCE

This year's Clipperton DX Club Hamvention will be held in town of Chasseneuil du Poitou, France on September 19th and 20th. The venue is the Campanile Poitiers-Futuroscope Hotel. For more information about forum activities including dinners, please visit www.cdxc.org/index-f.htm

Also, listen out fot special event station TM8CDX to be activated from September 6th to the 20th as a part of the Clipperton festivities. If you make contact the QSL Manager is F5CQ. (News release)

**

THE SOCIAL CENE: ASIA PACIFIC DX CONVENTION IN NOVEMBER IN JAPAN

And hams from around the world are cordially invited to attend the 2nd annual Asia Pacific DX Convention. The event is slated for November 7th through the 9th at the Osaka International House in Osaka, Japan. In addition to the usual presentations and technical sessions, attendees will be given the chance to tour the tour the internationally famous electronics district, visit the Icom factory and to participate in a question and answer session with Icom engineers. More information on this very special ham radio gathering and its tours is on-line at www.apdxc.org. (OPDX)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: REPORT SAYS THAT HIGHER IBOC POWER MEANS MORE INTERFERENCE TO ANALOG

IBOC broadcasting is in the news once again and the story is again interference to existing analog operations. Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, reports:

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If you think that a power increase for In Band On Channel or IBOC broadcasting will increase interference, you are correct. So says N-P-R Labs which has released the results of its 18-month study of elevated FM IBOC power levels.

Leslie Stimson of Radio World says that it is now possible to get a handle on the meat of the probable interference issues to analog reception if the digital power levels are raised by 10 dB. And according to the CGC Communicator, not even Special Temporary Auhority's or experimental authorizations for higher powered operation appear to be warranted at this time. This, because analog listeners hit by interference will have no idea where the problem is coming from, and NPR indicates that plenty of interference will occur. An IBOC signal heard on an analog receiver is essentially nothing more digital noise.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF

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To read NPR's summary of its IBOC engineering study go to http://www.nprlabs.org/research/drcia.php) (CGC Communicator)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: ELECTRONS BEHAVE LIKE LIGHT IN CRYSTAL

A team of researchers at Princeton University's Materials Research Science and Engineering Center has observed electrons moving through a crystal of bismuth while behaving like light.

The Princeton group fixed a crystal of bismuth onto a flexing beam, or cantilever, and then placed this apparatus in a high magnetic field created at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. This device can generate magnetic fields that are more than a million times stronger than the earth's faint magnetic field. Under such an enormous magnetic field the cantilever twists. The way it twists tells the Princeton researchers about the subtle new kind of matter in the bismuth crystal.

Scientists are very excited by this discovery. They say that the research which was supported by the National Science Foundation and detailed in the journal Science, could lead to new kinds of news electronic devices. (Science OnLine)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT UK PACE COLLOQUIUM SLIDE SHOWS ON LINE

Presentations from the AMSAT-UK Colloquium have been added to the to the AMSAT-UK website as slide shows Currently there are 15 presentations online at www.uk.amsat.org. You will find some of the 2007 presentations there as well. (ANS)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: THE PERSEID METEOR SHOWER ON AUGUST 12

Meteor scatter enthusiasts attention. The annual Perseid meteor shower peaks on Tuesday, August 12th. The best time to see them and make contact by bouncing signals off their ionized tails is during the dark hours before dawn on Tuesday morning when forecasters expect 50 to 100 meteors per hour.

The source of the Perseids is Comet Swift-Tuttle, which has littered the August portion of Earth's orbit with space dust. The dusty zone is broad and Earth is already in its outskirts. As a result, even before the peak on August 12th, you may see some "early Perseids" streaking across the night sky. (VHF Reflector)

**

WORLDBEAT - BRAZIL: PY4HP IN THE LABRE UHF CONTEST VIDEO

Turning to news from around the world, word that video of the PY4HP operation in grid square G G 77 A H during the recent Brazilian LABRE UHF Contest is now on the YouTube.com video sharing website. It shows how the station at 2070 meters above sea level that managed to make contact with 37 stations in 6 other grid squares. This which is considered quite a feat from that location on those frequencies. You can see it for yourself at: http://www.youtube.com/japydxgroup (PY2ZX)

**

WORLDBEAT - COLUMBIA: FIRST HD RADIO TEST CONDUCTED IN BOGATA

An FM station in Colombia is the first in that country to air High Definition Radio. This, according to Broadcast Electronics which says that Tropicana 102.9 is airing digital using Broadcast Electronics brand of H D Radio transmission equipment. The installation is part of a test granted under temporary authorization by the broadcast governing agency in Colombia, and is being conducted in the country's capital city of Bogota that has a population 9 million. The station is owned by the Caracol Radio Network. (BE)

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WORLDBEAT - INDIA: COSTAL DISTRICT FORMS DISASTER HAM RADIO SERVICE

From India word that the Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority has decided to install 21 ham radio stations in seven districts, including six coastal ones. This, say officials is due to the fact that an amateur radio network can easily communicate when other communication services fail during natural disasters .

Scientists and other officials of National Institute of Amateur Radio have already trained 100 young people to operate ham the radio stations in the Orissa area. The Orissa State Disaster Mitigation Authority had asked the Institute for their assistance in the youth rescue radio training program. (India News Today)

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DX

In D-X, word that F5NHJ portable F K , will be active from Grand Terre Island from August 12th to the 29th. He also plans to activate other islands all with an emphasis on 30 meter CW and the digital modes. The log for these operations will be uploaded to the Logbook to the World.

IZ1DSH should be on from Tavolara Island through August 17th. He plans to operate 40 through 10 meters mostly on SSB. QSL via bureau or direct to his home call.

OZ8KR, will be active from Svalbards capital city from August 12th to the 17th. He plans mostly in SSB on 20 meters and says to check his preferred frequencies of 14.220 and 14/260 MHz. QSL via home call.

And F5TGR, will be QRV Aug 9th to the 23rd from Porto Vecchio, Corsica using CW and SSB. Listen out for him on 10 through 40 meters. He says that trips to other islands are possible as well. QSL direct or via bureau.

Lastly, 6V7L will be the call of F8ATM in his operation from Senegal through August 22nd. He plans to work mostly SSB and RTTY on all of the High Frequency bands. QSL F8ATM direct or via bureau to.

(Above from various DX newsletters and DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: BROADCASTING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

And finally this week the story of broadcasting in the South Pacific over the past half century. John Williams,VK5BUI, of the WIA News takes us on a trip through time:

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50 years ago, the last of the baby boomers was born, and radio broadcasting was still in its infancy in most parts of the Pacific. Australia and New Zealand had a combined population of about 12.3m people and shared only 2.6m radio receivers amongst them.

The ABC was about to end experimental FM broadcasts in the main centers, and the only FM station in the entire Pacific region was KAIM-FM in Honolulu. The most powerful island shortwave radio station was Radio Tahiti, serving 75,000 local listeners in the year that General Charles de Gaulle became French president and Sputnik 1 fell to earth.

Shortwave broadcasting was also the only form of radio in the Cook Islands, New Caledonia and Dutch New Guinea. In Western Samoa, 2AP was celebrating its tenth anniversary. No stations broadcast in Tonga or the New Hebrides Condominium and only a few hours daily came from the new stations in the Gilbert & Ellice Islands Colony and the British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

US Armed Forces Radio stations left over from World War 2 were still on the air on islands like Midway and Johnston and the relatively new Fiji Broadcasting Commission was still using shortwave radio from VRH4 Suva.

I'm John, VK5BUI

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To think that all of this took place in only over the last fifty years. (WIA News)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

Please don't forget that next Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 15th to the 17th is the Huntsville Hamfest at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville Alabama. Amateur Radio Newsline will be there to present the 2008 Young Ham of the Year Award to Emily Stewart, KC0PTL. We hope to meet some of you there as well.

But if you cant be there in person you can visit the Huntsville Hamfest vicariously. This, as our friend Tom Medlin, W5KUB, streams live audio and video of the event to the Internet. Tom's transmissions begin at 1300 UTC on August 15th. You can watch live at www.wa5kub.com.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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880. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 31 (Friday, August 8, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-08 17:55:48 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080808175056.6031130C0A@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2451
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 31
August 8, 2008
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* + Look for the September Issue of QST in Your Mailbox
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* + Fifth Annual National Preparedness Month Coming in September
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+ New ARRL Section Manager Appointed in Nevada
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October is Radiosport Month in QST
Georgia Hams Meet with FEMA
AMSAT-UK Colloquium Lectures Now Online
International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend 2008

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS NAMES 2007-2008 AWARD RECIPIENTS

The ARRL Board of Directors named six ARRL award recipients at its July 18-19 meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The six awards conferred were the 2008 Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award; the 2007 Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award; the 2007 Hiram Percy Maxim Award; the 2007 Doug DeMaw, W1FB, Technical Excellence Award; the 2008 ARRL Technical Innovation Award, and the ARRL Technical Merit Award.

* The Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award
<http://www.arrl.org/pio/mcgan/>

The recipient of the 2008 McGan Award is Walter Palmer, W4ALT, of Lewes, Delaware. Palmer, the ARRL Delaware Section Public Information Coordinator (PIC) <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/pic.html>, has demonstrated outstanding volunteer public relations success on behalf of Amateur Radio at both the local and state levels. Palmer wrote a television script for the Sussex County (Delaware) Emergency Operations Center, providing the public with an awareness of Amateur Radio and its relationship with Emergency Preparedness. This show was broadcast on the largest television station in the Delaware market. Through his positive messages and commitment to Amateur Radio, membership in the Sussex Amateur Radio Association increased almost 200 percent, gaining 69 new members; participation in ARES grew from just one lone member to 60.

The McGan award is named for Philip J. McGan, WA2MBQ (SK), the first chairman of the ARRL's Public Relations Committee. After his death, friends in the New Hampshire Amateur Radio Association joined with the ARRL Board of Directors to pay a lasting tribute to the important contributions he made on behalf of Amateur Radio. The McGan Award goes to that ham who has demonstrated success in Amateur Radio public relations and best exemplifies the volunteer spirit of Phil McGan. Public Relations activities for which the McGan Award is presented include efforts specifically directed at bringing Amateur Radio to the public's attention (and most often the media's) in a positive light. This may include traditional methods, such as news releases, or non-traditional methods, such as hosting a radio show or being an active public speaker.

* Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award
<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/award/herb-tor.html>

The recipient of the 2007 Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award is Doug Loughmiller, W5BL, of McKinney, Texas. Since 2003, Loughmiller has worked to bring together the Fannin County Amateur Radio Club and the Fannin County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) by creating and teaching ongoing Amateur Radio classes. Loughmiller advertises the classes and recruits students; graduates of the classes usually end up joining both clubs. He mentors his many students about the wide-ranging facets of Amateur Radio, including high altitude balloon flights and real-world emergency response in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Loughmiller's classes are so popular, it is common for licensed amateurs to re-enroll or even take his class for a first time knowing they will walk away from it having learned something new.

Herb S. Brier, W9AD, long-time CQ Novice Editor, represented the spirit of effective, caring Amateur Radio instruction. The ARRL, in conjunction with the Lake County (Indiana) Amateur Radio Club, sponsors this award in his memory to recognize the very best in volunteer Amateur Radio instruction and recruitment.

* The Hiram Percy Maxim Award
<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/hpm.html>

The recipient of the 2007 Hiram Percy Maxim Award is Jim Fagan, KE7IDC, of Tucson, Arizona. Fagan, an ARRL Life Member, is the ARRL Arizona Assistant Section Manager for Youth; he also serves as secretary/treasurer of the Tucson Repeater Association. He is 13 years old. Fagan teaches the Radio and Electronics merit badges, as well as hands-on radio demonstrations and kit building in his Scouting activities. Outside of Boy Scouts, Fagan helps out with bike races, walkathons and Red Cross drills. He serves as the Tucson Repeater Council's representative to the Arizona Radio Council. Every month, he writes a Youth and Scouting article for the ARRL Arizona Section newsletter.

This award, given annually to a licensed radio amateur under the age of 21, takes into account the nominee's most exemplary nature of accomplishments and contributions to both the community of Amateur Radio and the local community.

* The Doug DeMaw, W1FB, Technical Excellence Award

The recipient of the 2007 Doug DeMaw, W1FB, Technical Excellence Award is John Stanley, K4ERO, of Rising Fawn, Georgia, for his article "Observing Selective Fading in Real Time with Dream Software" published in the January/February 2007 issue of QEX <http://www.arrl.org/qex>. Stanley was first licensed as KN4ERO more than 50 years ago, gradually working his way up to Amateur Extra class. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a degree in electrical engineering in 1962 and did six years of graduate studies in theology and foreign languages. With Ruth, WB4LUA, his wife of 40 years, Stanley has visited 62 countries and operated from about a dozen of them while working as a broadcast engineering consultant and educator. He has taught in several universities and has worked for all of the major religious broadcasters, but spent the majority of his time with HCJB in Quito, Ecuador where he oversaw the use of a 24-element quad antenna for broadcasting on the 21 MHz shortwave broadcast band. While at HCJB, Stanley designed and built several transmitters and did major work on the 20 kW unit presently used by HCJB for SSB and Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) broadcasts.

Established in 1975 as the ARRL Technical Excellence Award, the name was changed in 1997 to honor the late Doug DeMaw, W1FB, a former ARRL Headquarters technical editor and well-known Amateur Radio author. The award consists of an engraved 9 inch pewter cup.

* The ARRL Technical Innovation Award
<ARRL%20Technical%20Innovation%20Award>

The recipient of the 2008 ARRL Technical Innovation Award is Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ, of Wayland, Massachusetts. Bernstein authored and published the DXLab suite of programs for radio amateurs <http://www.dxlabsuite.com/>; he has placed these programs in the public

domain for free use and collaboration. Bernstein, an avid DXer, was one of the earliest logging program authors to investigate functions for ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>, as well as programs for other developers. His DXLab suite consists of eight programs that cover every aspect of station operation. Bernstein goes beyond simply supporting DXLab; he mentors users in other aspects of programming and Amateur Radio.

The ARRL Technical Innovation Award is granted annually to the licensed radio amateur or to individuals who are licensed radio amateurs whose accomplishments and contributions are of the most exemplary nature within the framework of technical research, development and application of new ideas and future systems in the context of Amateur Radio activities.

* ARRL Technical Merit Award

The ARRL Technical Merit Award, last given in 1976, is awarded to ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI. Since 2003, Hare has diligently and skillfully led the ARRL laboratory staff in studying the detrimental effects of Broadband over Powerline (BPL) usage on the Amateur Radio community <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>. Going beyond the dictates of his job, Hare conducted field studies of geographically dispersed BPL deployments in his personal HF-equipped car, interfacing with amateurs in many different areas of the country to provide them with reliable and objective technical advice in identifying and addressing harmful interference from BPL systems.

Hare's extensive technical studies and solid factual data effectively supported ARRL's Court of Appeals submissions against the FCC, thus contributing substantially to the League's success in causing the FCC's flawed BPL rules to be remanded to the FCC. This action positively impacts ARRL membership and the whole amateur community.

Hare has earned the respect of technical representatives in the BPL industry and standards organizations, such as the IEEE P1775 BPL EMC Committee; the IEEE EMC Society Standards Development Committee (serving as Chairman of the BPL Study Project), and the ASC 63 EMC Committee (serving as Chairman of Subcommittee 5 -- Immunity and the Ad hoc BPL Working Group). Through these committees, Hare has contributed to the implementation of advancements in BPL technology, directly resulting in the capability of current generation BPL systems to reduce interference potential to acceptable levels.

==> NCVEC HOLDS ANNUAL CONFERENCE VIA TELEPHONE

On July 25, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) held their annual meeting via teleconference. ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, and Assistant Manager Perry Green, WY1O, represented the ARRL VEC. Representatives from 12 of the nation's 14 VECs (either in person or via proxy), as well as the FCC's Bill Cross, W3TN, took part in the teleconference.

Elections

NCVEC held elections for 2008/2009. Moving up from vice chairman, Larry Pollock, NB5X, of W5YI VEC was elected Chairman, replacing Tom Fuszard, KF9PU, of the MRAC VEC; John Johnston, W3BE, of the LARC VEC, was elected as Vice Chairman. Roland Anders, K3RA, of LARC VEC, was elected as Chairman of the Question Pool Committee (QPC). The ARRL's Green, W5YI's Pollock, MRAC's Fuszard and Anchorage VEC's Jim Wiley, KL7CC, were appointed as members of the QPC; Anders, Green and Pollock are returning QPC members.

The following amateurs were re-elected to their position by acclimation: Michelle Cimbala, WK3X, of LARC VEC, as Secretary and Custodian of Records; Gene Wright, WA6ZRT, of the GEARS VEC, as Assistant to the Custodian of Records; Ray Adams, W4CPA, of the WCARS VEC, as Treasurer; Willard Sitton, W4HZD, of WCARS, as Assistant to the Treasurer, and Fred Maia, W5YI, of W5YI VEC, as Rules Reporter.

Question Pool Committee

Wiley presented the QPC report. Wiley, who served as QPC Chair for 2007/2008, stated that the committee strived to make the questions in the Amateur Extra class license question pool easier to understand <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=351>. A few changes were made after the release of the pool, and the implementations of those changes seem to be going smoothly, he said. He reminded the Conference that there will be no question pool releases in 2009.

Win Guin, W2GLJ, proxy for the GLAARG VEC, asked Wiley why the QPC released a second version of the Extra class pool. Wiley replied that the QPC sent a copy of the pool to VECs before its release; only a few VECs responded with comments. Only after the release of the pool to the public, Wiley said, did the QPC receive a substantial number of comments for corrections and changes.

Anders confirmed this, saying that most of the comments received after the release were not major, but there were a significant number of them. The QPC carefully reviewed the comments, and the second release of the pool was seen as a way to clarify the way the questions were worded. Pollock agreed, noting that only eight questions were removed from the pool, and about 12 typographical errors were corrected in the re-release.

FCC Matters

Bill Cross, W3TN, an analyst in the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau -- Mobility Division, told the Conference that from an FCC perspective, the VEC system was working quite well. He said they had received very few complaints about test sessions or the availability of test sessions.

Cross also notified the Conference that his office has received some complaints from hams who have let their licenses expire. These hams, Cross said, are upset that they have to take a new test after their two

year grace period has expired.

Cross then spoke of items pending in Washington that may impact exam question pools. He mentioned a petition filed by the ARRL, asking the FCC to amend rules relating to the amount of RF power that stations may use when transmitting spread-spectrum emissions. Cross said this petition is being handled by the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET); he said a decision on this petition has the possibility to affect a few questions in the pools. He also told of a petition dealing with the 5 MHz (60 meter) band; the ARRL is requesting that a channel substitution be made. If approved, this would also change a few questions. Cross said that the Commission would need to solicit comments on both petitions before a decision is reached, and a Report and Order would need to be released if the rules are changed. He said he felt that no question pool changes would need to be made before next summer at the earliest.

Cross mentioned that his office has had some difficulties with club call sign applications. It seems, Cross said, that some hams are sending in applications requesting to change the trustee of a club station, but these hams are not authorized to change either the trustee or the station address. He called on Club Station Call Sign Administrators (CSCSA) to watch this carefully and try to head off any potential problems. He suggested that administrators get documentation that the person requesting the change is actually the new trustee of the club license and is acting with the authority of the club.

1x1 Call Signs

Anders said he was concerned about the possible misuse of 1x1 -- or special event -- call signs, saying that he had received reports of a large number of these special call signs showing up in radiosport contests. He said in looking at the Special Event Call Sign System guidelines -- posted on the NCVEC Web site <http://www.ncvec.org/1x1.php> -- he did not think contests fit the FCC's definition of a special event as something of general or widespread interest. He said that if the Conference decides that it is not in their purview to provide guidance on what should be a special event, the Conference should delete the definition from the NCVEC Web site.

Cross said that the NCVEC has no responsibility for the 1x1 call sign program. He told the Conference that when the FCC devised the 1x1 program, they left the definition of a special event -- an event of interest to the ham radio community -- vague on purpose. He said the Commission envisioned 1x1 call signs being used at open houses, fairs, parades, celebrations of anniversaries of local events and the like. He said a contest does not commemorate an event; rather, those with a 1x1 call sign in a contest have an advantage with a short call sign. He said contest sponsors could have a rule not allowing 1x1 call signs.

Pollock said that after the 1x1 database was developed, they had to find a place to host it; as a matter of convenience, it was placed on the NCVEC Web site. Somma, Green and Pollock urged that the 1x1 database and related Web pages be moved to its own site, with Pollock heading up this project. Somma said the FCC rules state that the database must be maintained, but does not state on what Web site it is to be maintained. To clarify issues with the 1x1 call signs, language on the NCVEC Web site will be changed to reflect that the Conference has nothing to do with the 1x1 call sign program, and pages associated with the program will be moved to their own site as soon as possible.

The 2009 meeting of the NCVEC was tentatively set for July 24 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

==> LOOK FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF QST IN YOUR MAILBOX

The September issue of QST -- our annual Emergency Communications issue -- is jam-packed with all sorts of things today's Amateur Radio operator needs, with a special focus on Public Service. From product reviews to experiments to contesting, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, provides details on how hams can use APRS and GPS in Emergency Communications (and other applications) for more than simply tracking the position of another user in his article "Maximizing the Mobile Motorist Mission." William McMurray, K4SG, takes a look back at some resourceful young amateurs' radio EmComm and homebrewing adventures in his article "World War II Emergency Radio." Mike Kionka, KI0GO, tells about "Project 25 for Amateur Radio," an open digital standard used by many public service agencies.

ARRL Contributing Editor Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, reviews ICOM's IC-92AD dual band handheld transceiver. According to Pearce, "The IC-92AD is a very capable radio for analog and D-STAR digital VHF/UHF operation. It's expensive compared to analog-only dual-banders, and you'll need to spend some time learning the digital features. In return, D-STAR offers many capabilities not available in the analog world."

Contest season is right around the corner, so ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, takes a look at his mailbag and answers a few questions he has received in "This Month in Contesting." The results of the 2008 ARRL DX Phone Contest are in. Did you top your score from last year? How did your closest rival do? Also, find out about upcoming contests in Contest Corral.

Of course, there are all the columns and features you know and love in September QST: Hints & Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, How's DX, Old Radio, Technical Correspondence, ARRL VEC and Emergency Communications Honor Rolls, Hamspeak and more. Look for your September issue in your mailbox. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> FORMER ARRL HQ STAFF MEMBER GLENN SWANSON, KB1GW (SK)

Former ARRL Headquarters staffer, Glenn P. Swanson, KB1GW, of North Granby, Connecticut, died August 1 after a brief illness. He was 54. In the mid-1990s, Swanson was very active in contesting activities, and served a term as Yankee Clipper Contest Club (YCCC) Connecticut Area Manager and was a contributor to the YCCC newsletter <http://www.yccc.org/>. Swanson was extremely interested in new Amateur Radio equipment and products -- especially transceivers -- and authored several QST product reviews.

First licensed in 1987 as a Novice, Swanson credited Peter Budnik, KB1HY - who became a fellow ARRL staffer -- for getting him involved in Amateur Radio. Swanson told then-QST Product Review Editor Rick Lindquist, WW3DE (ex-N1RL) in 1996 that "Peter was my best friend, and he was really into CB. I became involved, too. Later, when Peter decided to take an Amateur Radio licensing class, it was natural that I'd go along with my buddy and take the class, too!" Swanson said he and Budnik "climbed the licensing ladder together," from Novice to General. "And here we are years later, both Advanced class and both working at ARRL HQ -- in the same department."

Swanson first came to the ARRL in January 1993 as the Assistant to Bart Jahnke, KB9NM, then-ARRL VEC Manager. Two years later, Swanson moved to the former Educational Activities Department (EAD) -- later merged with Field Services -- for several years. In his role in EAD, Swanson was involved with the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX -- the predecessor to the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ARISS), scouting's Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and the ARRL Instructor of the Year Award.

"Glenn was an enthusiastic ARRL staff member and Amateur Radio operator," said Lindquist. "He would even stay after hours to assist me in the product review process, and he made me feel at home when I first arrived at ARRL HQ. In addition, he got me involved with YCCC and serious contesting. Glenn was a great guy." Swanson wrote more than a dozen articles and product reviews for QST between 1995 and 1997.

Former EAD Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, his former supervisor, said, "I always liked Glenn and was happy to have him in the department. His death was such a shock!"

Swanson left ARRL HQ in 1998, going to work for the West Hartford (Connecticut) public school system as a technology support specialist. He was employed there at the time of his death. A memorial service was held August 7 in Granby, Connecticut.

==> STATION MANAGER EXPLAINS NN3SI'S SILENCE

ARRL has received numerous e-mails asking for information on why NN3SI <http://americanhistory.si.edu/events/programdetail.cfm?newskey=48>, the Amateur Radio station at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History (NMAH) was closed after more than 32 years of operation <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/07/30/10231/?nc=1>.

According to Hal Wallace, NN3SI Station Manager and Associate Curator for the Museum's electricity collections, there will be no appropriate place to house the station once the Museum reopens this fall after undergoing an extensive renovation.

"NN3SI ceased operating from the National Museum of American History on July 31," Wallace told the ARRL. "As you may know, NMAH has been undergoing a renovation of the building's infrastructure and interior for some time. The renovation forced us to remove the Information Age exhibition -- the station's home since 1990. We placed the station in a temporary location for the duration of the renovation but it cannot remain there when we reopen to the public later this year. The Information Age exhibit will not be reinstalled, and since we have no other appropriate exhibition areas within the Museum, the station had to cease operations at NMAH. Various alternate locations throughout the Smithsonian have been considered but none are viable at this time."

Wallace said that the station's license is valid until 2013 and its equipment will go into storage: "John Johnston, W3BE -- NN3SI's trustee -- assures me that a renewal of the license would not be an issue if we need one. Should a suitable exhibition area elsewhere in the [Smithsonian] Institution be found, we will be able to reactivate the NN3SI activity."

==> FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH COMING IN SEPTEMBER

The US Department of Homeland Security announced in July that more than 1200 national, regional, state and local businesses and organizations -- including several Amateur Radio groups -- have pledged their support and joined the 2008 National Preparedness Month Coalition <http://www.ready.gov/america/npm08/intro.html>. Sponsored by the department's "Ready" campaign, National Preparedness Month helps to raise awareness and promote action by Americans, businesses and communities on emergency preparedness.

"As we approach our fifth National Preparedness Month, I want to thank the hundreds of coalition members who are making a difference in their communities by helping raise the basic level of preparedness in our country," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "Individual preparedness is the cornerstone of emergency preparedness. Experience shows that if Americans take steps ahead of time, they stand a much better chance of coming through an emergency unharmed and recovering more quickly."

"The 'Ready' campaign and Citizen Corps <http://www.citizencorps.gov> are specifically encouraging individuals across the nation to take important preparedness steps," said ARRL Public Relations and Media Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. "These steps include getting an emergency supply kit, making a family emergency plan, being informed about the different emergencies that may affect them, as well as taking the necessary steps to get trained and become engaged in community preparedness and response efforts."

National Preparedness Month Coalition members have agreed to distribute emergency preparedness information and sponsor activities across the country that will promote emergency preparedness. Membership is open to all public and private sector organizations. Sign up your club or ARES group now! Groups and individuals can register to become members by visiting the Ready Web site <http://www.ready.gov> and clicking on the National Preparedness Month banner.

For more information on the Ready Campaign and National Preparedness Month, please visit <http://www.ready.gov> or <http://www.listo.gov> for information in Spanish. Information is also available by phone at 1-800-BE-READY or 1-888-SE-LISTO (in Spanish).

According to Pitts, linking up with the Ready.gov people and participating in September's National Preparedness Month is "an easy win. The federal people are already doing all the hard work. All you really have to do is sign up. Most clubs and ARES groups are already doing activities which fit into their structure, so why not get credit for your actions? Of course, if you do something more with this opportunity, so much the better! But you have to sign your group in and no one can do that for you. There are hundreds of ARES groups and clubs in the country. Wouldn't it be fun to have even 70 percent of them sign up and get noticed?"

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Substituting for Tad Cook, K7RA, Carl "The bright Suns I see and the dark Suns I cannot see are in their place" Luetzelschwab, K9LA, this week reports: For the reporting period August 1-7, solar activity was at very low levels and the geomagnetic field was at quiet levels. Solar activity is expected to continue to be very low for the next several days. As for geomagnetic field activity, the Australian Space Forecast Centre issued a geomagnetic disturbance warning on August 6 for quiet to unsettled, and then unsettled to active conditions (with possible minor storm periods) on August 8 and August 9, respectively. Sunspot numbers for July 31-August 6 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 65.5, 66.1, 66.2, 65.5, 66.2, 66.5 and 67 with a mean of 66.1. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 3, 3, 4, 4, 3 and 4 with a mean of 3.6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3 and 5 with a mean of 3.1. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass."

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, the WAE DX Contest (CW) and the Maryland-DC QSO Party are August 9-10. The SKCC Weekend Sprintathon is August 10 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is August 13. Next

weekend, be sure to check out the ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest on August 16-17. The NCCC Sprint is August 15. The Feld Hell Sprint and the ARCI Silent Key Memorial Sprint are August 16. On the weekend of August 16-17, look for the SARTG WW RTTY Contest, the Russian District Award Contest, the Keyman's Club of Japan Contest and the North American QSO Party (SSB) to be on the air. The New Jersey QSO Party is August 16, 17 and 18. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is August 18. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, August 24, 2008 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, September 5, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001); Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006); Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009); Analog Electronics (EC-012), and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* New ARRL Section Manager Appointed in Nevada: Joe Giraudo, N7JEH, has been appointed Section Manager of the Nevada Section effective August 15. ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Department Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, made the appointment after Dick Flanagan, K7VC, announced his resignation for health related reasons. Flanagan, of Minden, has served as Nevada Section Manager since January 2003. Giraudo, who lives in Spring Creek, will complete the current term of office that continues through June 30, 2009. A Professional Engineer and graduate of the University of Nevada, Giraudo is an experienced licensing instructor and ARRL Volunteer Examiner. He is currently Nevada Assistant Section Manager, as well as a District Emergency Coordinator; he also holds appointments as Net Manager, Public Information Officer and Official Emergency Station within the Nevada Section. Giraudo served as Nevada Section Emergency Coordinator from 1994-2000.

* Jack B. Morgan, KF6T, Wins July QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for July is Jack B. Morgan, KF6T, for his article "Portable Two Element 15 Meter Yagi." Congratulations, Jack! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the August issue by Sunday, August 31.

* October is Radiosport Month in QST: We here at ARRL HQ are excited over the theme of October's QST -- radiosport! In addition to feature and technical articles focusing on contesting -- ranging from the history of radiosport to a product review of a rig geared for the avid contester and DXer -- ARRL Contributing Editor H. Ward Silver, N0AX, has put together an 8 page insert focusing solely on radiosport. This section features such articles as how to interpret your Log Checking Report (LCR), guidelines for the upcoming contest season and a list of resources that no contester should be without, as well as a listing of major contests throughout the year. Of course, no issue of QST would be complete without "Contest Corral" and "This Month in Contesting." Look for an announcement by ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, about how 2009 is the Year of the State QSO Party. Be sure to check out October QST -- in your mailbox in September -- to find out more about this exciting new event.

* Georgia Hams Meet with FEMA: On July 30, representatives from the ARRL Southeastern Division and Georgia Section participated in the FEMA Region IV, Regional Emergency Communications Coordination (RECC) Working Group meetings near Atlanta. Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK; Georgia Section Manager Susan Swiderski, AF4FO, and Georgia Section Official Observer Coordinator Michael Swiderski, K4HBI, represented ARRL and Amateur Radio. In the meetings, Sarratt talked about ARRL, ARES, Amateur Radio and their value to FEMA, while Susan Swiderski gave a talk on MARS. "We are proud to be a part of FEMA's RECC," Sarratt said. "This will help to enhance FEMA and ARRL's working partnership. It is very beneficial to meet any of the communications leadership of FEMA and other agencies in the region. These meetings, coordination and learning about each other are critical elements before the disaster strikes. I was also very happy to meet several Amateur Radio operators attending the meeting in their professional capacity." Headquartered in Atlanta, FEMA's Region IV territory includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Region IV is FEMA's largest geographic region and the most common challenges are tornados, hurricanes and other storms that can cause flooding and flash flooding. -- Thanks to Greg Sarratt, W4OZK

* AMSAT-UK Colloquium Lectures Now Online: AMSAT-UK held their 23rd Annual International Space Colloquium July 25-27 at the University of Surrey in Guildford <http://www.uk.amsat.org/content/view/32/42/>. This annual event <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/07/21/10219/?nc=1> is a chance to talk to satellite designers and builders, as well as a place to discover how to use Amateur Radio satellites. The British

Amateur Television Club (BATC) streamed the Colloquium live on the Internet and has placed videos of nine lectures on their Web site <http://www.batc.tv/channelphp?ch=1>.

* International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend 2008: More than 380 lighthouses in more than 51 countries -- from Argentina to Wales -- will be on the air for 2008 International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (ILLW) <http://illw.net/> organized by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group (AARG) in Scotland <http://www.gm0ayr.org/>. The event, held for the 10th year in a row, takes place from Saturday, August 16 0001 UTC to Sunday, August 17 2359 UTC. While not a contest, the ILLW is more of a QSO Party and Amateur Radio demonstration. The ILLW aims to raise public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and the need for their preservation and restoration, promote Amateur Radio and foster international goodwill. Stations at more than 40 US lights are expected to be on the air for the event, and several stations will identify with special event call signs. Participating lighthouse/lightship stations do not have to be inside the structure or on the vessel itself; a Field Day-type setup at or adjacent to the light is sufficient. More information about the event, including a registration form, is available on the ILLW Web site <http://illw.net/2008_list.htm>.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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881. Stuck at 66

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-08 23:12:05 UTC
From: K<unk>HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <a7idnXdCcsYITAHVnZ2dnUVZ_tzinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2452

The flux number seems permanently stuck at 66, with an occassional spike all the way up to 67.

Could it be that the decline in homebrewing and self-repair of our equipment, resulting in less release of solder fumes, is affecting that number?

Solar flux? Solder flux? Could they be related?

Or are these guys on strike ----> http://www.fluxfactory.org/

--
73, de Hans, K0HB
Most Reverend Liberator of the Electric Smoke

882. Re: Stuck at 66

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-09 00:56:19 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <3a-dnRX1lddoQAHVnZ2dnUVZ_tLinZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2453

Kï¿½HB wrote:
> The flux number seems permanently stuck at 66, with an occassional spik
e all the
> way up to 67.
>
> Could it be that the decline in homebrewing and self-repair of our equi
pment,
> resulting in less release of solder fumes, is affecting that number?
>
> Solar flux? Solder flux? Could they be related?

They both affect my mux, cost a lot of bucks, aren't good for any yucks,
and are about as interesting as hockey pucks.

W1AC

--
Bill "Stop me before I rhyme again" Horne, W1AC

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

883. Re: Stuck at 66

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-09 12:53:51 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <GIGdndbu9bgrDwDVnZ2dnUVZ_tvinZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2454

"Bill Horne" wrote

>> Solar flux? Solder flux? Could they be related?

>They both affect my mux, cost a lot of bucks, aren't good for any yucks,
and are about as interesting as hockey pucks.

nyuk nyuk!

Howard "Get Your Kicks on Route 66" N7SO

884. rec.radio.amateur.moderated pit

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-14 21:13:54 UTC
From: Perry.Seiger@Gmail.com
Message-ID: <8AD064D2.48DFF45D@Gmail.com>
Source record: 2456

http://article.googlebong.com

885. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1618 - August 15, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-14 23:04:23 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080814085424.016c62e8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2455
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1618 - August 15, 2008

Note: Do to staff travel to the Huntsville Hamfest for the 2008 YHOTY presentation, this newscast is being released about 20 hours early this week -- WA6ITF

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Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1618 with a release date of Friday, August 15th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Two Nebraska hams are murdered in a senseless act of violence, a Tennessee town threatens to arrest a pair of FCC inspectors but backs away and the story of an elderly ham who goes to the store to buy a new radio. Wait until you find out how he got there. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1618 coming your way
right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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ENFORCEMENT: HAM RADIO COUPLE MURDERED IN NEBRASKA

Authorities in Nebraska have a 34-year-old homeless man in custody who they believe was involved in the weekend deaths of a ham radio couple living in rural Lancaster County. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has the details of the arrest following a rather horrific crime:

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Lancaster County Nebraska Sheriff Terry Wagner says that Brandon Christopher Crago has been arrested on suspicion of robbery and vehicle theft. He is also being held in connection deaths of Steven Baily, N0US and his wife Carolyn, N0LAL.

According to the Sheriff's Office, its deputies were called to the Baily residence around noon on Sunday August 10th at the request of a neighbor. That's when authorities found the remains of the two murdered radio amateurs. Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB, lives in Lincoln. He knew N0US and N0LAL. He tells Newsline that the local ham radio community is in horrified by what happened to their friends::

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Eisenberg: "The first reaction is total and utter shock and disbelief that something like this could happen right here in Lincoln, Nebraska, let alone to two such wonderful people and totally at random. Its just a total shock to us and there is great sadness and heavy hearts amongst all of us here."

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According to news reports, the story began to unfold early Sunday morning. At about 7:20 a.m. Central time, Lincoln police were called to a robbery in the Northeast area of the city. That's where a armed man entered a home and demanded the keys to a 1993 Jeep Grand Cherokee.

An hour later, deputies found the Jeep idling at an area Southwest of town. The residents of the property reported their blue and silver 2005 Toyota Camry was missing.

Later on Sunday, detectives were able to connect the Bailys' deaths to the robbery as well as the two vehicle thefts. Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB, says that Crago was a wanted man before the alleged Sunday crime spree:

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Eisenberg: "He lived here in town as a homeless person and was in and out of drug rehabilitation and was being sought by the Feds on multiple drug charges. In fact, he was just about to be arrested by the Federal authorities on drug distribution charges."

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Police also believe Brandon Christopher Crago may have been involved in an additional crime on Sunday morning. A man matching his description broke into a home between 7:30 and 9:30 a.m.. The suspect assaulted a 46-year-old man who was sleeping on a couch and stole about $80 cash.

According to a police report, Crago attempted suicide at a motel where he was staying before being taken into custody. He allegedly stabbed himself in the chest in an attempt to peace his own heart, but the injuries were not life-threatening.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, in the newsroom in Los Angeles.

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Authorities say that Crago has had several local arrests for drugs and assault dating back to 1994. They are still looking into whether he had an accomplice this time or if he acted alone.

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ENFORCEMENT: ABOUT THE VICTUMS

And what about the victims of this seemingly senseless crime? According to Joe Eisenberg, K0NEB, both Steve Baily, N0US and Carolyn Baily, N0LAL, were in their early 60's and were well liked. They were also heavily involved in the local ham radio community:

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Eisenberg: "They were very nice people. They would go out of their way to help out. He was an active storm spotter and they were active members of the Ashland Amateur Radio Club and helping to put on the annual hamfest, and they were always very supportive of their club and of amateur radio."

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K0NEB says that he and Steve Baily, N0US, had something in common. Like Eisenberg, Baily was a computer service technician by trade. Both traveled the region and quite often chatted on the air:

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Eisenberg: "Almost every day we would talk with him and hi wife over the Ashland Radio Club repeater or the Lincoln repeater. Sometimes we wound even talk on .52 simplex because I would run across his car as we were driving along down the Interstate and I would wave hi."

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As to Carolyn Baily, N0LAL, her other interest was dogs. A longtime 4 H leader, she served a number of terms as an officer with the Cornhusker Kennel Club. Her favorite breed were Boxers and she had two as pets.

The Baily's are survived by their grown daughters Jennifer Baily of New York and Heather Burns in Washington along with her husband Greg, and their two children. At airtime funeral arrangements for N0US and N0LAL are pending. (ARNewsline, K0NEB, published news reports)

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RADIO LAW: TENNESSEE TOWN WONT CHARGES FCC INSPECTORS WITH IMPERSONATING POLICE OFFICERS

Charges won't be filed against two Federal Communications Commission agents
who allegedly told Church Hill, Tennessee police they were with the states Bureau of Investigation Meth Task Force this past June. Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, has the details:

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The TimesNet dot com electronic newspaper says that arrest warrants had been written but not served against two FCC investigators who were in Church Hill, Tennessee, on an undercover mission last spring. The FCC agents were in the town on June 10th investigating complaints made by the neighboring Mount Carmel Police Department that someone was continually "keying over" radio transmission made between one of its officers and Hawkins County Central Dispatch.

The TimesNet story says that the FCC agents decided to use a cover story that they were part of a Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Meth Task Force. The on-line newspaper quotes a Church Hill Police Department report that says that on June 10th about 11 p.m. Officer Danny Depew stopped an

SUV with Alabama license plates. This, after it pulled onto Main Boulevard from a parking lot without its headlights on.

According to the report, the two male occupants of the SUV stated they were "state Meth Task Force agents" although they didn't have credentials. Mount Carmel Fire Chief and Police Officer Chris Jones, who actually is a member of the states Meth Task Force came to the scene to vouch for them.

In his report Officer Depew stated that he later talked about the traffic stop with Officer Chip Whitaker. They discussed the possibility that the men in the SUV were not what they claimed and were only impersonating officers.

Depew and Whitaker then stopped the SUV in the Food City parking lot shortly after midnight and spoke again to the undercover FCC investigators. Again they identified themselves as Meth Task Force agents, and again Chief Jones arrived on the scene to vouch for their identity.

The FCC agents were released, but the incident was later turned over to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. On Friday, August 1st the Church Hill police received confirmation that the men in the SUV were not Meth Task Force agents or any other type of local, state or federal law enforcement officers. Instead they were FCC employees who were in the area working on a radio complaint.

The Church Hill Police Department prepared warrants charging both men with multiple counts of impersonating police officers but held off serving them after Tennesese Judicial District Attorney General Berkeley Bell advised against it. Bell told the TimesNet dot com that he was leaving the decision whether or not to charge the FCC investigators to Church Hill, but he was very much against it.

Also, as others observed, there was also the possibility that the FCC might go into Federal Court and charge the Church Hill Police Department or its officers with impeding a federal investigation. Either way, for now the case has been shelved.

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The jamming problem had been ongoing for several months prior to the arrival of the FCC agents. It reportedly ended suddenly after the incident with FCC investigators in Church Hill on June 10th. The complete story is on-line at http://www.timesnews.net/article.php?id□07575 (TimesNet.com, others)

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ENFORCEMENT: RUSSIAN HAMS WARNED TO STAY OFF UK AIR FORCE FREQUENCY

Two unnamed amateur radio enthusiasts in the Ulyanovsk region of Russia whom authorities say were the source of unintentional interference to U.K. Air Force pilots have been ordered off of a formerly secret radio frequency used in Russia.

About a month ago United Kingdom telecommunications officials complained to Russian radio authorities that from time to time airborne communications was hindered by some Russian citizens using the same frequency. The British were able to establish that the signal came from the Volga district. Russian telecommunications personnel found the culprits to be a pair of amateur radio enthusiasts aged 25 and 50.

The pair of hobbyists were not charged with any crime. However they were advised to register with the local ham radio club and toi use only official amateur radio frequencies.

There has been no further complaints from U.K. pilots according to the telecommunications spokesman. (Adapted from Interfax on-line report)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the VE6AFP and VE6JNT repeaters serving Edmonton Alberta Canada.

(5 sec pause here)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: DESECHEO ISLAND TO BE ON IN NOVEMBER

Some breaking news in the world of D-X. Information has surfaced that the very rare Desecheo Island will be activated this fall. The dates being mentioned are November 12th to the 26th. The DX Newsletter in its edition 1585 says that the callsign for the operation will be K5D. The newsletter adds that further details will be published in the shortly before K5D comes on the air. (DXNS)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: HF DIGITAL VOICE VIA ECHOLINK

Amateur Radio operators seeking to experiment with High Frequency Digital transmissions now have a new option. EchoLink users may now access club station W6AOR dash L via the internet. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, says it's a member of the ham radio supply industry that's making this service available:

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The W6AOR Echolink High Frequency ham radio station is located at AOR USA headquarters in Torrance, California. AOR is a leading supplier of receivers and digital voice modems.

Taka Nakayama KW6I, is the trustee for W6AOR. He said the suggestion to create an EchoLink accessible station came from a number of different sources. He says that putting the station together was just a matter of assembling a few spare parts, a Kenwood transceiver, a digital modem and then hooking up internet access.

W6AOR transmits and receives on 14.236 USB through a digital modem using the G4GUO digital protocol through a "barefoot" Kenwood transceiver into a
vertical antenna. The W6AOR EchoLink HF station will allow hams who do not yet have their own digital modem to make contacts with digitally-equipped stations. Taka Nakayama adds that the station can also be used to participate in digital nets and to verify the correct installation or operation of a similarly-equipped digital station.

KW6I says that the station was put on the air for the enjoyment of all radio amateurs. He also says that it is a way to give the ham radio community the ability to experiment with the emerging world of High Frequency amateur radio digital voice communications.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR.

--

Echolink use of W6AOR is open to all properly licensed operators at no cost. Those in need of information on how to use EchoLink are encouraged to visit www.echolink.org (AoR)

**

NEWSLINE FOLLOW-UP: MORE ON WIRELES MICS IN THE BROADCAST SPECTRUM

A follow-up to our recent story regarding a complaint filed Wednesday, July 16th, by the Public Interest Spectrum Coalition. It charged that manufacturers of wireless microphones use deceptive advertising in the way they market them. Also, that they sell high end, wireless microphones to people who the coalition claims are not legally permitted to use them.

Now comes word that the Federal Communication Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology is currently field testing the performance of prototype White Space Devices which use the same free broadcast television spectrum as the theatrical wireless microphones. These so-called TV white spaces have been used for years to support microphones for sporting events, stage shows, live TV broadcasts and church services and other events.

FCC spokesman Alan Stillwell said that these tests were to examine the ability of white space devices to detect the signals of TV stations and wireless microphones. They are also looking at the potential for a transmitter operating in the white spaces to interfere with TV reception and wireless microphone operations.

As we reported two weeks ago, the Public Interest Spectrum Coalition is recommending that the FCC immediately act to halt sales of wireless microphones that operate between TV channels 52 and 69. It also wants the FCC to require microphone manufacturers replace all the older units now in use. It also recommends that the government agree to a general amnesty for unauthorized microphone users. Where this latest FCC move leaves the Public Interest Spectrum Coalition and its demand that all wireless mics stop using this same spectrum is very hard to say. (RW, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: FEMA TO ADOPT CAP 1.1 WARNING PROTOCOL

In the first quarter of 2009, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal
Emergency Management Agency intends to adopt an alerting protocol in line with Common Alerting Protocol 1.1. This, as the standard for the Integrated Public Alert and Warnings System.

The Integrated Public Alert and Warnings System or I-PAWS is a network of alert systems through which FEMA is upgrading the Emergency Alert System. FEMA says EAS participants, including broadcasters and state and local emergency managers, must be in compliance with the CAP 1.1 standard within 180 days of its formal adoption.

FEMA's partners in developing the CAP 1.1 profils include the National Weather Service; the Federal Communications Commission; DHS Science & Technology Directorate's Command, Control and Interoperability Division; Emergency Interoperability Consortium; Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards; and the International Association of Emergency Managers. (FEMA, RW)

**

RESCUE RADIO: EMCOMM EAST TRAINING CONVENTION IN ROCHESTER NY

Still with rescue radio news, Reno Nevada's Emcommwest emergency communications ham radio conference now has a namesake some 2300 miles to the East. Its called the EmComm East Convention and Conference and it will be held September 20th in Rochester, NY.

EmComm East is billed as an ARRL sanctioned amateur radio emergency communications conference, where amateur radio operators involved in EmComm can attend training sessions on technical topics. Experts in various special interests will be discussing such communications systems as APRS, WinLink and a new open source web-based dispatching technology. Attendees will also be able to purchase equipment and supplies from vendors, learn from served agencies, obtain license upgrades, and interact with other emergency communications operators from all over the area.

Army MARS and the National Registry of Certified EmComm Volunteers will be in attendance. Dennis Dura, K2DCD, the Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager for the ARRL will be the days keynote speaker.

A $30 pre-registration fee required and seating at the sessions is limited. For more information, please visit othe www.emcommeast.org or request it by e-mail to info@emcommeast.org (Repeater Reflector)

**

ENFORCEMENT: NYC AREA FINE FOR UNLICENSED OPERATION

The FCC has fined the alleged operator of a New York City area unlicensed radio station $10,000. Feeling the FCC's sting this time is Jean Idalbert who is accused of operating an unlicensed radio transmitter on the frequency 90.9 MHz in the borough of Brooklyn.

Back this past April 29, the Commission's New York Field Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $10,000 to Idalbert. Despite evidence that Idalbert received the notice, Idalbert has not filed a response.

Based on the information before it the FCC affirmed the forfeiture on August 6th. Idalbert was given the usual 30 days to pay or to file an appeal. If Idalbert fails to pay the fine the matter would likely be sent to the Department of Justice for collection and other possible punitive actions. (FCC)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: COMMEMORATING HAM RADIO IN HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA

The Southeast Louisiana Amateur Radio Club will commemorate the landfall of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This, when special station K5R takes to the airwaves from 14:00 to 20:00 hours UTC on Saturday, September 13th in remembrance of those tragic events.

K5R will operate SSB 7.250 and 14.250 MHz plus or minuus any QRM. QSL's go to Scott Hernandez, K5R, 957 Nancy St.,Mandeville, LA 70448. More information is on-line at www.selarc.org This is the third year that this on the air commemorative operation is being held. (Press Release)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: N7JEH REPLACES K7VC AS NEVADA SM

Joe Giraudo, N7JEH, has been appointed Section Manager of the Nevada Section effective August 15. ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Department Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, made the appointment after Dick Flanagan, K7VC, announced his resignation for health related reasons.

Joe Giraudo, who lives in Spring Creek, will complete Flanagan's current term of office that continues through June 30, 2009. A Professional Engineer and graduate of the University of Nevada, Giraudo is an experienced licensing instructor and ARRL Volunteer Examiner. He is currently Nevada Assistant Section Manager, as well as a District Emergency Coordinator; he also holds appointments as Net Manager, Public Information Officer and Official Emergency Station within the Nevada Section. Giraudo served as Nevada Section Emergency Coordinator from 1994-2000.

Outgoing Section Manager Dick Flanagan, K7VC, is from fMinden, Nevada has served as Nevada Section since January 2003. He was also a driving force behind the creation and success of the Emcommwest convention held annually in Reno.

Prior to his relocating to Nevada, Flanagan lived in Los Angeles, California where he held the call W6OLD. During his years in the L.A. area he helped to establish the Southern California Repeater Association (SCRA) and served a number of terms as the organizations chairman. Some of his work with the SCRA lead to the FCC deregulating repeaters in the latter 1970's. That in turn brought on the boom in repeater growth that continue unabated to this day. (ARRL, ARNewsline(tm))

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: PACIFICON IN CALIFORNIA IN OCTOBER

Turning to the ham radio social scene, word that Pacificon will take place October 17th through the 19th at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel in San Ramon, California. Sponored by the American Radio Relay League's Pacific Division and the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club, Pacificom is the premiere ham radio show for Northern California and neighboring states. This years gannd banquet speaker is Dr. Jill Tarter, the director of the Center for SETI Research at the SETI Institute in Mountain View California. More information about the convention and the banquet is on line at www.pacificon.org. (Pacificon)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: BARC FEST IN COLORADO IN SEPTEMBER

BARCFest 2008 sponsored by the Boulder Amateur Radio Club takes place on September 28th at the Boulder County Fairgrounds in Longmont, Colorado. Doors open to public at 8 a.m. Mountain time with talkin on the 146.70 repeater. Children age 12 and under are admitted free when accomp[anied by an adult. More information is on-line at www.qsl.net/w0dk. (Press Release)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: W9DXCC IN ILLINOIS IN SEPTEMBER

The Northern Illinois DX Association will once again sponsor the W9DXCC Convention and Banquet. This year the date is September 20th with the venue being the Ho1iday Inn in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. QSL card checking for various awards, an ARRL forum and a Grand Banquet are all planned. For more information please contact , Bill Smith, W9VA, by e-mail to w9va at ao1 dot com. (Press Release)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: INTERNATION LIGHTHOUSE / LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND

More than 380 lighthouses in more than 51 countries from Argentina to Wales will be on the air for the 2008 International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. The event is organized by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group and will take place as this newscast goes to air the weekend of August 16th and 17th.

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend is more of a QSO Party and amateur radio demonstration than it is a contest. Participating lighthouse/lightship stations do not have to be inside the structure or on the vessel itself. The sponsors say that a Field Day-type station at or adjacent to the light is more than sufficient to be a part of this fun event. (Southgate, others)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: A LOOK AT HD RADIO GROWTH

Digital high-definition radio is hitting some key milestones in terms of pricing and features. To date, nearly 1,750 AM/FM stations covering 83% of the United States are broadcasting digitally. Another 800 offer original formats and content on HD on ansulary channels. This is according to iBiquity Digital which is the developer and licensor of HD radio technology.

And according to published news reports, the prices on some radio models have tumbled below $100. About 60 HD receiver models are now available in the, including table-top units and car radios from such leading consumer and audiophile brands as Panasonic, Yamaha, Denon, Polk and Harman Kardon. Among the manufacturers breaking through the $100 price point is Radiosophy, which specializes in HD radio receivers. The company's portable HD100 radio, which includes a clock radio and an input jack for an MP3 player, costs $49.95 after a $50 rebate. Also, more auto manufacturers are offering HD radio as a factory or dealer-installed option.

U.S. HD radio sales totaled about 300,000 units in 2007, with about 1 million more units expected to be sold before the end of 2008, iBiquity president Bob Struble remains optimistic that falling prices will finally jump-start the HD market. (RW)

**

HAM RADIO ON THE WEB: THE KNIGHT KIT T-50 GROUP

Todd Carpenter, N9YSQ, has started a new discussion group in honor of the Allied Radio Knight Kit T-50 transmitter. That was Allied Radios answer to the famed Heathkit DX 20 and used very similar circuitry.

Carpenter says that the new group is for rekindling memories about the T-50, gathering information for restoring these rigs, and creating a venue for users to make contacts with the T-50 based stations.

If you used one of these radios as a novice, use one now, or just love old gear, come check out the new group. The web address is Yahoo.com/group/knightT50group. You can also make contact at n9ysq@yahoo.com (N9YSQ)

**

WORLDBEAT - UK: G3LZQ REPLACES M0CBQ AS RSGB VHF AWARDS MANAGER

Turning to news from around the world, word, RSGB High Frequency Awards Manager, John Dunnington, G3LZQ, has now also taken on the administration

duties of the society's VHF awards as well. These were previously handled by Bill Salt, M0CBQ. The change of leadership is being taken as an opportunity to bring the rules for VHF and HF RSGB awards into line. In particular, all awards will be credited to individuals rather than a callsign. (GB2RS)

**

DX

In DX, word that DO7ZZ will be active from Croatia operating as VE3ZIK portable 9A until the 23rd of August. Activity will be on the High Frequency bands only, using CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK31, PSK63 and 10m FM. QSL to DO7ZZ via the bureau.

IK8VRH portable 5Z4 will be active from Kenya during the month of August. Operations are on 40, 20 and 17 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL as directed on the air.

Meantime, IK2RZP will be active stroke VP9 from Bermuda from through August 24th. Listen out for him mainly on SSB and the digital modes on 17 and 12 metres. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

F8ATM will be active from Senegal as 6V7L through August 22nd. His operation will be on all of the High Frequency bands using SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: OFF TO BUY A NEW RADIO

And finally this week, the story of a United Kingdom ham who only wantred a new radio but in trying to buy it he caused traffic chaos and sparked a police hunt to find him. Amateur Radio Newsline' Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has more:

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An unidentified 81-year-old United Kingdom radio amateur was eventually pulled-over by police. This, after they received a number of calls from worried motorists who had spotted him driving his 8 mph mobility scooter along the road separation median adjacent to the busy, 70 A-27 highway near the city of Portsmouth on Monday, August 4th. But not they could not find him until he was on his way back home. Here's the rest of the story.

.The intrepid senior citizen radio amateur had set off from his home near Havant some time before 11a,m... His destination was the well-known amateur radio retailer Nevada Radio. That's a trip of about seven miles to the town of Farlington on the outskirts of Portsmouth.

Reportedly, trucks and cars using the 70 MPH motorway were forced to swerve out of the way as the elderly ham and his scooter crawled along the middle median at what seemed to be a snails pace.

Mike Devereux is the Managing Director of Nevada Radio. He told the Southgate News that those in the store were amazed when the elderly ham turned up at the showrooms in his slippers and driving his motorized buggy. Devereux said that the he told store employees that he was getting back in to Amateur radio and wanted to buy an Icom 7400 and a power supply.

Unfortunately, or maybe fortunately, he could not remember his credit card pin number and ended up leaving Nevada empty handed. Police finally caught up with him shortly after 1 p.m. on his journey home. Reportedly they gave him some stern road safety advice after which he and his battery powered scooter were driven back home in a police van.

Only one question remains. Some wonder if the ham on the scooter had any plans to operate scooter mobile. Chances are that none of us will ever know.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reporting

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Although his four-mile trip on the roads median caused bumper to bumper chaos, under United Kingdom traffic regulations he was not breaking the law. This is because he was not on the motorway itself. (Southgate)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Carlson,
KQ6FM, saying 73 from Reno, Nevada. and we thank you for listening.

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886. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-15 06:00:04 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1218780002@panix.com>
Source record: 2457
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2008/07/20 17:39:34
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
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promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. Crossposts of regular discussion articles between rec.radio.amateur.moderated and other discussion newsgroups are not permitted.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/ announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers, and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header, containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the moderators if one is not already provided.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

Mentions of small amounts of free items for giveaway will be permitted |
on an occasional basis from casual, non-commercial owners, and at the |
discretion of the moderators. The items should be free except for |
reasonable direct costs such as shipping, must be directly |
amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable condition, and be |
practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is intended as a |
common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, provided that it |
doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion newsgroup with |
classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in salvage |
condition. |

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2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with
the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines
for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the
newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be
automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters
per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these
Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital
signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned
from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common
text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information
about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by
their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns, are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or

members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should

not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

887. Re: 40 Meter Phone - and How Time Flies

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-16 12:27:27 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.08.06.15.46.35.886703@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2458

On Wed, 06 Aug 2008 10:34:34 -0400, N2EY wrote:

> Just noted a new thread over on eham.net about how SWBC is supposed to
> vacate 7100-7200 kc. Which will make 40 meters much more usable for
> 'phone, particularly at night. It will also hopefully take some
> pressure off 7000-7100, because non-US Region 2 hams on 'phone won't
> need to go below 7100 to get away from SWBC QRM.
>
> The thing that got me was that the change goes into effect March 29,
> 2009 - less than 8 months from now! I remember reading about it back
> in 2003 and thinking "that's years away...."

It's already legal for many Region 1 operators to use 7100-7200; I've had
a number of simplex QSOs with Europeans up there.

(in other words, don't wait until next March!)

The SWBC problem on 40m is a LOT less than it was just a few years ago.
It's too bad that shortwave broadcasting in general had to be decimated t
o
achieve it...

888. New to Ham Radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-17 16:29:50 UTC
From: KJ4DIY <hwitzenburger@cfl.rr.com>
Message-ID: <883a588d-eae3-4b81-8672-aadd3380ee5a@26g2000hsk.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2459

Hi from KJ4DIY
Hi my name is Howard and my wifeï¿½s name is Carol and we have 7 Children and 9 Grandchildren. Iï¿½m 64 and this has been a dream of mine for a long time to join the ranks of The Amateur Radio Service. Iï¿½m looking to learn all I can about Ham Radio I have been a Shortwave and Scanner Listener for many years but I have always wanted to be an Amateur Radio Operator. Iï¿½m a relatively new only 4 months old in the hobby.

I enjoyed a piece on the ARRL website about childhood memories of Shortwave and Amateur Radio. The story brought back fond memories of my childhood.
My first radio was from Allied Radio in Chicago, Illinois the name of it was Ocean Hopper It came in kit form I remember the pleasure of putting it together.
In later years I purchased a Radio Shack DX 160 I still have it and it works only had to replace the panel lamps once.
I also bought an ICOM R75 Comm. Rec. and used a long wire antenna of about 250 ft. with a MFJ-956 Pre-Selector/Antenna Tuner.
I had dreamed of getting my Amateur ticket for many years but I had a hard time trying to learn Morse code.
I was at a local Amateur Radio Store ï¿½AESï¿½ and Jim Stout W9QC a salesman there suggested I get my ticket seeing how there was no code test anymore.
The rest is history as they say.
Just recently I passed my Extra test did all three of the tests in 2 ï¿½ months got 100% on all.
At the age of 64 Iï¿½m putting together my first station I have an ICOM 718, MFJ 949E antenna tuner and a G5RV dipole antenna.
I also have an ICOM T7H dual band HT.
I just recently applied for accreditation as a VE with W5YI-VEC and ARRL-VEC.
My W5YI-VEC accreditation will becoming in the mail soon.
I hope to have many opportunities to QSO with people all over the world some day
73ï¿½s

889. Re: New to Ham Radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-17 22:36:00 UTC
From: K&#65533;HB <groupk0hb@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <cfWdnZ4nxLMvBTXVnZ2dnUVZ_sHinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2460

Welcome aboard, Howard.

In case you didn't know, belief in magic is a necessary requirement for all Amateur Radio operators. Of course, you didn't see a question concerning magic or metaphysics on the test you took to obtain your license, but in your heart you will come to believe in that powerful, intangible force.

All of us in the hobby have felt its influence at one time or another. Some night when the band is dead as a doornail you'll be tuning aimlessly, not expecting to hear a single signal because NOTHING could be coming through at that hour. But then, rising out of the noise like a ghost, there will be a faint call from another stalwart explorer thousands of miles distant. You pounce, establish contact and both of you marvel at the fact that the conversation is taking place at all. A few minutes later, however, the signal vanishes as quickly as it came. Your rational mind will shrug it off as a quirk of propagation, but that little tingle in your gut will tell you otherwise.

If you could travel back in time to, say, 1208 AD, you'd probably be burned at the nearest stake for even suggesting that two human beings could communicate with each other over great distances without a physical connection. No doubt they would accuse you of dabbling in magic -- and they'd be right!

As Amateur Radio operators, we work feats of magic every day. Many of us have become jaded about our powers and we tend to dismiss them as commonplace. We hardly think twice when we use our equipment to sommon the elemental forces of the universe. But every so often we need to pause and remind ourselves of what we are really doing. We need to remember the essence of what drew us to our unusual avocation in the first place: the wonderful magic of wireless communications.

Welcome to the Magical Hobby

73, de Hans, K0HB

890. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 32 (Friday, August 15, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-18 15:58:50 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080815183035.4523530BED@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2461
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 32
August 15, 2008
***************

IN THIS EDITION (our first ever back-to-school issue):

* + Educators Go "Back to School" at ARRL's Teachers Institutes
* + ARRL's "Big Project" Makes a Big Impact on Youth
* + FCC to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees
* + The ARRL VC and VCE Programs: Hams Helping Hams
* + ARRL Executive Committee Approves Nine Education & Technology
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+ Nebraska Ham Couple Killed at Home
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Conference
DXCC Yearbook Includes Corrected DXCC Honor Roll
Chinese Olympic Special Event Stations On the Air

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> EDUCATORS GO "BACK TO SCHOOL" AT ARRL'S TEACHERS INSTITUTES

During a record six ARRL Teachers Institutes this summer -- Tampa,
Florida; Rocklin, California; Tucson, Arizona; Dayton, Ohio, as well as
two sessions at ARRL HQ in Connecticut -- instructors and participants
found new ways to bring the excitement of wireless technology to
classrooms across the country <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html>.
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The ARRL Teachers Institute is a four day, in-service training opportunity for teachers to learn about wireless technology, including the science of radio, space technology, microcontrollers and basic robotics. It focuses on how to integrate these vital technologies into their regular classrooms. For the first time, the number of Teachers Institutes offered was expanded from four to six sessions that included 77 participants from 29 states. To help out with the expanded course load and number of sessions, two additional instructors were brought on board: Miguel Enriquez, KD7RPP, and Nathan McCray, K9CPO. According to Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, "These new instructors will allow the program to continue to expand in coming years. They also bring new perspectives and talent to the instructional staff."

Enriquez was first licensed as a Novice in 1976 and learned about electronics by building a Heathkit; he upgraded to an Amateur Extra class license in 2002. He teaches mathematics, statistics and psychology at Pueblo High School in Tucson, Arizona, and has 10 years of experience teaching at the community college and university levels. In 2005, Enriquez established an Amateur Radio club at Pueblo High School. Through donations of equipment and support from individuals and the ARRL, the club grew to 26 members and five licensed students exploring satellite communications, ATV, robotics, HF, EchoLink and weather satellite imagery.

McCray, a former sixth grade teacher in Zion, Illinois, starts the 2008 academic year as an assistant principal at West Elementary School in the same town. As a teacher, he integrated Amateur Radio, electronics and robotics into his science and math curriculum. He plans to start an Amateur Radio club in his new school and is looking forward to developing clubs in his district's junior high and high school. McCray's knowledge areas include electronics, computer programming, communications, Amateur Radio, computer systems, leadership and teaching; his background includes instruction at the community college level, as well experience as a senior instructor at a US Navy technical school. McCray has been licensed for 24 years and holds an Amateur Extra class license.

The teachers who participated in this year's Teachers Institutes came from very diverse backgrounds: 63 percent were hams. The gender mix included 64 percent males and 36 percent females. The participants came from schools across the grade levels: 17 percent were elementary, 39 percent middle school/junior high, 40 percent high school and 4 percent university level instructors. During the Institutes, 10 participants studied for and obtained either their first ham license or upgraded their existing ham tickets.

Spencer said that the Teachers Institute curriculum is always being refined and improved: "This year, a new robotics instructor's activity board was added to the robotics unit, and a 24-hour clock kit was added to the Soldering 101 unit. We also added a new, more flexible seismometer that can be used not only to study earthquakes, but also to

control the movements of the robot the participants build during the class. This component was added to connect the Science of Radio unit to the Robotics unit. A radio telescope and a sudden ionospheric disturbance (SID) exploration resource were also added, expanding the Space Technology unit. The 24-hour clock kit was a very popular 'homework' assignment that was completed during the first day of the Institute."

Funding for the ARRL Teachers Institutes for Wireless Technology and for the ham radio station grants for schools are supported solely by contributions from ARRL members and others in the Amateur Radio community. According to ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, in 2008 the educational mission of ARRL has expanded to provide additional support for volunteer instructors and the development of additional online courses, as well as curricula and tools for teachers. "If you are one of the thousands of hams who has helped ARRL expand its education horizons, thank you!" Hobart said. "You may wish to make your contribution to ensure a bright future for the next generation of radio amateurs. Please do so by phone or mail to ARRL Headquarters, or on the Web <http://www.arrl.org/education>. Your generosity will make a big difference."

==> ARRL'S "BIG PROJECT" MAKES A BIG IMPACT ON YOUTH

Since 2001 when the Education & Technology Program -- also known as the "Big Project" -- started, ARRL has expanded the scope of its educational outreach programs by providing grants of station equipment and instructional resources for professional development to more than 300 schools (with more schools added each year) <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/>. The Education & Technology Program has expanded the highly successful teacher development program in electronics, robotics and space -- the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html>.

>From humble beginnings in 2003, a single gathering of 12 educators came together at ARRL Headquarters to become the Teachers Institute, with the goal to promote wireless technology literacy. Since then, the Teachers Institute has provided teachers from elementary schools to the university level with the basic tools and teaching strategies to introduce the science of radio, space technology, weather, microcontroller basics and robotics in their classrooms. In 2008, the Teachers Institute program has expanded to six four-day sessions that now include ATV and radio astronomy, more hands-on instruction of project kits -- such as a seismometer, a 24-hour clock and A BOT Instructor's Board -- to enhance the teachers' ability to instruct basic robotics, a fox-hunt activity and satellite contacts.

Each year, the League receives gratifying reports from the schools that participate in the Education & Technology Program. The schools tell us that the resources we offer are bearing fruit -- both in terms of licensing students and teachers and engaging them in wireless technology, both in the classroom and in after-school activities.

"The Education & Technology Program is truly one of ARRL's most significant projects," said ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. "The contributions of ARRL members make a direct connection to teachers and their students, opening the door to Amateur Radio and other exciting areas of science."

==> FCC TO RAISE VANITY CALL SIGN FEES

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from $11.70 to $12.30 <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-182A1.pdf>. The fee will increase 30 days after notice of the increase is published in the Federal Register <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>; no date has yet been set for publication. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program -- from a low of $11.70 to a high of $50. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" -- or applications -- during Fiscal Year 2009, collecting $184,734 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal two years ago.

Those holding "personalized" call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, as Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS and clicking on the "New Users Register" link <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

League members should visit the "ARRL Member Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page

<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/memberlicenseinstructions.html>, while the "Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page covers general renewal procedures for nonmembers <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/licenseinstructions.html>. There is additional information on the "ARRL VEC's FCC License Renewals and ARRL License Expiration Notices" page <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/renewals.html>.

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the "ARRL Amateur Application Filing FAQ" Web page. The FCC's forms page also offers the required forms <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/application-filing-faq.html>.

==> THE ARRL VC AND VCE PROGRAMS: HAMS HELPING HAMS

Invariably, when an amateur wants to erect a tower and more antennas, there will be questions about zoning and building ordinances. According to ARRL Regulatory Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, some questions are simple, while others may lead to a long battle with town officials. "Rule number one in any of these cases," Henderson said, "is to make sure you know the legal landscape you are facing before you start any project."

Henderson said there are many tools to assist amateurs in navigating the perils of zoning and restrictions: "Among the most important resources are fellow amateurs who have stepped forward to serve as either an ARRL Volunteer Counsel (VC) or an ARRL Volunteer Consulting Engineer (VCE)."

ARRL VCs are fellow amateurs who are attorneys. They have agreed to provide a free initial consultation to hams facing town zoning issues related to the erection of Amateur Radio towers and antennas. ARRL VCEs are registered Professional Engineers (PE) who have likewise agreed to give hams an initial consultation when facing antenna support installation issues required by the town.

Henderson notes that VCs and VCEs provide their initial consult for free: "If you do need to retain them further to help you navigate through the 'red tape,' you need to be prepared to pay them for their professional services, though many VCs and VCEs do provide discounted rates if they assist long term."

The role of the VC and VCE is to assist amateurs with antenna and zoning issues, but Henderson said that some provide advice on other topics, such as helping a club through the process of incorporating, or a VCE serving as an expert witness before a town zoning meeting. "When facing an antenna fight, remember that VCs and VCEs -- along with other resources -- are there to assist you, but their role is secondary to yours," Henderson advised. "The amateur seeking to erect the tower has to take the lead, making sure that all required information from the town is provided promptly and as required. This includes bearing any costs associated with the permitting process or legal fees. If you follow the steps required by the city or town, and you don't take any

shortcuts and are reasonable in your approach, you should end up prevailing in the end."

The ARRL is looking for qualified and interested attorneys and registered Professional Engineers to step forward to serve as VCs and VCEs. "There is no better time to consider serving in these important but unsung volunteer positions than now," Henderson said. Right now, the ARRL has VCs in only 44 states and VCEs in 33 states. Applications for VCs <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/local/vcapp.html> and VCEs <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/local/vceapp.html> can be found online on the ARRL Web site. For more information on how you can assist as a VC or VCE, contact Henderson via e-mail <n1nd@arrl.org>.

If you need the services of a VC or VCE to help with your zoning problem, contact the Regulatory Information desk via e-mail <reginfo@arrl.org>. "We are happy to help you sort through the first steps or try to hook you up with a nearby VC or VCE. The ARRL VC/VCE programs are here to serve you, but we need your help."

==> ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVES NINE EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM GRANTS

In May, the ARRL Executive Committee reviewed grant applications for the ARRL's Education & Technology Program (ETP), awarding nearly $14,000 to nine schools <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/>. More than 300 schools across the country have received support from the ETP in the form of grants for equipment, curriculum and resources, as well as teacher in-service training through the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html>. The Executive Committee reviews applications for equipment and resource grants twice each year, in December and May.

The following schools recently received equipment grants:

* Hamburg High School, Hamburg, New York: The lead teacher for this program is a recent graduate of the ARRL Teachers Institute and has some experience with practically applying ham radio in her classroom.

* Pioneer High School, Yorkshire, New York: The program articulated in the grant application has an EmComm theme and is an extension of an existing program.

* Pell City High School, Pell City, Alabama: The lead teachers for this program were participants in this summer's Teachers Institute. The program articulated in the grant application was thought to be aggressive and far reaching, and is supported by the local ham community, as well as by long term financial commitments on the part of the State and local governments.

* Washington Technical Middle School, St Paul, Minnesota: The lead teacher for this program attended the Teachers Institute this summer. The program in the grant application is supported by the local ham

community, including a retired Vice Director, Twila Greenheck, N0JPH. The school has already started on their program development by obtaining and using the Soldering 101 24-hour Clock Kit that is part of the ETP resource portfolio.

* Glenn Raymond School, Watseka, Illinois: The program suggested in this application is more broad and general, and suggests using ham radio as a support to other curricular areas. The Executive Committee felt this was a healthy approach to the use of ham radio and indicates a well thought out use of ham radio as a resource.

* Sayreville Memorial High School, Parlin, New Jersey: This application articulates a program that is based on setting up a ham radio station in the school that is part of an EmComm component of the school's county Office of Emergency Management.

The following schools received Progress Grants. These grants consist of resources, curriculum materials and instructional materials such as software or building kits:

* Egg Harbor Township High School, Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey: The lead teacher for this program has taken a different approach to making the connection between the science of radio and robotics fundamentals by focusing on basic electronics. He requested the parts and pieces to make a robotic arm resource for use in his class.

* Emanuel County Institute, Twin City, Georgia: The lead teacher for this program is a recent Teachers Institute graduate. He wants to expand the use of the activity board resources he learned about during the Institute into his regular curriculum.

* Gateway Technical Community College, Sturtevant, Wisconsin: This applicant is requesting assistance in obtaining licensing resource materials for the college radio club. The resources obtained through this grant will be housed in a club library for multiple users.

ETP participants continue to sing the praises of the ARRL and the Education & Technology Program. Here is what a few of them had to say:

* The ARRL has made our year! Words cannot express the gratitude that we feel because of the ARRL grant so generously provided to us. On behalf of the Rambler Radio Club of LaFayette Middle School, thank you. By the way, we are hosting Field Day for our sponsor club (Tri-State ARC). This will be their first Field Day in three years. They plan to have a GOTA station to encourage more people to get involved. Thanks to you and the thousands of ARRL members who have made the entire year seem like Christmas for us!
* Today, I received a phone call from our calculus teacher who introduced me to one of our senior students. She has been accepted to the University of Arizona and will be taking courses for electrical engineering; her ultimate plan is to someday work for NASA and become one of the astronauts. She was excited when I told her about being able to talk to the space shuttle -- sounds like she came to the right place

for the "right stuff." I happened to have the "Hello Radio" pamphlet available for her and also gave her an old copy of the Radio Amateurs Astronomy book. I wanted you to know how grateful I am to you and the ARRL for all you have done in helping Mohave High School get this off the ground, and as always, thank you for the great satellite images you send to us. One of the kids at school is using them to do an Independent Study course on weather.

* I just demonstrated the BOE-BOT's telemetry powers to my math students and BINGO! They were excited. One of them immediately demonstrated how the data on the spreadsheet could be graphed using three dimensional graphics, a lesson she had just had in her computer class last week. Another student set up different barricades to test the BOT's ability to get out of the maze. The BOT did it and then they started accusing each other that the BOT was smarter than them. The radio club members in the math class wanted to know what the schematic looked like for the design.

The goal of the Amateur Radio Education & Technology Program is to improve the quality of education by providing an educationally sound curriculum focused on wireless communications. The project emphasizes integration of technology, math, science, geography, writing, speaking and social responsibility within a global society.

==> ARISS TEAM LOOKING FOR GROUND STATIONS

Do you want to be part of the international network of ground stations that help support Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) operations? ARISS is looking to add numerous ground stations capable of relaying ISS Amateur Radio sessions with schools and also serve as back-up communications relays should they be needed. Locations all over the world will be considered, but the greatest need for stations is in Central America, South America, Falkland Islands, Western Australia, Canada and Alaska.

The following are guidelines for stations wanting to be considered: Third Party agreement with United States or waiver from their telecom agency; ability to speak and understand English; minimal horizon obstructions; 24/7 access and availability of station; operator(s) willing to support scheduled contacts at various times; phone patch; AZ/EL tracking satellite system, preferably an auto tracking system with the capability for manual override; multi-element Yagis for 2 meters and 70 cm (circular polarization preferred); pre-amps and transmit output greater than 70 W. If you can specify your station's EIRP and receive sensitivity (thereby taking into account cable losses, pre-amps and antenna gain), it would be greatly appreciated.

Stations that can support the following will be given special consideration, but these items are not required: Auto Doppler adjustment of frequencies; ability to speak and understand languages other than English; 1.2 and 2.4 GHz satellite hardware; Packet; SSTV; Digital ATV; redundant power system, and high-speed Internet.

If you or your club would like to be considered for selection as one of the new ARISS ground stations, send an e-mail to ARISS with details about your station and contact information <ARISS-telebridge@amsat.org>. -- Information provided by Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, ARISS International Chairman

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Under the light of five hundred Suns" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Our Sun is still not producing any sunspots. As mentioned in previous bulletins, the peak of the last Solar Cycle was a double peak, so perhaps we are in the midst of an extended bottom. Sunspot numbers for August 7-13 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 66.1, 65.5, 65.5, 65.6, 65.7, 65.2 and 65.3 with a mean of 65.6. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 18, 13, 7, 6 and 5 with a mean of 8.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 3, 16, 9, 6, 6 and 3 with a mean of 6.6. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Allen Ginsberg's "America."

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, be sure to check out the ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest on August 16-17. The NCCC Sprint is August 15. The Feld Hell Sprint and the ARCI Silent Key Memorial Sprint are August 16. On the weekend of August 16-17, look for the SARTG WW RTTY Contest, the Russian District Award Contest, the Keyman's Club of Japan Contest and the North American QSO Party (SSB) to be on the air. The New Jersey QSO Party is August 16, 17 and 18. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is August 18. Next weekend, the NCCC Sprint is August 22. The Hawaii QSO Party and Ohio QSO Party are August 23-24. The SKCC Sprint is August 27. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, August 24, 2008 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, September 5, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001); Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006); Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009); Analog Electronics (EC-012), and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may

be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* No ARRL Audio News August 29: There will be no ARRL Audio News on Friday, August 29; ARRL Audio News will resume production on Friday, September 5. The ARRL Letter will be distributed as usual.

* Harry Mills, K4HU (SK): Harry Judd Mills, K4HU, passed away Saturday, August 9 at the Cardinal Care Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina after a period of declining health. He was 100 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/09/20/102/>. Mills was a resident of Hendersonville since his retirement in 1971 after a 30 year worldwide career with RCA as an engineer and manager. First licensed in 1922 as 8VHX, he was a 72 year member of the ARRL, a founder and past president of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) Chapter 76 of Hendersonville and a fellow of the Radio Club of America (RCA). Mills was active on the air up until his death. He could be heard twice weekly checking into the AM net on 3810 kHz, as well as the Chapter 76 QCWA SSB net on Saturday mornings on 3930 kHz. Mills credited a crystal receiver project from "The Boy Scout Handbook," given to him by his parents when he was 12, for his interest in wireless and radio. Featured on the NPR program "All Things Considered" in 2001, Mills had this to say about the magic of radio: "To me it is difficult to describe the fascination of it. I know I use it all the time. How does it happen? Can't see the fella. There are no wires going from here to there. But you can talk to him. It was a phenomenon that interested me from the beginning. I presume that it is safe to say I've never gotten over it" <http://www.radiodiaries.org/transcripts/OtherDocs/conrad.html>.

ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, remembered Mills fondly: "I can't remember a time in Amateur Radio when I didn't know Harry. A visit to his shack was always a learning adventure. He could regale you with stories of his own hands-on experiences from spark gap to today's modern equipment. His shop was a veritable wonderland of learning. If you needed work done on your radio, he was the man. Whenever Harry was the speaker at a radio club meeting, the attendance would always swell. You would never know what trinket or treasure he would bring with him. I have frequently said that Harry had forgotten more about radio and electronics than I ever knew. I will miss his knowledge and friendship. He was the best of the best." No memorial services are planned. An online register book is available for those wishing to express condolences <http://www.thosshepherd.com/>.

* Nebraska Ham Couple Killed at Home: Carolyn, N0LAL, and Steven Baily, N0US, were found dead in their home -- located in a rural area just north of Lincoln, Nebraska -- on Sunday, August 9 <http://www.omaha.com/index.php?u_page=2798&u_sid=10403953>. Police believe the deaths occurred after a string of home invasions; a suspect, Brandon Crago, is in custody on suspicion of murder. In a court appearance on August 14, a judge set Crago's bail at $5 million for robbery, use of a weapon to commit a felony and being a felon in possession of a firearm; murder charges are pending <http://www.omaha.com/index.php?u_page=2798&u_sid=10405594>. According to the "Omaha World-Herald," authorities believe Crago, a man with a history of drug abuse, acted alone. The Bailys, who helped found the Ashland Amateur Radio Club (AARC), served as storm spotters and helped out with club events; Steven maintained the club's repeater. Neighbor Linda Graham, KC0IOQ, told the ARRL, "We're going to be lost without Steve. He was our repeater guy. He had just bought a new power supply and ammeter for the repeater." The Bailys have two daughters, Jennifer and Heather, KL2AK. A memorial service is still being planned.

* ARRL Lab Manager to Serve as Technical Session Chair at IEEE EMC Conference: ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, will chair a Technical Session at this year's Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Symposium on Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) <http://www.emc2008.org/>. It will be held at the Cobo Center in Detroit, Michigan, August 18-22. Mark Steffka, WW8MS, a member of the ARRL EMC Committee <http://www.arrl.org/announce/reports-2008/july/>, invited Hare to chair the session due to Hare's involvement with a number of international committees on EMC standards. The session, covering the topic of EMC emissions and immunity, will take place on Thursday afternoon, August 21. Hare said he was pleased to receive the invitation: "ARRL has been an active and regular participant in a number of industry EMC committees, ensuring that Amateur Radio is represented and has a seat at the table. I've helped at most of the Symposium events held over the past few years, peer reviewing submitted papers and providing support to the ham radio luncheon that is held there every year." The IEEE EMC Society's Standards Development Committee (SDCom) is also meeting at the event on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Hare serves as the elected Secretary of SDCom. Hare said the event is not just meetings -- "There is a fun part of the event, too. The Motor City Radio Club <http://www.w8mrm.org/> will activate W8MRM August 19-21, giving Amateur Radio a special presence at this industry event. Look for them starting at 1500 UTC on 7.040, 7.240, 14.040 and 14.240 MHz."

* DXCC Yearbook Includes Corrected DXCC Honor Roll: According to DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the 2007 Honor Roll list published in the August 2008 issue of QST was inadvertently produced from a "corrupted report feature" in the DXCC software. "Since the DXCC Honor Roll report is too large for a line-by-line review, random samplings [of the list] were checked and many [listings] were found to be okay," Moore said. "It was not until the complete report was published that we found the report had more errors than originally thought. Publishing a simple correction in an upcoming issue of QST is not possible. We have expanded the 2007

DXCC Yearbook to accommodate a complete reprint of the 2007 Honor Roll list. This is something many of you have suggested in previous years. The 2007 Honor Roll list will also be published on the DXCC Web site and this list will be separate from the current 'live' online Honor Roll list. We regret any inconvenience caused by this and we appreciate your patience and understanding." The 2007 DXCC Yearbook is the largest ever, with an additional 16 pages, and features articles about the year's DXing activities, the Clinton B. DeSoto Cup and DXCC Challenge standings. The DXCC Yearbook is mailed free to all ARRL members who have submitted a DXCC application between January 1 and December 31 of the prior year or are current on the DXCC Honor Roll. Copies are also available for $5 plus postage. To get your issue, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC desk <dxcc@arrl.org>.

* Chinese Olympic Special Event Stations On the Air: Special Event stations for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games began operating on May 18 and are scheduled to continue through September 17 <http://www.bj2008ses.com.cn/>. Five special calls -- representing the five official mascots of the 2008 Beijing Olympic games -- are on the air: BT1OB, BT1OJ, BT1OH, BT1OY and BT1ON. The last letter of the call sign corresponds to the first letter of the name of each mascot -- Beibei (fish), Jingjing (panda), Huanhuan (flame), Yingying (Tibetan antelope) and Nini (swallow). A QSL card <http://www.bj2008ses.com.cn/bt1ox.jpg>, reserved for special use incorporating all five symbols, has also been designed. Zheng Feng, BA4EG, will be the QSL manager for all stations. QSLs can be sent either direct or via the bureau and will begin to be answered in October. A Web site supporting the Special Event stations include an online log search and QSL card received and sent status, as well as other information. An award for contacting each of the five stations on 10-160 meters a minimum of five times (using CW, SSB or RTTY, as well as SWL) is also available. The Games of the XXIX Olympiad began Friday, August 8 and run through Sunday, August 24. -- Thanks to Chris Parker, VE6PKR, and The Daily DX for some information

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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891. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-22 06:00:04 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1219384801@panix.com>
Source record: 2462
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

892. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-22 06:05:02 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1219385101@panix.com>
Source record: 2463
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

893. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1619 - August 22, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-22 12:32:18 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080822013249.016e4eb8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2464
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1619 - August 22, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1619 with a release date of Friday, August 22nd, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Ham radio faces tropical storm Fay, Georgia's ham community says it won't talk to Russia, a new 2 meter record set as South Africa contacts Reunion Island, hams in Denver are advised how to handle protesters to the Democratic National Convention if they appear on local repeaters and a 17 year old from Kansas receives the Young Ham of the Year Award and more. We take you to Huntsville where the ceremony took place on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1619 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO IS READY FOR TROPICAL STORM FAY

Ham radio operators sprang to alert when weather forecasters announced that a tropical storm named Fay would definitely make landfall on the most south-east region of the United States mainland. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has been following Fay's path from our newsroom in Los Angeles:

--

Tropical Storm Fay will likely not become a hurricane, but as this newscast is prepared the storm continues to plod up the Florida peninsula with the possibility of dumping up to 20 inches of rain in some areas. As the storm approached the Florida Keys, several ham radio severe weather alert groups were activated. Among them the famed VoiP Hurricane Watch Net that collected severe weather information from hams in the field like N1YLQ and passed it along to the National Hurricane Center in Miami:

--

Actual net audio. Hear it in the MP3 version of this newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

--

The VoIP net also passed along severe weather alerts issued by the National Weather Service to those listening:

--

Actual net audio. Hear it in the MP3 version of this newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

--

Also activated was the Hurricane Watch Net with its primary operations on 14.325 MHz and back-up operations on 7.268 and 3.950 MHz. It too filed severe weather information back to the National Hurricane Center via the center ham station WX4NHC.

Tropical Storm Fay formed over the weekend of August 16thn in the Atlantic and was blamed for 20 deaths in the Caribbean before hitting Florida's southwest coast. Fay hit the Florida Keys on Monday, August 18th with driving rain sustained winds of about 55 mph. It then veered out over the Gulf of Mexico before heading east across the state the following day. This, on a path that would have taken it over the Atlantic before it again curved westward toward the Florida Georgia coastline.

Since it never reached hurricane status, Fay was more water than wind. There were no reports of major wind damage on Wednesday, August 20th despite flooding in Florida's Brevard County. The storm had stalled there, and was predicted to dump between 10 to 20 inches of rain in the area. The storm flooded streets downed trees and cut power to some 95,000 homes and businesses in South Florida. Fay also spawned at least one tornado that damaged 51 homes in Brevard County, southeast of Orlando. Nine homes that were a total loss.

According to the ARRL, all three of its Florida's Section Managers are working cooperatively as Fay tracks through the state. As we go to air, hams involved in emergency communications and disaster relief remain on high alert.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the newsroom in Los Angeles.

--

NOAA, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, has put out a prediction that Fay my not slide up the East coast as originally thought. NOAA says that the storm could stay inland and cross the Florida peninsula and head out into the panhandle and beyond. We will have an update on Fay and what hams in her path have done in next weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (VoIP Net, HWN, ARRL, Other published reports)

**

RADIO IN POLITICS: GEORGIAN NATIONAL HAM RADIO SOCIETY SAYS GEORGIA HAMS NOT CONTACTING RUSSIA

Amateur Radio contacts between Georgia and Russia have ceased. At least that's what the Georgian national ham radio society is claiming as a protest to the military action and occupation of Georgia by Russian troops.

According to information provided by the Southgate News, the President of the National Associations Radioamateurs of Georgia has said that contacts

between Georgian and Russian Amateur Radio stations have ceased. Mamuka Kordzakhia, 4L2M, also asks that all amateur radio societies, who are either members and non-members of the International Amateur Radio Union do the same.

It should be noted that this is a plea coming from a leader of a national ham radio society and not the result of any mandate given by Georgian telecommunications authorities. Neither the governments of Georgia nor Russia have placed any restrictions on hams in either nation during the current conflict.

Its unlikely that the International Amateur Radio Union or its member nations will take any stand on this issue. Historically the IARU has kept its distance from the internal politics of any nation, be it an IARU member or not. (NARG, with follow-up by ARNewsline(tm))

**

RADIO RECORDS: SOUTH AFRICA TO REUNION ISLAND ON 2 METERS

A new radio record is set in the southern hemisphere. ZS2GK and FR5DN have made the first ever 2 meter VHF contact between Reunion Island and South Africa via the South Indian Ocean path. Take a listen:

--

Actual contact audio. Hear it in the MP3 version of this newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

--

At 02:15 South Africa time on August 12th, Glenn Kraut, ZS2GK, heard the FR5DN beacon from Reunion Island. At 03:39 he established a two-way contact with Mondon "Phil" Phillipe, FR5DN on 144.200 MHz SSB. The two also made contact on 144.400 MHz using FM. The signal strength was S5 to S6 with no QSB over the VHF path of 2875 km.

ZS2GK used was 400W on SSB and 200W on FM. At the FR5DN end Phil was running 120 watts on either mode. The two operators also discussed the possibility of trying the contact in the near future on the 70 centimeter band:

--

Actual contact audio. Hear it in the MP3 version of this newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

--

According to the South Africa Radio League this is a new record on 144 MHz. Ironically, it took place on the morning of the maximum of the Perseids meteor shower. More information and the full audio files of the contact available www.astrorun.com/~fr5dn/radio/august2008.html (AS1I, audio from www.astrorun.com fr5dn/radio /)

**

HAM RADIO EVENTS: OLYMPICS COMMEMORATIVE STATION CONTINUES

Members of the Hong Kong Amateur Radio DX Association continue to be active as V-R-2008-O, This, to celebrate the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Operations will continue until August 31st on 40 through 6 meters using SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL direct only to VR2XMT Charlie Ho, PO Box 900, Fanling Post Office, Hong Kong.

Sorry. Nut there is no electronic e-QSL or Logbook to the World filings accepted for this rather special commemorative event. (Hong Kong DXA)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Rocky Mountain Radio League serving Denver and Bloomfield Colorado.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO READY: HAMS IN DENVER ADVISED ON HOW TO HANDLE DNC PROTESTERS

Hams in Denver are being warned to be on the lookout for unlicensed operators. This as the Democratic National Convention comes to town. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:

--

With the Democratic National Convention about to descend on Denver Colorado, ARES District 22 Operations Officer Dan Meyer, N0PUF, has some advice for hams in the area. In a posting to the World Wide Web Meyer says that after reading on some of the web sites set up by protesters coming to the convention, he finds that some say that ham radio is the best way to communicate instead of using FRS or GMRS radios.

Meyer says that Denver area hams need to be ready to T-hunt down any illegal transmissions. He also notes that just about every usable repeater channel pair in the Denver metro area is assigned on some basis. Most as secondary or tertiary frequencies. But if illegal transmissions do appear on Denver area repeaters, the trustees need to be prepared to shut them down.

Meyer also has some advice to T-Hunt teams. He says that if the transmissions are tracked to the Denver downtown area, he would suggest that the T-Hunters do not go there. And if by chance the T-Hunters do spot someone who is operating illegally that they not confront that person, He says that the protesters are likely better prepared for more than you are.

The bottom line. Meyer believes that as soon as the Democratic National Convention is over and everyone leaves town, the rouge operators will go

away as well.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Im Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

One suggestion we might make to our friends in the mile-high city if illegal operators do show up on local Denver repeaters. Rather than shutting then down the owners might consider placing them into CTCSS or Digital CTCSS tone access mode. Its very doubtful that political protesters will have the technologic insight needed to program an access tone into an HT or mobile. Especially if that tone is unpublished and unknown.

Also, if you do go tone access during the convention do not use the standard 100 hertz default tone most radios come set to. A protester might inadvertently turn it on by fiddling with the keypad. Instead, use an lesser occupied sub audible tone that will leave the unlicensed protesters scratching their heads as to why they cannot communicate using those wonderful mountaintop relay devices that the properly licensed radio amateurs in Denver can. (KB6CC, ARNewsline(tm), others)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC ANNOUNCES FREE DTV CONVERSION SPEAKERS BUREAU

The Federal Communications Commission has launched a Speakers Bureau. This, for groups throughout the country to request speakers to discuss the upcoming transition to Digital Television at their meetings.

The Commission will provide speakers, without cost, to any group requesting one. To request a speaker, go to the FCC's DTV website, www.dtv.gov, and simply click on the words "Request a Speaker." Or contact Rosemary Kimball
from 9 a.m. to 5 p..m. Eastern time at area code (202) 418-0511. You can also e-mail her a request to Rosemary dot kimball at fcc dot gov.

The FCC says that this new Speakers Bureau is the latest addition to the its Digital Television conversion outreach effort. The big switch to all digital broadcasting is still scheduled to take place on February 17th, 2009. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT NEEDED: RARE RADIO BADGE COLLECTION STOLEN

From the how low can a human being get file comes word that a thief has hit the recent Irish Scout Jamboree. According to a report in the Southgate news, on the last night of the recent scout gathering in Ireland someone made off with the DK8ZM Rare Radio scouting and JOTA Badge collection.

It was not until the last day of the event that the 300 item collection was found to be missing. According to David Hutchinson, GI4FUM, hams working

the Jamboree immediately produced a poster with a photograph of the badge collection. Within a half hour it was distributed to all leaders at the camp.

Unfortunately, the badges are thought to have been removed from the Jamboree site before they were found to be missing from their display area. Police in Ireland are investigating. (Southgate)

**

ENFORCEMENT: TV STATION TO PAY $16,000 HURRICANE CHARLEY CLOSED CAPTIONING

A CBS television affiliate is paying a steep price for not providing enough closed-captioned information during Hurricane Charley. Don Carlson, KQ6FM, has more:

--

In a consent decree brokered by the FCC, WINK-TV in Fort Meyers, Florida, has agreed to pay the government $16,000 to settle a complaint brought by local hearing-impaired viewers.

News Press says that the storm, which hit in August 2004, came ashore along the barrier islands before sweeping across Charlotte County. WINK-TV dropped all its regular programming and was in solid storm coverage in the hours leading up to landfall. The station's team of anchors, reporters and meteorologists supplied a steady stream of information to viewers.

The only problem: Many of the fast-changing details were spoken aloud by the news team, but didn't make it into the more limited written information WINK was providing in its graphics and news tickers along the bottom of the screen. This violates a federal rule protecting the rights of the hearing-impaired.

Soon after Hurricane Charley, the station took steps to add real-time captioning to all its major newscasts. Because of this WINK admitted no fault in the Consent Decree and it ends the FCC investigation into the matter.

--

It should be noted that both the local Fort Meyers NBC and ABC stations were each fined $24,000 in late 2005 for the same lack of comprehensive closed-captioning. Those stations appealed the fines. The managers each say the matter is still pending. (News-Press.com)

**

ENFORCEMENT: TWINS ARRESTED IN CA COPPER THEFT

An update to an ongoing story dealing with the theft of copper wire world wide. Twin brothers and a juvenile have been arrested in connection with a series of just such thefts in California.

An under cover investigation Lancaster Sheriff's Station began after a report was filed by Verizon that $40,000 worth of copper wire had been stolen. The investigation in a sparsely populated area lasted nearly 50 hours. Three suspects were taken into custody who were linked to four thefts of copper wire from Verizon over a two week period.

The suspects reportedly climbed utility poles to cut the wire down and it was taken to recycling facilities where it was sold for between $1.80 and $2.50 a pound. They are also believed to be linked to at least a dozen similar thefts. (Published reports)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: VK2RO APPOINTED AS IOTA REP IN REGION 3

The Radio Society of Great Britain which runs the Island Of The Air program has appointed Roger Conway VK2RO as a representative for ITU Region 3. The region includes Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Indonesia and Islands of the Pacific excluding French and US territories. The same region previously represented by Jim Smith VK9NS. Conway, who is President of Australia's Shepparton and District Radio Club, will be the official check point for IOTA awards for the region. (RSGB)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: HAMFAIR IN TOKYO JAPAN AUGUST 23 - 24

Turning to the ham radio social scene, the gigantic Hamfair in Tokyo takes place the weekend of August 23rs and 24th. This gathering is billed as the largest ham radio gathering in the Pacific Rim with an estimated 35,000 to 40,000 active radio amateurs expected to attend over the two days of the event. It is also the place where manufacturers tend to showcase new technologies and gear that's still in development. Some of it that will not be seen on dealer shelves anywhere in the world for years to come. If anything exotic does show up we will let you know about it in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (Hamfair Tokyo)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: PARIS TEXAS IN OCTOBER

Meantime on this side of the Pacific and a bit inland, the Paris Texas Radio Group will host the 4th Annual Paris Texas Hamfest on October 10th and 11th. The venue is the Coliseum at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds. More information is on line at www.paristexasradio.com/hamfest (Via e-mail)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: THE 2008 ARRL / TAPR DCC IN CHICAGO IN SEPTEMBER

The joint 2008 ARRL and Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Digital Communications Conference will held in the Chicago area from September 26th to the 28th. The venue is the Elk Grove Village Holiday Inn located near O'Hare airport.

The Digital Communications Conference is billed as the premiere annual digital ham radio meeting covering all aspects of digital communications as applied to ham radio. This includes both voice and data on frequencies ranging from the lowest of the high frequency bands up through the microwaves.

And for the first time, this years conference will feature a D-STAR Friday Night event. Plans are to have the nations leading innovators, pioneers and leaders in D-STAR digital movement at the gathering to answer any and all questions regarding the mode that some believe will likely replace F-M for ham radio utility communications in the years and decades to come.

There will be a free airport to hotel shuttle and easily accessible from major interstate highways. Full information about the 2008 Digital Communications Conference and accommodations is on line atwww.tapr.org/dcc. (WB9QZB, TAPR, Others)

**

SPECIAL EVENT: ROUTE 66 ON THE AIR

The Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club of San Bernardino, California will host the 9th Annual "Route 66 On The Air" Special Event. The operation includes
18 stations and two rovers operating in and around major cities along the old Route 66 from Santa Monica, California to Chicago, Illinois.

Official station call designations will begin with W6A in Santa Monica and end with the letter assigned to the final operator taking part. The rover stations will be on September 13th from 0001 UTC to 2400 UTC on September 21st. Frequencies will all be on or near those ending in the number 66 using all available modes.

QSL information is on the web at www dot w6jbt dot org. Just click on the words "Route 66 Event." All you need to do is to answer their CQ to get your kicks along Route 66. And if only it were legal to play the music that goes along with those words. (Press release)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: VE3TFD KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Some sad news to report. A firefighter and ham radio operator has been killed in the line of duty. Bob Leek, VE3TFD, was a 25-year veteran of the Toronto Fire Department and lost his life in the response to a massive

propane depot explosion that occurred Sunday August 10th.

In offering it's Condolences, the Canadian national ham radio society, noted that VE3TFD was a member of Radio Amateurs of Canada, the South Pickering Amateur Radio Club and Durham Amateur Radio Emergency Service. (RAC)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: STUDY SHOWS FEW KNOW ABOUT HD RADIO

Some amazing and alarming statistics in a decade where digital is the buzzword. A survey by American Media Services says that only about 1 in every 3 American adults say they are somewhat familiar with H D Radio.

AMS says that its survey shows that only 33 percent of respondents have ever listened to an HD Radio broadcast while 67 percent say they have not. Whether that can be read as "only a third" or "already a third " is a
matter of interpretation.

AMS by OmniTel conducted a telephone survey of more than 1,000 adults in March. 65 percent of respondents said that they are not in any way familiar with the digital broadcast radio technology. (RW)

**

EMERGING TECNOLOGY: NEW LASER DEMONSTRATED

A major breakthrough in laser communications technology. Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, has the details:

--

Science Daily reports that applied scientists at Harvard University in collaboration with researchers from Hamamatsu Photonics have demonstrated a new highly directional semiconductor lasers with a much smaller beam divergence than the current crop.

While semiconductor lasers are widely used in everyday products such as optical recording technologies and laser printers, they suffer from poor directionality. Divergent beams from semiconductor lasers are focused or collimated with lenses that typically require meticulous optical alignment leading in some cases bulky optics.

To get around these limitations, the researchers sculpted a metallic structure, dubbed a plasmonic collimator. It consists of an aperture and a periodic pattern of sub-wavelength grooves placed directly on the face of a quantum cascade laser emitting at a wavelength of ten microns. In so doing, the research team was able to dramatically reduce the divergence angle of the beam from a factor of twenty-five degrees down to just a few degrees in the vertical direction. Even with this change the laser maintained a high output optical power and could be used for long range chemical sensing in the atmosphere, including homeland security and environmental monitoring,

without requiring the bulky collimating optics.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Burt Hicks in Santa Clarita, California.

--

The innovation is said to open the door to a wide range of applications in photonics and communications. Harvard University has also filed a broad patent on the invention. (Science Daily)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NASA LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS HAM RADIO

AMSAT's Tom Clark, K3IO, has highlighted what the NASA Digital Learning Network has to say about Amateur Radio. According to his posting on the AMSAT Bulletin Board , the report says that Amateur Radio on the International Space Station frequently provides direct from orbit contact with students in schools around the world. It went on to say that to help prepare the students for an ARISS experience, NASA has generated a series of teaching modules for the students.

The news item notes that the space agency has three different packages available suitable for students in Kindergarten through 4, 5 to 8 and 9 to 12 grade levels.

In all it's a very positive view of ham radio by NASA. More is on-line www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/maillist/maillist.php (ANS)

**

WORRLDBEAT - SOUTH AFRICA: HAMS SET UP AMATEUR RADIO STATIONS AT SCHOOLS

As part of this years World Space Week, hams in South Africa have been asked by their national society to set up an amateur radio station at local schools and share the magic of amateur radio with students. The society says that this will give students an opportunity to listen to astronauts sharing his space experiences. Also, there's also the possibility that some kids will get a chance to talk with an astronaut using the ARISS ham radio in space program. (Southgate)

**

ON THE AIR: IARU REGION 1 ATV CONTEST

On the air, the annual IARU Region 1 Amateur Television Contest takes place from 1800 UTC on Saturday September 13th to 1200 UTC on Sunday the 14th. Operation I on all bands from 70 cm and above. Talk-back is most likely to be found on 144.75 FM. The rules of this contest can be found on-line at www.iaru-r1.org/VHF_Handbook_V5_11.pdf (Southgate)

**

ON THE AIR: LIONESS OF ITALY AWARD

The 50th Anniversary Lioness of Italy Award has been announced. This, to celebrate of the anniversary of the Brescia section of the Italian Amateur Radio association.

The award will be issued to all amateurs who make the required number of QSOs. SWL's can also qualify with the proper number of confirmed listener reports. This award qualification period will run from August 24th to September 14th for operation on all Amateur service bands. 10 Brescia stations for contacted or heared are needed by European stations and 5 for DX stations.

Contact confirmation that includes your log extract goes to in electronic forma to IZ2FOSat rbolb dot com. The deadline to enter is October 28th. (Press release)

**

DX

In D-X, Didier Senmartin, F5OGL, the team leader of the upcoming Glorioso DXpedition says that the rumor mongers spreading unauthorized information about the planned operation have no idea what they are talking about. In a world wide Internet posting, F5OGL says that no date is yet fixed for the operation to begin. That said, he is doing all he can to be on the island before the end of this year.

Senmartin notes that all the operators are also personnel of the French Military Defense and they all have professional assignments which have priority over anything that is ham radio related. He goes on to explain that the use of hams in the military is essential to the success of the planned operation. This, because major risks in the zone does not allow for including civilian ham radio operators in the crew.

F5OGL says that he will do all he can to make it as perfect as possible DXpedition to the Glorioso, but adds that safety first is the first goal.

In other DX news, F5NHJ will be operating portable FK from Grande Terre, New Caledonia until August 29th. Activity will be mostly on CW and the digital modes on 30 meters. QSL as directed by the operator

CU6AY stroke P is active from Pico Island through the 4th of September. QSL direct to his home callsign as listed at QRZ dot com.

And IK8VRH portable 5Z4 will be active from Kenya through to the end of August. Operations are on 40, 20 and 17 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL as directed on the air.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: KC0PTL RECEIVED YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR HONORS

And finally this week, we take a drive or a flight to Huntsville Alabama where at last weekends Huntsville Hamfest Emily Stewart, KC0PTL, received honors as 2008 amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year. Our producer

Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, was on hand to make the presentation:

--

WA6ITF: "I would like to take this opportunity to present to Emily the 2008 amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award. And it says -- quote -- awarded to Emily M. Stewart, KC0PTL, in recognition of her total dedication to the amateur radio service. Its jointly signed by Amateur Radio Newsline, Vertex-Standard USA and CQ Magazine. -- end quote.

Emily, congratulations. This is yours." (Applause)

--

After Bill presented Emily with the plaque it was time for her to receive some gifts from the awards corporate sponsors. First up was Don Allen, W9CW, from CQ Magazine:

--

W9CW: "We are one of the sponsors of the Young Ham of the Year Award and this year we have for Emily an 8-day program at Spacecamp. In addition to Spacecamp we are also providing some gifts to her from CQ specifically. We have a one year subscription to CQ, a subscription to CQ VHF and also a one year subscription to Poipular Communications magazine." (Applause)

--

Don was quickly follows by Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, of Vertex Standard. These are the folks who bring you Yaesu brand ham radio gear and have been an award sponsor since 1986.

--

K7BV: "Yaesu is once again proud to be a principal sponsor of the Young Ham of the Year Award. We are very pleased to have met Emily today for the first time and we have a little something for her. I believe that with the qualification I have seen that she is going to college and who knows where else and we would like her to have an FT-817 portable for HF through VHF and UHF so that you can get on the air no matter where you go. (Applause)

--

Last but by no means least was a new addition to the line-up of gifts for Emily. To go with her new Yaesu transceiver Heil Sound presented her with a microphone and headset to make flea power Dxing a pleasure. And representing Heil Sound was a name long connected with the Young Ham of the Year program -- Chip Margelli, K7JA:

--

K7JA: "To give you a little more talk power, we are going to provide you with a Heil lightweight headset with the HC5 element for your 817. Use it in good health and, again, congratulations.

"We are very proud to be a part of this ceremony and Bill, its always a pleasure."

WA6ITF: "Its good to have you back."

--

And what was Emily's reaction?

--

KC0PTL: "I'm really surprised that I was given all of this stuff and I feelk very, very honored to be here."

--

And we are very honored to have Emily Stewart, KC0PTL, as the Amateur Radio Newsline, 2008, Young Ham of the Year. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying thank you to the Huntsville Hamfest for its ongoing generosity in hosting our Young Ham of the Year Award presentation, 73 and we thank you for listening.

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894. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 22 (Friday, August 22, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-22 13:44:00 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080822134259.C24E730887@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2465
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 33
August 22, 2008
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + ARRL Responds to Concerns Raised by California Repeater Owners
Affected by PAVE PAWS
* + ARRL Director and Vice Director Elections Set for November
* + Hams Ready for Fay
* + New Tower, Antenna Modifications for W1HQ
* + Reunion Island, South Africa Connect on 2 Meters
* + New Section Managers to Take Office October 1
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ No ARRL Audio News August 29
+ Amateur Radio Exams, Licensing Return to Bangladesh

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

============================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> ARRL RESPONDS TO CONCERNS RAISED BY CALIFORNIA REPEATER OWNERS
AFFECTED BY PAVE PAWS

Earlier this week, the ARRL responded to a series of concerns raised by
repeaters owners regarding the ongoing PAVE PAWS interference mitigation
project at Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento, California. In a
lengthy e-mail dated August 20, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan
Henderson, N1ND, addressed a series of concerns raised by Tom Naso,
N6MVT, of Lafayette, California; Naso is owner or trustee to several
involved repeaters.

Naso's letter can be found here
<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/pavepaws_querry_2008aug20.pdf>.
```

Henderson's reply can be found here
<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/pavepaws_response_2008aug20.pdf>.

"Tom raised a series of thoughtful, valid concerns," Henderson stated. "The ARRL's response to his queries, though lengthy, attempts to address them in detail. With Tom's permission, we are releasing both his original e-mail and the ARRL's response in order to get the most accurate and full information out to repeater owners and users as possible. It also gives us the opportunity to make sure a couple of other issues relating to the PAVE PAWS situation that have arisen are brought to the public's attention."

Henderson said that the biggest challenge the ARRL -- and through them the affected repeater owners -- continues to face is "the balance between not being able to know full technical details of the interference and the testing techniques and the desire/need to know information. It's a tough challenge. And while there have been a few errors in identifying call signs (because of errors in databases being used by the Air Force), there were actual measurements made of signals identified by the Air Force testing group."

Henderson pointed out that the ARRL continues to pursue valid concerns that can be based on fact and backed up with solid data that are raised by repeater owners. "We will continue to expect the FCC to perform its responsibilities. If a permanent shut-down order comes from the FCC, we expect that the licensee is given their full rights for due process."

==> ARRL DIRECTOR AND VICE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS SET FOR NOVEMBER

Responding to solicitations in the July and August issues of QST, ARRL members in the Atlantic, Dakota, Delta, Great Lakes and Midwest Divisions have nominated 14 candidates for the ten positions of Director and Vice Director of each of the five divisions. Seven incumbents have been re-elected without opposition, while there will be balloting for Director and Vice Director of the Delta Division and for Vice Director of the Great Lakes Division. Those elected will serve three-year terms beginning at noon on January 1, 2009.

The ARRL Ethics and Elections Committee has reviewed and confirmed the eligibility of all 14 candidates and has declared the following re-elected: Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, and Vice Director Tom Abernethy, W3TOM; Dakota Division Director Jay Bellows, K0QB, and Vice Director Greg Widin, K0GW; Midwest Division Director Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, and Vice Director Cliff Ahrens, K0CA; and Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE. The rules state that if a candidate is running unopposed, he or she shall be declared the winner without balloting. Members in the Great Lakes Division will elect a Vice Director, while Delta Division members will elect a new Director and new Vice Director.

Delta Division Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, decided not to seek another term. Nominated to succeed him are current Vice Director Karl

Bullock, WA5TMC, and former Louisiana Section Manager Mickey Cox, K5MC. Seeking the post of Vice Director are Ariel Elam, K4AAL, of Tennessee, and Arkansas Section Manager David Norris, K5UZ.

In the Great Lakes Division, incumbent Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA, is being challenged by former Kentucky Section Manager John Meyers, NB4K, and Michigan Section Affiliated Club Coordinator Daniel Romanchik, KB6NU.

The policies of the League are established by 15 Directors who are elected to the Board on a geographical basis to represent their divisions and constituents. These 15 Directors serve three year terms, with five standing for election each year. Vice Directors, who succeed the Director in the event of a mid-term vacancy and serve as Director at any Board meeting the Director is unable to attend, are elected at the same time.

Full members of the ARRL in the Delta and Great Lakes Divisions will be mailed ballots in late September. To receive a ballot you must be a member as of September 10. To be counted, ballots must be returned so as to be received at ARRL HQ no later than noon Eastern Standard Time on Friday, November 21. The count will be conducted on that date under the supervision of three tellers and a certified public accountant.

Absentee ballots are available to those ARRL full members licensed by the FCC but temporarily residing outside of the US. Members overseas who arrange to be listed as full members in an appropriate Division prior to September 10, 2008, will be able to vote this year where elections are being held. Even within the US, full members temporarily living outside the ARRL Division they consider home may have voting privileges by notifying the ARRL Secretary prior to September 10, 2008, giving their current QST address and the reason another Division is considered home.

==> HAMS READY FOR FAY

While Tropical Storm Fay made landfall over Key West, Florida at 3 PM EDT on August 18, Amateur Radio operators throughout Florida were prepared "just in case." As Fay crossed Key West, Florida Emergency Management officials noted that while "Fay is no Hurricane Charley," it is following the same general path as 2004's Charley, a Category 4 hurricane and one of the most destructive hurricanes in recent history for the area; at least 13 people were killed in that storm.

All three of Florida's ARRL Section Managers are working cooperatively as Fay tracks through the state. After sweeping through the Keys, Fay next made landfall in Cape Romano at approximately 4:45 AM on Tuesday, August 19. Landfall on Florida's mainland was initially expected to hit more to the north..

Fay is edging west-northwestward and is about to make its third landfall at Flagler Beach, Florida and then will continue to migrate west-northwestward across northern Florida. The National Weather Service reports that Fay continues to produce torrential downpours and states

flooding is the major concern now. Locations on Florida's eastern coast from Cocoa Beach to Melbourne to Fort Pierce have picked up 8 to 26 inches of rain as of August 21; a report of 26.2 inches of rain has been received near Melbourne, resulting in numerous reports of flooding around the area.

According to Julio Ripoll, WD4R, of WX4NHC <http://www.wx4nhc.org/>, the Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC), Fay came close to reaching hurricane strength "several times in her track through Cuba and Florida. The surface reports collected via ham radio continue to be very important, no matter how high or low the wind speed. They fill in gaps between governmental weather stations and give the hurricane forecasters a better idea of the wind field range and local flooding."

Plans are in place for several shelters to be opened and responses ready for issues relating to the flooding. ARRL HQ staff are following events closely and are in contact with members and ARES leaders in the affected areas.

==> NEW TOWER, ANTENNA MODIFICATIONS FOR W1HQ

On August 13, XX Towers installed a new 40 foot tower on top of the ARRL Headquarters building for use at W1HQ, the Laird Campbell Memorial HQ Operators Club. This new tower supports the 3 element SteppIR 20-6 meter Yagi antenna that was moved from the old tower; the antenna was placed on the old tower in November 2007. The antenna also received modifications, allowing operations on 30 and 40 meters. Both the antenna and the 30-40 meter modification kit were donated by Mike Mertel, K7IR, of SteppIR.

According to ARRL Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM, XX Towers visits the League twice a year to inspect both the W1AW and W1HQ antenna systems: "This past May, XX Towers inspected the tower and found it was approaching poor condition due to its age and harsh environment. The new tower supports our 3 element SteppIR Yagi with a newly installed 40-30 meter Dipole Kit, recently donated by SteppIR Antenna Systems. HQ staff can now enjoy these additional bands and have peace of mind with the new tower."

ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, president of the W1HQ club, said, "I am pleased to report that the W1HQ tower replacement and installation of the 40-30 meter dipole element on the SteppIR antenna was successful. HQ hams may now enjoy a rotating dipole for these bands at the push of a button on the SteppIR controller. The crew from XX Towers did a fine job; thanks to his regular inspections, we were able to avoid a more costly removal of the 50 foot, 35 year old tower. ARRL Building Manager Greg Kwasowski, W1GJK, assisted with and arranged for the roofing company to remove part of the roof for the tower base and replacement after tower installation. ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, saved the day with the needed metric hardware. Many thanks to all involved for the successful replacement of the tower. Having a rotatable

dipole on 30 and 40 meters is a very welcome addition to the station."

W1HQ provides ARRL employees who do not have an amateur station of their own a place to get on the air. "I'm thrilled to have this station here," said Kutzko. "I live in an apartment and can't put up antennas outside at home. W1HQ gives me a way to chase DX and be active in contests on both HF and VHF."

W1HQ boasts an IC-756PROIII for HF work and an IC-746PRO for 6 and 2 meters, recently donated by ICOM. Bob Heil, K9EID, of Heil Sound donated two new Pro Set 4 mic/headsets, a PR781 Proline microphone and a topless boom to the station. Nemal Electronics Inc and Times Microwave Systems jointly donated two 500 foot rolls of LMR-400.

==> REUNION ISLAND, SOUTH AFRICA CONNECT ON 2 METERS

On Thursday, August 14, Phil Mondon, FR5DN, on Reunion Island had a successful QSO with Glen Kraut, ZS2GK, in South Africa on 2 meters <http://www.astrorun.com/%7Efr5dn/radio/tropo/14aout2008/zs2gk_14august2008.html>. According to Dave Pedersen, N7BHC, this contact is "very likely the longest 2 meter QSO via tropospheric propagation for either country."

The 2008 ARRL Handbook <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1018> defines tropospheric propagation as "radio waves [that] are refracted by natural gradients in the index of refraction of air with altitude, due to changes in temperature, humidity and pressure. Refraction under standard atmospheric conditions extends the radio horizon somewhat beyond the visual line of sight. Favorable weather conditions further enhance normal tropospheric refraction, lengthening the useful VHF and UHF range by several hundred kilometers and increasing signal strength. Higher frequencies are more sensitive to refraction, so its effects may be observed in the microwave bands before they are apparent at lower frequencies."

"Ducting takes place when refraction is so great that radio waves are bent back to the surface of the Earth. When tropospheric ducting conditions exist over a wide geographic area, signals may remain very strong over distances of 1500 km (930 miles) or more. Ducting results from the gradient created by a sharp increase in temperature with altitude, quite the opposite of normal atmospheric conditions. A simultaneous drop in humidity contributes to increased refractivity. Useful temperature inversions form between 250 and 2000 meters (800-6500 feet) above ground. The elevated inversion and the Earth's surface act something like the boundaries of a natural open-ended waveguide. Radio waves of the right frequency range caught inside the duct will be propagated for long distances with relatively low losses. Several common weather conditions can create temperature inversions."

Kraut said that on the evening of August 13, he "went to bed at about 08:30 UTC leaving the rig on and antennas pointing toward Reunion. I woke up at 00:15 UTC and heard the beacon from my shack. I went over and

saw that signals were low, even with the Masthead pre-amp on. I was running CWGeT to confirm hard copy of the signal, but it was not decoding. I switched off the pre-amp and returned to bed. About an hour later, I heard the beacon again but much stronger, so I went to the shack and saw the signal at almost 1 on the S-meter. Perfect hard copy from CWGeT. I contacted Phil on his cell phone, switched the linear and pre-amp on and we logged an SSB QSO and FM QSO on 144.200 and 144.400 at 01:39 UTC on August 14 with signal reports of 5/6 both ways."

Mondon added: "At 0135 UTC on August 14, Glenn is calling me on my cell phone. That means the beacon is heard strong enough to allow a QSO. It's 0535 local time here; I speak low and run into the shack, switch off the beacon and call on 144.200 to see Glenn's signal at 55/56 with the preamp. We decide to try FM and I have clear copy on him. Time goes fast -- we stop the QSO some 20 or 30 minutes later, but the band was still nicely open! The signal was crystal clear, almost no fading, if any on my side. Whooaaaa! The first bridge is now there between South Africa and Reunion Island."

Pedersen said that trans-oceanic ducting has long been suspected around South Africa: "While operating there as ZR2BI in the late 1970s, I heard an unidentified South American station on 2 meters. Since then, having moved to the US, I was not able to pursue it any further. This last January, I started e-mailing a lot of people in Southern Africa and St Helena, but found little activity pursuing the potential tropo. Resorting to my old ways of using FM broadcast stations as beacons, I asked John Turner on St Helena Island to listen for African stations. Within days, he reported stations from Angola, then Namibia and eventually as far south as Cape Town. One February day, he logged 25 South African FM broadcasters in 30 minutes. And that was with his car radio."

Pedersen said that Ian Coverdale, ZD8I, on Ascension reported that he can occasionally hear Cape Town Harbor radio on 156 MHz, 2770 miles away; Sted Stroud, ZD8S, reported that it is fairly commonplace for Ascension Islanders to listen to Brazilian FM stations. "All those reports led to Phil Mondon putting up the beacon," Pedersen said.

According to VHF guru and conductor of QST's "World Above 50 MHz" column Gene Zimmerman, W3ZZ, VHF amateurs have long been aware of long distance tropospheric ducting across stable ocean waters. "The best known such duct is the Hawaiian duct which links the West Coast of the US, especially California with the Big Island of Hawaii. But we have also known that other such ducts exist in different places around the world, although the ham populations in these areas are often so low that we hardly ever experience two way communications. The Indian Ocean is one such place. This outstanding contact between Phil Mondon, FR5DN, on Reunion Island and Glen Kraut, ZS2GK, in South Africa confirms the existence of a path between the mainland and islands in the Indian Ocean. It follows the detection of FM broadcast stations on similar paths in the South Atlantic Ocean between the island of St Helena and

Angola, Namibia and Cape Town on the mainland, and reports of reception of Brazilian FM stations on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic."

Pedersen agreed: "Now that the path is proven, many South African hams are gearing up to increase the distance over the coming southern summer."

==> NEW SECTION MANAGERS TO TAKE OFFICE OCTOBER 1

On August 19, members of the ARRL's Membership and Volunteer Programs Department counted ballots for contested Section Manager races in Idaho and Western New York. Section Managers serve two year terms.

In Idaho, Edward Stuckey, AI7H, of Post Falls, was elected Section Manager of Idaho with 155 votes; Chuck Robertson, KX7ID, of Nampa, received 150 votes. Stuckey will be stepping into the office that has been held by Doug Rich, W7DVR, of Boise, since the fall of 2003; Rich decided not to run for another term of office. Stuckey, licensed since 1957, is a member of ARES/RACES organizations. He is currently active in the Kootenai Amateur Radio Society in Coeur d'Alene of which he is a past president.

In Western New York, current Section Manager Scott Bauer, W2LC, of Baldwinsville, was re-elected with 639 votes; challenger Kevin Romer, KC2MLC, of Trumansburg, received 273 votes. Bauer has served as Western New York Section Manager since 2000. He is active in many areas of Amateur Radio including the National Traffic System, ARES and SKYWARN, and serves as a volunteer examiner.

The ARRL North Dakota Section will also get a new Section Manager come October 1. Lynn Nelson, W0CQ, of Minot, will be taking over from Kent Olson, KA0LDG. Olson, who has served as Section Manager since 2001, did not run for another term of office.

The following incumbent ARRL Section Managers did not face opposition and were declared elected for the next two year terms of office beginning October 1, 2008: Betsey Doane, K1EIC (Connecticut); Skip Jackson, KS0J (Minnesota); Joe Phillips, K8QOE (Ohio); John Thomason, WB5SYT (Oklahoma); Roberto Jimenez, KP4AC (Puerto Rico); Sherri Brower, W4STB (Southern Florida), and John Ellis, NP2B (Virgin Islands).

Lee Anne Allen, WY7DTW, of Devils Tower, has been appointed Section Manager of the Wyoming Section to complete the term of office that has been held by Chris Pritchard, WX7B, of Green River. Pritchard is moving out of the Section to take a new job. The present term of office continues through March 31, 2009. Dave Patton, NN1N, Manager of the Membership and Volunteer Programs Department, made the Section Manager appointment effective August 15 in consultation with Rocky Mountain Division Director Brian Mileshosky, N5ZGT. Allen has been the Assistant Section Manager for Wyoming since the first of the year; she also serves as a local ARRL Emergency Coordinator. Allen served as the Wyoming Public Information Coordinator (PIC) for almost three years until earlier this year.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "I carry the Sun in a golden cup" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Another week of quiet Sun, but on Wednesday and Thursday -- August 20-21 -- a new spot seemed to be emerging, but there is no sign that it is anything other than an old Solar Cycle 23 spot. Sunspot numbers for August 14-20 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 65.9, 65.3, 66.2, 66.5, 66.2, 67.3 and 65.9 with a mean of 66.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 4, 5, 7, 23, 8 and 6 with a mean of 8.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 3, 4, 5, 15, 7 and 5 with a mean of 6.1. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by William Butler Yeats' "Those Dancing Days Are Gone."

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, the NCCC Sprint is August 22. The Hawaii QSO Party and Ohio QSO Party are August 23-24. The SKCC Sprint is August 27. Next weekend is the NCCC Sprint on August 29. The ALARA Contest, the SCC RTTY Championship and the YO DX HF Contest are all August 30-31. The SARL HF CW Contest is August 31 and the MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint is September 1-2. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, August 24, 2008 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, September 5, 2008: Technician License Course (EC-010); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001); Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006); Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009); Analog Electronics (EC-012), and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact

the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* No ARRL Audio News August 29: There will be no ARRL Audio News on Friday, August 29; ARRL Audio News will resume production on Friday, September 5. The ARRL Letter will be distributed as usual.

* Amateur Radio Exams, Licensing Return to Bangladesh: Since 2004, Amateur Radio operators in Bangladesh have not been able to get an Amateur Radio license or sit for an examination. But thanks to the efforts of the Bangladesh Amateur Radio League (BARL) <http://www.barl.org/> -- that country's IARU Member-Society -- the Bangladeshi government will once again issue ham licenses; exams will also be given on a monthly basis beginning August 13, 2008. On July 21, representatives from BARL -- Belayet Robin, S21RB; Zahid Shipon, S21VA, and Saiful Huda, S21SH -- met with members of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) in what Robin called "a very fruitful meeting <http://www.btrc.gov.bd/>. BARL had finally been able to make the concerned authorities understand the significance of ham operators in a country with frequent natural disasters like floods and cyclones." The Bangladeshi government has only allowed ham radio operations since 1991, though amateurs have received special permission on a case-by-case basis to set up Emergency Communications infrastructures during natural disasters such as cyclones, tidal waves and flooding. BARL was formed in 1979 as a way to promote Amateur Radio, but on-air operations were banned due to the political climate of the region. BARL will offer a class to prepare for the exam. Exams will be computer based with 35 multiple choice questions. In order to receive an Amateur Radio license, examinees must achieve 18 correct answers. Examinees are given one hour to complete the test.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,

k1sfa@arrl.org
==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
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bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including
delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the
"Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify
membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change
your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all
automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You
must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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895. Re: New to Ham Radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-25 15:34:28 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.08.25.15.18.38.834590@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2466

Yikes, that's jumping in with all four feet(grin)! Welcome to amateur
radio!

IMHO the deletion of the Morse requirement was a positive development, bu
t
I would strongly recommend you consider *voluntarily* learning Morse.
It's a good deal of fun - and it will make DXing a LOT easier with a
modest station. There's quite a bit of computer software out there to
assist in the process.

896. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1620 - August 27, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-29 12:31:48 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080829014428.016bb208@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2467
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1620 - August 27, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1620 with a release date of Friday, August 29th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Ham radio returns to Bangladesh, Canada adopts a new High Frequency ham radio bandplan, U-S hams prepare for Hurricane Gustav, repeater site rental fees go up in Australia and ham radio helps to honor an aviation pioneer. Find out who on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1620 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO NEWS: HAM RADIO RETURNS TO BANGLADESH

Ham radio is returning to Bangladesh after an several years absence. This with word that the amateur radio license issuing authority in Bangladesh has begun issuing licenses once again. Marilyn Syme, VK3DMS, has the details:

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Good news from S21 Land , Bangladesh.

Since 2004, amateur radio license issuing authority in Bangladesh had stopped taking examinations and issuing licenses to the enthusiast.

After continuous lobbying for the last four years, members of the Bangladesh Amateur Radio League - BARL had finally been able to make the concerned authorities understand the significance of Ham Operators in a country with frequent natural disasters like floods and cyclones.

As part of the latest development, the BTRC has decided to resume the process of issuing Amateur Radio Licenses and take examinations regularly every month.

Good news is hardly heard from anywhere and it is more welcome when it comes from a country like Bangladesh and even more appreciable when it is for a hobby like the Amateur Radio.

I'm Marilyn, VK3DMS

--

To assist with the re-introduction of ham radio, the Bangladesh Amateur Radio League is offering classes to prepare for the exam, which will be

computer based with 35 multiple choice questions. In order to receive a Bangladesh amateur radio license, examinees must achieve 18 correct answers. One hour will be given to complete the test. (WIA News, BTRC)

**

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: POPULAR COMMUNICATION SENIOR EDITOR TOM KNEITEL. W4XAA - SK

I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF.

The changing of the guard continues. This, with the sad news that radio monitoring icon Tom Kneitel, W4XAA, the former K2AES, has passed away at age 75.

Kneitel was Senior Editor as well as the founding Editor of Popular Communications magazine which is now published by CQ. His association with CQ began when he became the founding editor of S9, a CB magazine started by Cowan Publishing. When S9 ceased publication, Kneitel and current CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, launched Popular Communications.

Tom Kneitel was the grandson of animation pioneer Max Fleischer and son of animator Seymour Kneitel. But W4XAA preferred the print media, writing for Popular Electronics and Electronics Illustrated in the 1950s and '60s. And it was during his tenure at Popular Electronics that he started the registered shortwave monitor program, which issued unofficial "WPE" callsigns to active SWL's.

Tom Kneitel had been in poor health for some time and died in Florida on August 22nd. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Judy, two sons, five daughters and ten grandchildren. Memorial services will be private.

Jim

(W2VU, CQ)

**

RESTRUCTURING: CANADA ADOPTS NEW HF BANDPLAN

Canada will soon have a new plan for the High Frequency bands that gives recognition and spectrum to every current and legacy mode while making sure future technologies are accommodated.

According to a news release from Radio Amateurs of Canada, the High Frequency band plan presently in use in Canada was adopted in 1996. Since then, many changes have happened in the Amateur radio world and other nations band plans have been revised and modified.

Recognizing the need for change, just under two years ago, Radio Amateurs of Canada had asked Bob Nash, VE3KZ, to re-activate the national societies HF Band Planning Committee. This, with a goal to review and modernize the Canadian HF Band Plan.

The committee headed by Nash worked very hard in studying and consulting all across Canada to eventually come up with a band plan that was proposed to the Board of Directors of Radio Amateurs of Canada. Unlike the Regulation by Bandwidth approach being considered in the United States, the new Canadian plan retains a structure based on separation by mode and interest.

The R-A-C Board has now adopted this plan and had it posted to the organizations website. You can see the way in which Canada has divvied up the H-F spectrum for its hams www.rac.ca/service/bandplans/hfband_e.php (RAC)

**

RADIO LAW: NSW AUSTRALIA PROPOSES SITE FEE INCREASE FOR HAM REPEATERS

Australia's New South Whales Department of Lands has announced a Communications Facility Site Licensing proposal which may force some amateur radio clubs to shut down repeaters located on government controlled land, or face huge increases in site license fees. The Wireless Institute of Australia says that the fees could cause public service communications to be cut back. Phil Waite, VK2DKN, of the WIA News has the details:

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The scheme will require the operator of a "Telecommunications Facility" including an amateur radio communications facility (all site users including Primary Users and third-parties) to pay the Department of Lands a yearly license fee for the use of each site. An amateur radio facility will be charged $367 Australian per year and CPI indexed and subject to 5 yearly review which is the minimum amount prescribed under the NSW Crown Lands act.

The WIA has reviewed the License Agreement which appears to have been drafted in a form primarily suitable for large commercial telecommunications and media organizations, and we are concerned that the agreement does not adequately address the needs or reflect the current arrangements in place for community amateur radio clubs.

In particular, the WIA believes the indicated charges and fees may severely disadvantage affected amateur radio clubs to the point where they will no longer be able to provide and maintain their repeater and beacon facilities.

The WIA is also concerned that, in cases where the amateur radio equipment is located in the facilities of a Primary User, under the terms of the agreement the Primary User is able to impose an additional fee on third-party occupiers. As third-party occupiers are already paying license fees directly to the Dep't, in effect, an amateur radio club could end up paying twice.

The WIA has written to the NSW Department of Lands calling for a formal review of the proposed arrangements based on the fact that amateur radio clubs are not telecommunications services, but rather are not-for-profit organizations providing valuable voluntary community service. The WIA

believes that amateur radio clubs should have the choice of being excluded from the scheme.

Phil Waite VK2DKN

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There is one bright side to all of this. Some clubs, especially those with only one repeater, may find the proposal to their advantage. This is because it does provide 20 year secure tenure for occupation of the radio relay site. (WIA News)

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HAM TECHNOLOGY: WINMOR TO BE UNVEILED AT THE DCC

Meantime, back in the United States, something new will be unveiled at the upcoming joint Tucson Amateur Packet Radio and ARRL Digital Communications Conference that could end part of the ongoing controversy over Winlink 2000. The biggest complaint being that the mode requires a special, high priced proprietary modem. Now, that's about to change thanks to a new digital protocol called WINMOR.

According to information supplied by Mark Thompson, WB9QZB, WINMOR, is a digital protocol designed by Rick Muething, KN6KB for use in the High Frequency ham bands within the Winlink 2000 network. It is implemented through a Windows application that uses a computer sound card for all the analog-to-digital and digital to analog conversions. And while still in the final development stage it reportedly provides error-free transfers within 200, 500 or 2000 Hertz bandwidths.

A demonstration of WINMOR is slated for the Digital Communications Conference in Chicago to be held September 26th to the 28th. Its public release is still a few months away. If it proves out as most believe it will, WINMOR holds the potential of putting high speed digital messaging on the high frequency bands into the hands many radio amateurs who have been hesitant to purchase a dedicated Pactor 3 modem. (WB9QZB)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N4MWA repeater serving Phelps, Kentucky.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO RULES: ARRL RESPONDS TO CONCERNS RAISED BY CALIFORNIA REPEATER OWNERS AFFECTED BY PAVE PAWS

The ARRL responded to a series of concerns raised by repeaters owners in California regarding the ongoing PAVE PAWS interference mitigation project

at Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:

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In a lengthy e-mail dated August 20, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, addressed a series of concerns raised by Tom Naso, N6MVT who is the owner or trustee to several of the involved repeaters in the Pave Paws interference mitigation issue.

Henderon says that Naso has raised a series of thoughtful, valid concerns. He says that the biggest challenge the ARRL -- and through them the affected repeater owners -- continues to face is the balance between not being able to know full technical details of the interference and the testing techniques and the desire/need to know information.

Henderson says that this is a tough challenge. And while there have been a few errors in identifying call signs -- mainly because of errors in databases being used by the Air Force -- there were actual measurements made of signals identified by the Air Force testing group.

Henderson pointed out that the ARRL continues to pursue valid concerns that can be based on fact and backed up with solid data that are raised by repeater owners. He says that the League will continue to expect the FCC to perform its responsibilities. He also says that if ever a permanent shut-down order comes from the FCC, that the ARRL expects that the licensee is given their full rights for due process.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennent, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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The ARRL's response to Naso's queries, though lengthy, attempts to address them in detail. Naso gave the ARRL permission to reprint his letter along with the ARRL response to it. Naso's letter can be found at http://www.arrl.org/news/files/pavepaws_querry_2008aug20.pdf while Dan Henderson's reply can be found on line at http://www.arrl.org/news/files/pavepaws_response_2008aug20.pdf (ARRL)

**

RESCUE RADIO: REGION 2 PREPARE FOR HURRICANE GUSTAV

As Hurricane Gustav made it way across the Caribbean, a Notice to all radio amateurs in IARU Region 2 has been issued. The notice requested that IARU Region 2 member societies remind their members to be aware of emergency communications that may occur because of the storm and to keep those frequencies clear for emergency traffic.

This message did not indicate any particular frequencies that may be used for this purpose, however certain frequencies used for tropical storm tacking are well known. This includes the Hurricane Watch Net on 14. 325 MHz. It also uses 7.268 MHz and 3.950 MHz when propagation is lost on 20 meters.

WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, activated its High Frequency and Voice over Internet Protocol operations in anticipation of Gustav on August 26th. It monitors the Hurricane Watch Net and has requested that both land based as well as maritime mobile stations in the areas affected by Hurricane Gustav radio in weather and damage reports.

Also in operation will be other severe weather and storm relief networks that normally utilize 7.045, 7.080 and 7.110 MHz dayside and 3.740 MHz at night. If you hear emergency traffic on those frequencies please steer clear of using them unless you are directly involved in net operations.

More on Hurricane Gustav and ham radios response to it, next week. (IARU, Southgate, others)

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RESCUE RADIO: DATE CHANGE FOR FCC PANDEMIC COMMUNICATIONS SUMMIT

The Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security
Bureau has announced that it has changed the date for its summit on Pandemic Preparedness.

The meeting titled Enhancing Communications Response for Health Care and First Responders will now take place on Thursday, September 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Eastern time. The venue is the Commission Meeting Room TW-C305 in Washington D.C..

As previously reported, this important summit will focus on communications and coordination between the health care sector, first responders, government and the communications industry in preparation for a pandemic. The panel discussions will also highlight ways that communications may be expanded and enhanced in response to a pandemic and how the communications industry will serve an instrumental role in such a response.

The Commission had initially scheduled the Summit for September 16th. (FCC)

**

NEWSLINE FOLLOW-UP: NO PIRATE PROTESTERS ON THE HAM BANDS AT THE DNC

If there were any protesters trying to use ham radio to coordinate their attempts to disrupt the Democratic National Convention in Denver, nobody in the area heard them.

As reported last week, Denver ARES District 22 Operations Officer Dan Meyer, N0PUF, had posted a web notice that some websites set up by protesters coming to the convention had suggested protesters use ham radio rather than FRS, GMRS or CB to communicate. Meyer had said that Denver area hams needed to be ready to T-hunt down any illegal transmissions.

But preliminary reports indicate that the protesters never bothered to read their own websites when it comes to talking to advice on talking to one another by radio. About the only R-F exposure they have gotten has been on

the various television news reports and that's been minimal at best.

A we go to air there have been no reports of protesters tying up any VHF frequency nor trying to communicate with other protesters over any Denver area repeater. Most suspect that they are likely using cellphones to communicate although there is no way to know for certain.

Upcoming this week is the Republican National Convention in the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. It will be interesting to see if any protesters take to the ham bands there. (ARNewsline(tm) from listener input)

**

NEWSLINE FOLLOW-UP: FCC MAY BAN 700 MHZ WIRELESS MICS

A follow-up to our recent story regarding a public interest group challenging the sale and use of wireless microphones in the high UHF television spectrum. The Federal Communications Commission is proposing a ban on certain types of wireless microphones and has begun an investigation into how the industry markets its products. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in our studio with more:

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As previously reported here on Amateur Radio Newsline, a coalition of consumer groups alleged in a complaint last month that users wireless microphones are unwittingly violating FCC rules that require licenses for the devices. In its filing, the Public Interest Spectrum Coalition accused manufacturers of deceptive advertising in how they market and sell the microphones, which largely operate in the same radio spectrum as broadcast television stations.

The FCC, in a notice released Thursday, August 21st, , said its enforcement bureau had opened an investigation regarding the charges. The agency also is proposing that the sale and manufacture of some of the devices be banned.

The FCC says that wireless microphones that operate in the same frequency bands as UHF broadcast television stations are intended for use in TV, film and stage production and should not be in the hands of the general public. Most owners of the microphones are unaware that FCC rules require them to obtain a license for their use.

The FCC rarely enforces the licensing requirements on the microphones . This is because there have been so few complaints and because in theory these wireless mics are programmed to avoid any interference to operational television channels in a given geographic area.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

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UHF television channels 52 through 69 are currently used by broadcasters. They will be vacated on February 17, 2009 with the

nationwide conversion to all digital broadcasting. The government sold that section of airwaves for $19 billion in the FCC's most successful auction in history. The concern is that microphones operating in that range may cause interference for the new licensees. (FCC, ARNewsline(tm))

**

REGULATORY: FCC VANITY CALL FEE GOING UP ON SEPT 25

The cost of getting a vanity ham radio call sign is going up. According to a bulletin from the American Radio Relay League, on August 11th, the Federal Communications Commission announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents to $12.30.

The League quotes a notice in the August 26th Federal Register was entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2008.," It includes regulatory fees the government is expected to recover at a total of $312,000,000, that encompass all the services the FCC regulates.

Now that notice has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days, on September 25th. (ARRL)

**

RESCUE RADIO: ORANGE COUNTY CA RECALLS BADGES

Orange County, California's citizens including radio amateurs who serve in the Sheriff's Department's Professional Services Civilian Responder volunteer corps have been asked to return their honorary badges. This after newly selected Sheriff Sandra Hutchens said that the badges could fool people into believing the volunteers are sworn deputies.

The move comes more than a year after a July 2007 opinion issued by the states Attorney General. It says a sheriff's gift of an honorary badge to a private citizen violates California law. This, if the badge falsely purports to be authorized, or if it would deceive an ordinary, reasonable person into believing that it is authorized for use by a peace officer.

The volunteer's badges have a six-point star with a circle around it identifying the holder as a Professional Services Civilian Responder. The regular sheriff's badge is a six-point star without a circle around it. (Published news reports)

**

RADIO NEWS: NEW KFI AM TOWER FINALLY UP

The new tower for Los Angeles radio station KFI is finally up. The need for a replacement dates to the 2004 the collapse of the original 750-foot tower. This, in after it was struck by a small plane piloted by a local ham. Both the pilot and his passenger will killed in the mishap.

Work on a replacement started earlier this year but the partially built tower then fell when a guy wire support gave way. The now completed tower

took 13 days to construct.

KFI operates on 640 kHz and is owned by Clear Channel Communications. (RW)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: DAVID BOOTH, KC6WFS - SANTA CLARITA CA RED CROSS HOMETOWN HERO

Some names in the news. First up is Dave Booth, KC6WFS, of Santa Clarita, California. He's being honored as a Red Cross Honors Hometown Hero for his valiant attempt to save a man who had suffered a heart attack and was lying in the street.

Booth was riding his bike in August 2007 when he came upon the scene. Without hesitation, KC6WFS began giving the victim Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and continued doing so until the Paramedics arrived.

Unfortunately, not every story of heroism has a happy ending. Sadly, this is one of those cases. While KC6WFS tried his best to bring a stranger with no pulse back to life, the man did not survive. But as Tim Barbour who nominated Booth for the award noted, there were other people on the scene, but none of them knew CPR or did anything to help the dying man. Only KC6WFS tried to help him to survive.

Dave Booth, KC6WFS, will receive his Red Cross Honors Hometown Hero recognition at special breakfast on Tuesday, September 11th. CBS 2 Television newscaster Rick Chambers will be the Master of Ceremonies. The Hometown Heroes Recognition Breakfast celebrates the values and principles of the American Red Cross by recognizing people in California's Santa Clarita Valley, who have taken action in a time of crisis to help others, and who consistently show an extraordinary gift for human compassion. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: NEW RADIO PROGRAMMING VIDEO FROM KN4AQ

If you own a D-Star radio and are having a problem entering your call into it, film maker Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, says help has arrived. Gary has produced and posted a short video with details of programming call signs in D-Star radios. The video which is in two parts is posted to Gary's YouTube channel at www dot youtube dot com slash KN4AQ. Its also at Gary's business website at www.arvidnews.com/dstar-programming. (D-Star Reflector)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: INTELLIGENT RADIO ROADSIDE HELP ACROSS EUROPE

Europe has allocated a broadcast frequency to a new Roadside Safety information system. This, in an effort to combat road accidents and traffic jams.

According to news reports, the European Union's Intelligent Car Initiative program has dedicated a single radio frequency to smart vehicle communication systems. The system is based on a wireless communication technology and allows cars to "talk" to each other, to warn of slippery conditions or accidents.

The system relies on a single Europe-wide frequency band that is 30 MHz wide in the 5.9 GHz band. It will be introduced over the next six months and will not hinder existing roadside services. (RW)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY": NEW CENTRINO 2 FROM INTEL

Intel has released a new series of chips for laptop computers that it says promises longer battery life and better graphics rendering. The new Centrino 2 platform is made up of a processor, related integrated circuits and wireless communications chip. Intel says that used together it will bring a 30 percent savings in power over the previous generation chipset. Power consumption is an area where Intel has an advantage over its competitors because it has moved faster to a manufacturing process that lowers the energy use and the cost of manufacturing its IC's. (Intel)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT SYMPOSIUM CALLS FR PAPERS

In ham radio space related news, a second call has gone out for papers to be presented at the upcoming 2008 AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual Meeting. The dates for this event are October 24th to the 26th in Atlanta, Georgia.

Proposals for papers, symposium presentations, and poster presentations are invited on any topic of interest to the amateur satellite program. An emphasis for this year is an educational outreach to middle and high school students. Another topic if interest is using amateur satellite tracking systems to monitor deep space network objects.

Camera ready copy on paper or in electronic form will be due by September 1st for inclusion in the printed symposium proceedings. Abstracts and papers should be sent to n8fgv at amsat dot org (AMSAT - NA)

**

WORLDBEAT - UK: BECOME A UK HAM AT THE RSGB HIGH FREQUENCY CONVENTION

Planning a trip overseas this fall? Well if your destination is the United Kingdom in October its also a chance to take the that nations ham radio

tests.

The RSGB is offering those wishing to obtain a UK Amateur Radio License the opportunity to complete one, or more, of the required examinations over the weekend of the HF Convention. That's the 10th to the 12th of October.

Candidates must book their examinations prior to the event and must provide evidence they have completed the required practical assessments, although limited facilities to complete assessments can be arranged at the at the show. Contact information is provided in this weeks printed Newsline report.

The contact for further information and for booking examinations is John James, john.james at rsgb dot org dot uk, or via the RSGB HQ switchboard on 01234 832700. Candidates for the Foundation & Intermediate Exams must contact Brian Reay, G8OSN, by email to ardc dot chairman at rsgb dot org dot uk so that their progress on practical assessments can be verified. If required, Brian can also advise on finding a local tutor to complete practical assessments in advance of the High Frequency Convention or the provision of exam facilities at the show. (GB2RS)

**

WORLDBEAT SOUTH AFRICA: CHASING MAIDENS - A NEW SA FUN AWARD

South Africa's Sandton Amateur Radio Club has announced that it is sponsoring a new Worked all South African Grid Squares Chasing Maidens award as of the 1st of August. The "Maidens" referred to are Maidenhead grid locators and the aim of this contest is to make contact with a station located in each of the 83 grid squares that comprise South Africa. More information is on-line at www.zs6stn.org.za/zswags. You can also send an email to zswags at gmail dot com to receive a copy of the rules. (SARL)

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THE CONTEST FILE: CQ WW 160 METER PHONE CONTEST DATE CHANGED.

In radiosports news, word that the dates for the 2009 CQ WW 160 Meter Phone Contest has been postponed by a week. This, to avoid conflict with the ARRL DX CW Contest. The 2009 CQWW 160 Meter Phone Contest will now take place between February 27th and March 1st, 2009. (CQ)

**

DX

In DX, 3F5RBB, will be active portable 3A from Monaco between August 31st and September 10th. Listen out for him on 40, 20, 15 and10 meters. QSL to his home callsign.

And IN3VZE will once again be active holiday style from the southwest shore of Lake Malawi. This, between August 29th and September 11th. His callsign will be 7Q7CE, and he will be on all bands using SSB and the

Digital modes. QSL card is "OK" via the bureau or direct to his home call address.

Lastly, DL1BKK and DL1BKI are celebrating 40 years of marriage on a holiday style DXpedition as 8Q7KK from Kuramathi in the Maldive Islands. This, between August 29th and September 17th. Heir activity will be holiday style using an Icom IC-7000 into wire antennas. QSL to DL1BKK, direct or via the bureau. There's no electronic QSLing for this one. (From various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: EARHART FESTIVAL FEATURES HAM RADIO

And finally this week, ham radio was part of an event that honored an early United States aviation pioneer. This, as Earhart International Festival took place the weekend of August 16th and 17th in Derry, Ireland. Again, here is WIA reporter Marilyn Syme, VK3DMS:

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Scores of radio amateurs across three continents, from Russia to the USA, linked up to send good wishes for the Festival - they even made contact with an American businessman who was flying his personal jet some 42,000 feet above the country park.

Keeping with the spirit of Amelia Earhart was the awe-inspiring flypast from Letter-kenny Flying Club, whose five-plane formation thrilled the crowds. Then international radio link ups by the Foyle and District Amateur Radio Club in the Earhart Cottage.

The Director of the Earhart International Festival has paid tribute to the thousands who defied the weather to enjoy the wonderful community atmosphere and top-quality entertainment on offer at Ballyarnett Country Park at the weekend. I'm VK3DMS

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The Earhart International Festival is dedicated to its namesake Amelia Earhart. She was an American aviation pioneer and noted author who gained world-wide fame for her flying exploits in the early 20th century. In 1937, during an attempt to circumnavigate the globe, Earhart and her navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the central Pacific not far from Howland Island. While there has been speculation as to their fate over the years, to date no conclusive evidence has surfaced to prove any theory other than that the pair ran out of fuel and crashed at sea. (WIA, Derry Journal)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the

RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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897. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 34 (Friday, August 29, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-08-30 00:34:30 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080829215115.7D42C307F6@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2468
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 34
August 29, 2008
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* The September/October QEX Is Here
* Check Out the September/October NCJ
* "The Doctor Is IN" the ARRL Letter
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
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ARRL Emergency Communications Level 3 Online Course to be Revised
New HF Digital Protocol to Debut at September Conference
FCC Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase September 25
Hobby radio author Tom Kneitel, W4XAA, SK
ARRL and Citizen Corps Assist Schools with NOAA Emergency Radios
ARRL Applies for Expansion of 500-kHz Experimental License

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========

==> GULF COAST PREPARES FOR GUSTAV

As of Friday, although Tropical Storm Gustav is still several days away from landfall on the US mainland, disaster preparations are being rolled out along the Gulf Coast. ARRL Leadership Officials, with the support of the ARRL Headquarters staff, are taking measures that will facilitate emergency communications among ham volunteers, among hams and served agencies such as the Red Cross, and among Leadership Officials during the expected emergency and in its aftermath. ARRL Section Managers in the Gulf Coast states of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas are marshaling resources and setting up procedures that will take effect as the storm approaches the mainland.

Support from the ARRL Headquarters staff includes referrals from local and national media, shipment of Amateur Radio equipment via the Ham Aid program, Section Manager liaison and referral of inquiries from Amateur Radio operators. Two special Web sites are available for Amateur Radio operators looking for information and volunteer opportunities: <http://www.arrl.org/gustav/> and <http://www.arrl.org/gustav/vol.html>. In addition, news will be updated on the ARRL Web site over the weekend and early next week, as Gustav moves toward the Gulf Coast.

On Thursday, as Gustav was slamming into Haiti and heading toward Jamaica, WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, activated at 12 PM EDT (1600Z). The NHC requested all land based stations as well as ships at sea in the areas affected to send them weather data (measured or estimated) and damage reports.

A post to their Web site stated: "If you are in the affected area and normally monitor on a local Net on VHF, 40 or 80 meters, we would appreciate your checking into the HWN NET or EchoLink/IRLP Net once per hour to receive the latest Hurricane Advisories and to report your local conditions. Please do not venture outside during the hurricane to gather weather data."

In addition, the VoIP Hurricane Net activated Thursday at 11 AM EDT (1500Z), according to a post by Jim Palmer, KB1KQW, VoIP-WX Net Scheduler.

Also on Thursday, FEMA posted a news release that said, in part: "The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is coordinating plans and preparatory activities of numerous federal agencies in close communication with state, tribal and local officials as Tropical Storm Gustav threatens to return to hurricane strength prior to impacting Gulf Coast states. All residents in the region are encouraged to make personal preparations. Information is available at www.Ready.gov on how families and individuals can best prepare before the storm.

"FEMA and its federal partners are in close communications with states along its potential path in order to review plans, pre-station assets and personnel, and respond to any request for assistance. FEMA's work with states using a Gap Analysis tool to determine in advance of storms where federal assistance is most likely to be needed has helped federal and state agencies to develop pre-scripted mission assignments and other contingency plans to help improve response and recovery efforts."

The news release also provides details on preparations now underway by several other agencies, including the American Red Cross and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal declared a state of emergency for his state on Wednesday, and he activated 3000 National Guard troops, with more on call. The state of Mississippi declared a state of emergency on Thursday. Governor Haley Barbour stated, in part: "I urge all Mississippians to please take this storm seriously. One of the most

important lessons we learned after Hurricane Katrina was that there is no substitute for awareness and self-help, especially in the days before the hurricane is predicted to hit."

==> THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER QEX IS HERE

The September/October issue of QEX is out, and it is full of theoretical and practical technical articles that you don't want to miss.

In this issue, Mark Spencer, WA8SME, describes a VLF receiver system that automatically logs received signal data so we can learn about some propagation conditions such as sudden ionospheric disturbances during Solar Cycle 24 in "SID: Study Cycle 24, Don't Just Use It." Phil Anderson, W0XI, gives us a detailed analysis of crystal set receiver circuitry in "A Great Teacher: The Crystal Set." Bertrand Zauhar, VE2ZAZ, brings us another great project that goes well beyond a simple battery charger with his "Rechargeable Battery Cycler."

Jim Kocsis, WA9PYH, presents "Press-n-Peel Circuit Boards," a simple, reliable way to make your own circuit boards using Techniks, Inc Press-n-Peel Blue etch-resist material. Henry J. Rech offers some thoughts about, "Receiver Performance Measurement and Front End Selectivity," and Frank Witt, AI1H, describes "Optimum Lossy Broadband Matching Networks for Resonant Antennas," in this reprint of an April 1990 "RF Design" article.

Would you like to write for QEX? It pays $50 per printed page. Be sure to check out the Authors Guide <http://www.arrl.org/qex/#aguide> for more information. If you prefer postal mail, please send a business-size self-addressed, stamped envelope to QEX Authors Guide, c/o Maty Weinberg, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494.

QEX is edited by Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, and is published six times a year. The subscription rate for ARRL members in the US is $24. For First Class US delivery, the rate is $37 for members, $49 for nonmembers. For international delivery via air mail, including Canada, the subscription rate is $31 for members, $43 for nonmembers. Subscribe to QEX today <http://www.arrl.org/qex>.

==> CHECK OUT THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER NCJ

NCJ, The National Contest Journal is what everyone interested in radiosport needs to have in their shack. Filled with the latest news from the contesting world, NCJ is the voice of radiosport. Whether you are new to contesting or are a seasoned pro (or somewhere in the middle), you will find something in NCJ just for you.

In the September/October issue, Stan Stockton, K5GO and Bob Wilson, N6TV, provide a dialogue on "CW Skimmer: Point/Counterpoint." To go along with this article, Pete Smith, N4ZR, talks about "So You Want to Skim? Practical Issues in Deploying CW Skimmer in a Contesting Environment." Eric Scace, K3NA, writes about "Distributing Receiving Antennas" in the first of a multi-part article. If you're a top-bander,

you don't want to miss "A Simple 2-Element Vertical Array for 160 Meters" by John Barcroft, K6AM.

Dennis McAlpine, K2SX, takes a look at "The Wacky World of State QSO Parties," while Jon Platt, W0ZQ/m gives his take on "One Rover's View on Propagation during the 2008 Minnesota QSO Party." Bill Santelmann, N1AU, remembers his son in "A Tribute to my Son, Stuart, KC1F." Stu, a founding member and past president of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club, became a Silent Key in May of this year. ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, lets NCJ readers take a sneak peak at the October issue of QST in "October is Radiosport Month in QST."

Of course, there are all the regular columns and features you expect from NCJ: "Workshop Chronicles," by Don Daso, K4ZA; "Contest Tips, Tricks & Techniques," by Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT; "Propagation," by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA; "VHF-UHF Contesting," by Jon Jones, N0JK; "Contesting on a Budget," by Paul Schaffenberger, K5AF; "DX Contest Activity Announcements," by Bill Feidt, NG3K; "RTTY Contesting," by Don Hill, AA5AU; "Contesting 101," by Kirk Pickering, K4RO, and "Contest Calendar," by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM.

All this and more in the September/October issue of NCJ. NCJ is published six times a year by the ARRL; it is edited by Al Dewey, K0AD. Subscribe today <http://www.arrl.org/ncj/>!

==> "THE DOCTOR IS IN" THE ARRL LETTER

This week, ARRL Letter readers are in luck! The ARRL's very own Doctor, author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is IN," answers a question from his mailbag:

Question -- John Hoffman, KJ4GER, of Woodstock, Georgia, asks: I am reading the "ARRL General Class License Manual" <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9965>. In a few places, it mentions the 75 meter band. On my ARRL-provided "US Amateur Radio Bands" chart, it shows an 80 meter band and a 60 meter band, but no 75 meter band. What is the 75 meter band, and why does it not show up on the official band chart?

The Doctor Answers -- John, 75 meters is an designation for the 3.6-4.0 MHz phone band, a portion of the 3.5-4.0 MHz 80 meter allocation. If you convert 4.0 MHz to wavelength (300/4) you will find that the top end of the band has a wavelength of 75 meters.

Historically, 75 meters refers to the voice portion of the "official" 80 meter band. The term 80 meters is often used to refer to the entire band. Most HF radios have a bandswitch position for 80 meters that covers the entire band, not one for 75 meters. Unlike any other band, you will rarely hear anyone refer to "80 meter phone." I cannot offer any logical explanation for the anomaly -- perhaps someone will fill us in on how this came to be.

If you know the answer to this question, send an e-mail to the Doctor <doctor@arrl.org>. Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via e-mail <doctor@arrl.org> or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST, the official journal of the ARRL.

==>SOLAR UPDATE
Tad "Heat and haze of crimson sunsets" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Our Sun is still very quiet, but last week's bulletin mentioned a new sunspot emerging on August 21-22. Spaceweather.com showed the sunspot number on those days as 11, which is the smallest non-zero sunspot number. If we don't see any sunspots this weekend, Sunday will mark 42 consecutive days with no sunspots. This will also bring the 3-month moving average for daily sunspot numbers (that we present monthly) clear down to 1.76, the lowest on this side of cycle 23. This would be the three month average centered on July.

The forecast for the next week is a planetary A index of 5 on every day, indicating more of the same quiet and stable geomagnetic conditions. The prediction for September 5 is a planetary A index of 18, probably from a recurring coronal hole and associated solar wind.

Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions August 29 to September 3, and quiet to unsettled September 4.

Sunspot numbers for August 21 through 27 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0 with a mean of 0. 10.7 cm flux was 67.1, 67.6, 67.9, 67.1, 66.6, 66.9, and 66.6 with a mean of 67.1. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 2, 4, 2, 3 and 3 with a mean of 3.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1 and 2 with a mean of 2.

For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Elizabeth Maua Taylor's "August."

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, the NCCC Sprint on August 29. The ALARA Contest, the SCC RTTY Championship and the YO DX HF Contest are all August 30-31. The SARL HF CW Contest is August 31 and the MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint is September 1-2. Next weekend is the International G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest on September 5-7. On September 6, be sure to look for the Russian RTTY WW Contest, the NCCC Sprint, the Wake-Up! QRP Sprint and the AGCW Straight Key Party. The All Asian DX Contest (Phone), the RSGB SSB Field Day and the IARU Region 1 Field Day (SSB) are September 6-7. The North American Sprint (CW) and the DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest are September 7. The Tennessee QSO Party is September 7-8. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest

Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, September 7, 2008 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, September 19, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARRL HQ to Close for Labor Day September 1: ARRL Headquarters will be closed Monday, September 1. Headquarters will reopen at 8 AM Tuesday, September 2. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend.

* No ARRL Audio News August 29: There will be no ARRL Audio News today, Friday, August 29; ARRL Audio News will resume production on Friday, September 5.

* ARRL Emergency Communications Level 3 Online Course to be Revised: New enrollments in the online Level 3 course will be suspended effective October 1 to allow us to update the course curricula. We expect the updated course to be available in the first quarter of 2009.

* New HF Digital Protocol to Debut at September Conference: WINMOR, an HF digital protocol designed for use with the Winlink 2000 network, will be unveiled at the upcoming ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference in Chicago September 26-28.

* FCC Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase September 25: The FCC will increase the vanity call sign fee from $11.70 to $12.30, effective September 25, 2008.

* Hobby radio author Tom Kneitel, W4XAA, SK: Tom Kneitel, W4XAA (ex-K2AES), died August 22 at age 75. He was a prolific author of articles and books on monitoring, CB radio and building electronics

projects.

* ARRL and Citizen Corps Assist Schools with NOAA Emergency Radios: ARRL and Citizen Corps are teaming up to offer assistance to local school districts in setting up and registering their NOAA Weather All Hazard Public Alert Radio.

* ARRL Applies for Expansion of 500-kHz Experimental License: On August 22, the ARRL applied to the FCC for expansion of the 500-kHz experimental license WD2XSH. If approved, this application will raise the total number of stations from 20 to 40. This will provide greater geographic coverage, including Alaska and Hawaii, and will provide more opportunities for ground-wave testing. Also included are requests for an expanded frequency band (495-510 kHz) and portable operation within 50 km. The current four modulation modes (CW, PSK-31, FSK-31, and MSK-31) are included. -- Fritz Raab, W1FR

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the National Association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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898. Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1621 - September 5, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-05 09:25:36 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080905022400.015a93b0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2469
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1621 - September 5, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1621 with a release date of Friday, September 5th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T.

Hams face the wrath of hurricane Gustav as they make ready for more Atlantic storms. Also, Australia to get new radio frequency allocation table and a major DXpedition invites young hams to join in on the fun. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline" report number 1621 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS RESPOND TO THE THREAT OF HURRICANE GUSTAV

Ham radio operators were ready as hurricane Gustav made landfall along the Louisiana coast on Monday, September 1st. Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, lives in Piccyune Mississippi and works in New Orleans. He picks up the story from here:

--

Hurricane Gustav slammed into the heart of Louisiana's fishing and oil industry with 115 mph winds delivering only a glancing blow to the city of New Orleans. 60 hours earlier, Mayor Ray Nagin had ordered that New Orleans be evacuated for fear that Gustav would bring the kind of catastrophic flooding brought by Katrina three years ago. Thankfully, that did not happen.

That's not to say that the area escaped unscathed. According to news reports, 2 non-federal levees in Plaquemines Parish just south east of New Orleans were on the verge of collapse as engineers, local law enforcement, parish employees and even prison trustees worked to fortify them. In New Orleans the newly completed Army Corps of Engineers flood gates and pumps in the 17th St. Canal and London Avenue Canal were used in their first real test. They worked flawlessly as a squall line caused the water to rise in those canals putting pressure on the repaired floodwalls that failed during Hurricane Katrina.

Across the region, roofs were torn from homes, trees toppled and roads flooded. More than 1 million customers were without power or minimal telephone service. In many areas, cellular telephone service was non existent. And it was here that ham radio operators were on the front

line. Hams like Joe Glorioso, N5OZG, who is a paramedic in New Orleans:

--

N5OZG: "We still got winds. Maybe 40 to 50 MPH winds. We still have some gusts. If I had to take a guess, maybe 50 to 60 MPH. There are a lot of powerlines down A few trees down. A lot of fences down. But overall it looks very well as compared to Katrina."

--

Glorioso's report was one of many that were relayed using the facilities of the Voice Over Internet Protocol Weather Net. The net had numerous EchoLink and IRLP nodes on line from across the affected area along with several stations from outside of the hurricane zone. Together they provided critical information to forecasters at the National Hurricane Center in Miami:

--
Unknown ham: I just want to report that I'm in Jones County, just about 90 miles Asouth of Jackson (MS). Thing are going pretty good here. We've gotten reports of 40 MPH gusts so far and sustained around 18 MPH and maybe over an inch of rain. No major flooding here as of now."

--

Stations on the net filed reports of sustained measured winds of 100 MPH in Houma, Louisiana before the ham radio spotters lost their wind instrumentation. Reports out of New Orleans indicated several wind gusts 101 MPH. The first reports of a levee break in Scarsdale, Louisiana was reported by N5OZG. He also reported the good news when the situation was stabilized by a sandbagging efforts.

But the Voice Over Internet Protocol Weather Net was not the only ham radio communications effort that had been made ready for the arrival of Hurricane Gustav. Long before the VoIP operation began, hams had been tracking Gustav as it spun across the Caribbean and slammed into Cuba before turning toward the United States Gulf Coast.

The High Frequency Hurricane Watch Net activated at 1900 U-T-C on Sunday, August 31st. Its initial job was to establish a list of available reporting stations along the northern Gulf Of Mexico shores. Its primary frequency was 14.325 MHz upper sideband with additional activation on 7.268 MHz lower sideband during the storm. It was then used to communicate with station WX4NHXC at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. One of the jobs of both the HF and VoIP nets was to funnel requests for severe weather reports to the ham community:

--

KD1CY: "Looking for any reports across south-east Louisiana or southern Mississippi of strong winds, wind damage. Measurements or estimates on winds would be helpful along with any river or stream urban or coastal flooding. This is KD1CY"

--

And hams across the area answered the call. They provided reports of wind speed, precipitation and water levels on rivers and lakes where it was feared that they might overflow:

--

Unknown ham: "the latest river state: the last one I gave you was right at 4 point 0. Its now risen to 4.5 on the river here at Biousara in Mobile county, Fairland, Alabama.

--

Another job of the nets was to deliver bulletins from the National Weather Service to those listening in. Jim Sellars, N0UAM was the net control on the VoIP net when this advisory was issued:

--
N0UAM read the National Weather Service release. (Not transcribed for newscast)

--

But these were not the only two groups taking to the air as Gustav approached. Others lending their support and expertise included the West Gulf Emergency Health and Welfare Net, the Water Way Net and the Maritime Mobile Network. And the Southeastern D-Star Weather Net put its members on alert as well. This net held forth on D-Star reflector 002A. All stations on the D-Star network were asked to monitor and to provide assistance if needed.

The work of ham radio operators with regard to Hurricane Gustav is not yet complete. The storm left a lot of damage in its wake and that includes some communications outages as well as the need for ongoing damage assessment. These are both areas that are certain to include networks set up by radio amateurs. .

And its not over yet. As Gustav diminished into a tropical storm and headed inland, the various nets turned their attention to Hurricanes Hanna and Ike. They were also monitoring the progress of Tropical Depression Ten, now Tropical Storm Josephine as this story is being filed. The members of these ham radio networks are well aware that at this time of year more hurricanes and severe weather is developing out in the South Atlantic, and at least some of it will be heading their way.

For my home 60 miles north east of New Orleans in Picayune, Mississippi, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Julio Ripoll, WD4R, is the Assistant Coordinator for WX4NHC. He said that the incoming information provided by hams was very critical to operations at the National Hurricane Center and to WX4NHC as well.

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO MAKES READY FOR HURRICANE HANNA

Ham radio is already involved in the watch of Hurricane Hanna. That storm is expected to hit somewhere along the South-East U-S coastline in coming days. And already, members of the Hurricane Watch Net have Hanna in their sights:

--

Unidentified ham: "At 5 PM AST which is the same as Eastern Daylight time Hanna continues to linger over the south-eastern Bahamas. A hurricane warning is in effect for the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands."

--

As we go to air the Hurricane Watch Net is not yet fully activated for hurricane Hanna. You can keep up with the ham radio tracking of Hanna and other tropical storms at the networks website. Its in cyberspace at www.hwn.org. (HWN)

**

RECUE RADIO: JARL OFFERS TO HOST GAREC 2009

Japan Amateur Radio League has offered to host the fifth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference. GAREC-2009, will likely take place in Tokyo next spring in conjunction with the famed JARL Ham Fair. More information on this important rescue radio gathering as soon as its released. (IARU)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the hobby newscast on UHF C B Channel 25 serving Melbourne, Australia.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESTRUCTURING: AUSTRALIA TO GET NEW FREQUENCY ALLOCATION PLAN

The Australian Communications and Media Authority has released a draft of new Australian Radio Frequency Plan for comment. Geoff Atkinson VK3AFA reports:

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The Australian Communications and Media Authority has released a draft of a new Spectrum Plan for public comment. When completed, the new Spectrum Plan is intended to replace the current Spectrum Plan developed in January 2005.

Go to the ACMA web page to "read all about it", but in brief proposed changes to the plan will provide: Protection of space research activities while allowing the use of new high data-rate meteorology satellite

services; Upgrade of the radiolocation service to primary and allocating additional spectrum to the existing space research activities; Sharing between the mobile-satellite service and space research services and between the mobile-satellite service and mobile service; Improvements to the satellite coordination and notification procedures; Spectrum harmonization between space services and future terrestrial services. Sharing arrangements between the fixed service and satellite systems using highly inclined orbits; and Spectrum compatibility between the radio astronomy service and the active space services.

--

The proposed changes are scheduled to take effect on January 1st 2009. (WIA News)

**

RADIO POLITICS: IARU REGION 2 MEETS IN PANAMA CITY

Region 2 of the International Amateur Radio Union has issued a report on the recent Executive Committee meeting held in Panama City on August 30th and 31st. The main emphasis of the gathering was to emphasize the importance of having active member societies as being the only way to insure the future of amateur radio. To this end, the support of Area Directors was requested in order to establish local links at area and country level to work with recently designated Coordinators.

The participation of the International Amateur Radio Union in the International Telecommunications Union as well as CITEL and CTU was also discussed. The CTU has requested the support of the IARU in order to have active Member Societies in its region. This, ever since it became aware of the importance of radio amateurs in emergency situations.

The importance of creating an accurate list of Emergency Networks in Region 2 as soon as possible was talked about. This list is being developed by the new EMCOR organization in conjunction with Dr. Cï¿½sar Pï¿½o Santos, HR2P,
and with the support of Member Societies.

Under new projects, within the next few months a Spanish version of a manual for beginners in the hobby will be made available in digital form. This, for easy distribution and to serve as an introductory study guide for all those interested in becoming new radio amateurs.

IARU Region 2 will also begin preparations to participate in the Telecom Amï¿½ricas 2010 event. It will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in March of 2010. (Adapted from IARU Region 2 Release)

**

RADIO POLITICS: IARU REGION 3 MEETS IN JAPAN

The Directors of Region 3 of the International Amateur Radio Union met in Tokyo. Japan from 20th to the 22nd. The gathering was hosted by the

Japan Amateur Radio League. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, tells us what was discussed:

--

The Directors of I-A-R-U Region 3 are Chairman Michael Owen, VK3KI, and members JE1MUI, ZL2AZ, VU2GMN and HL1AQQ. Also attending was IARU Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH.

First up was the future. The next World Radiocommunications Conference will be held in 2011 and has agenda items that may directly and indirectly affect the amateur services. The IARU Region 3 Directors said that they recognized the importance of ensuring that those involved in the preparation for that Conference at a regional and national level are kept fully informed.

In the area of emergency communications, the Region 3 Directors again decided to urge member societies to approach their administrations to remove any national regulations that inhibited amateurs from either meeting emergency communication needs or practicing to meet such needs. At the same time the Directors congratulated the Chinese Radio Sports Association on the outstanding contribution of the Chinese radio amateurs. This, in support of the humanitarian response to the tragic earthquake in May 2008.

The Directors also carefully considered an interference complaint report from VU2UR. He's the Regional Monitoring System Coordinator and his report dealt with the broadcasts from shortwave station the Sound of Hope in Taiwan on amateur bands. The Directors will urge member societies to approach their administrations requesting that they object to the Taiwanese administration about these breaches of the Radio Regulations.

Those are the meeting highlights. I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

In closing the meeting Chairman Owen acknowledged the time and contributions made by all Directors since their last meeting in August of 2007. He said that it is important that all amateurs recognize the importance of the work of the IARU in protecting their operating privileges. (IARU Region 3 News Release, WIA News)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: BANGLADESH TO SPONSOR IOTA OPERATION THIS WINTER

Hot on the tail of last weeks announcement that ham radio is returning to Bangladesh comes word of the first organized DX operation. According to the Ohio Penn DX Newsletter, S21RC and possibly 3 other operators are preparing a DXpedition to St. Martin's Island located in Chittagong Region Group for this coming December.

St. Martin's is a small island in the northeast part of the Bay of Bengal, about 9 km south of the tip of the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf peninsula, and forming the southernmost part of Bangladesh. It is also the only coral

island in Bangladesh.

The exact dates for the operation are not yet confirmed but they plan to stay 6 days on the island. A special callsign is pending and will be announced at a later date. For more details and information on you can how to help get this and other ham radio activities back up and running in Bangladesh, please visit eb7dx dot com on the World Wide Web. (OPDX)

**

RADIO HUMNANITERIANISM: A DXPEDITION TO FIGHT CANCER

A team of German operators will be trying to raise money for a children's cancer charity during their forthcoming DXpedition to Montenegro. DL3NER, DG5NGJ, DG5NGI, DL9MB, DG8NGI and DK9NCX will be active portable 4O between September 25th and October 4th.

The team says that it undertook the operation to help fund Station Regenbogen which is a German care and support center for children suffering from cancer and for their families. On the air activity is planned for 160 through 2 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31.

QSL's go to each operator via his home callsign. Information on supporting the operators cancer fighting mission is at www dot qrz dot com slash callsign slash DK9NCX. (Southgate)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC WARNS UNLICENSD FLORIDA BROADCASTER TO GET OFF THE AIR

A Florida resident could face FCC sanctions if he permits an unlicensed transmitter to continue operating from his property. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, reports:

--

The FCC's Miami Office has warned the owner of property where an unlicensed transmitter is believed to have be located to take it off the air. That, or face severe consequences.

In its July 16th letter to R. Bryce Gray, Jr. the FCC says that it has received information that an unlicensed broadcast radio station on a frequency of 101.9 MHz was allegedly operating from his property in the Oakland Park area. The FCC says that back on March 4th, 14th And June 3rd that agents from the its office confirmed by direction finding that radio signals on frequency 101.9 MHz were emanating from an antenna mounted on a pole at Gray's legal residence.

The FCC has warned Gray that operation of radio transmitting equipment without a valid radio station authorization constitutes a violation of Federal laws and could subject the operator to severe penalties, including seizure of the offending radio equipment, and/or criminal sanctions including time behind prison bars.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

--

Gray was ordered to cease operations immediately. He was also given 10 days from the date of the FCC notice to respond to the agency with any evidence that he has written authority to operate granted by the FCC. Those dates are now past. (FCC)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for todays radio amateur. From the down-under in Auckland, New Zealand and United States of America, this is the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

YOUNG HAMS: VK9WDX INVITING YOUNG HAMS ON WILLIS ISLAND OPERATION

The sponsors of the upcoming VK9DWX operation is inviting two young hams who have a passion for DXing and contesting to take part in their operation from Willis Island in October. The VK9DWX crew say that they will pay for all expenses of the young hams selected to join them except the cost of the flight to and from Cairns, Queensland, Australia.

Anyone planning to apply to go on this operation must have experience in working DX pile-ups. The dates that the young Dxers will be invited to take part in the operation are staggered. One will be there from October 6th October to the 19th and the other from October 15th to the 28th.

To qualify, you must be between 18 and 29, hold a valid amateur radio license in the country where you live. If you fit this profile you need to send an e-mail to contact (at) vk9dwx (dot) de. In it, you need to include a minimum 500 words essay written in English. In it, describe how you got started in ham radio, who your Elmer was and why you believe you should be selected for this DXpedition opportunity. Also be sure to include your full name, call sign, home address and any other pertinent contact information.

Again, send this information to contact(at) vk9dwx (dot) de. Those selected will be notified directly by the VK9WDX crew. (DJ0QN)

**

YOUNG HAMS: KB1OGL NAMED CQ MAGAZINE YOUTH EDITOR

And a young name in the news. This with news that 14 year old Brittany Decker, KB1OGL, has been named Youth Editor of CQ Amateur Radio magazine.

Decker is from of Hudson, New Hampshire. She is a General Class licensee and already holds an amateur radio leadership position as Assistant Section Manager for Youth in the ARRL New Hampshire Section.

KB1OGL came to CD's attention when she wrote an article titled "Saving the Hobby for KG7HF." This was about her introduction to amateur radio, that appeared in the April, 2008, issue of CQ. Another Decker article titled "A Rookie's Guide to Contesting," will be published in the October issue.

CD's youth column is scheduled to debut this December and will appear quarterly. Stories by or about young hams should be e-mailed to Brittany at kb1ogl at cq dash amateur dash radio dot com or sent by the U.S. Postal Service to her at CQ magazine, 25 Newbridge Rd., Hicksville, NY 11801 (CQ)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: SHELBY'S MOVE TO GASTON COUNTY A SUCCESS

The 2008 Shelby Hamfest is being called a huge success. According to the Cleveland County Star newspaper more than 1,000 amateur radio enthusiasts were already gathered at Gaston County Park in Dallas County, North Carolina on Thursday, August 21st, even though the shows opening was still 48 hours away.

Celebrating 52 years the Shelby Hamfest usually hosts between 8,000 to 12,000 attendees annually. It is one of the largest hamfest in the United States, and certainly one of the largest in the Southeast. The show had moved to the Gaston County Fairgrounds earlier this year after it became apparent that no compromise could be reached with the management of its longtime home in Cleveland County. Many Shelby businesses have come to rely on income from the annual ham radio gathering and some are dismayed at the way in which the city handled the negotiations that lead the Shelby Amateur Radio Club to move the hamfest away .

Meantime, the Cleveland County Star reported that people started arriving at the park as early as Sunday, August 24th and that the heavy rain has not dampened their enthusiasm to be a part of this annual ham radio event. The Star quotes Hamfest Chairman Robbie Hamrick. WA4RH, as saying that festivities began Friday night with a free bluegrass concert in downtown Dallas.

The Hamfest itself opened on Saturday morning August 30th Hamrick used the opportunity of his newspaper interview to pass along his clubs gratitude for use of the Gaston county facility He told the newspaper that the sponsors appreciate Gaston County letting them use it and make it their new home.

As to the views of those who attended. A sampling of posts on several websites and blogs all seem to be very positive. Almost everyone seemed to be saying it was a good crowd, a good hamfest and that the Shelby Amateur Radio Club should not change a thing. (Cleveland County Star, others)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: ONTARIO VHF ASSN ON SEPT 27

The Ontario VHF Association will hold its annual get-together at Humber College North Campus in Ontario, Canada, on Saturday September 27, 2008. The event is billed as a great way to meet and mingle with some of the best

VHF, UHF, microwave gurus as well as other weak signal enthusiasts and experimenters. More info and directions to the college can be found on the web at home.cogeco.ca or by e-mail to Hugh Duff, VA3TO, at hduff (at) cogeco (dot) ca (Ontario VHF Association)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: A CUTE EARTH MOVIE

The Amateur Radio Cute 1.7 satellite better known as CO-65 has taken a short motion picture of the Earth as viewed from orbit. The video was taken while Cute was over Japan. It's very brief but the team say it is the first ever taken by a tiny 3 kg microsat. The CO-65 also team says that its planning to take pictures and videos continuously. This first one was taken at July 17th at 02:14 UTC. It can be seen on line at www.southgatearc.org/news/august2008/earth_movie.htm (Southgate)

**

ON THE AIR: NASA GLEN ARC TO CELEBRATE NASA AT 50

Members of the NASA Glenn Amateur Radio Club in Cleveland. Ohio, will be on the air from October 1st through the 6th. This, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the famed U.S. space agency.

The club will be active daily from 2200 to 0500 UTC on 1.880, 3.880, 7.280 and 14.280 MHz. The callsign to listen for is NA8SA. If you work NA8SA, QSL to the NASA Glenn Amateur Radio Club Lewis Field, 21000 Brookpark Rd, MS8-1, Cleveland, Ohio. 44135-3191. More information is on line at www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/Clubs/NA8SA (OPDX)

**

DX

In D-X, DA0HEL will be active from Helgoland Island in the North Sea from September 6rth through the 8th. The operation will be taking part in the IARU VHF Contest on 2 meters CW/SSB. QSL this one only via the Deuscher Amateur Radio Club bureau.

W8AV will be on the island of Curacao through September 10th. He will be operating from the PJ2T Signal Point station with his own call portable PJ2. He plans to be on CW as well as RTTY . This is an antenna maintenance trip, so he will only be on only as time permits. QSL as directed on the air.

K3GV slash VY2 will be on the air from Prince Edward Island, Canada through September 22nd. He is active is on 20 and 15 meters around the usual Islands on the Air frequencies. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the bureau.

Look for the special call PA90CORUS from the Netherlands on all bands and modes through September 28th. This in celebration of the 90 years history of CORUS in that nation. The QSL manager is PB7CW. More information is at

www.pb7cw.net/corus .

Lastly, members of the Czech and Slovak OM0C Contest Crew have announced that they plan to mount a DXpedition to Suriname an expect to be active from here between October 21st to the 30th. Operation will be on 160 through 10 meters plus VHF on 6 and 2 including some EME. The same group also plans to be active as PZ5Z in the CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest on October 25th and 26th. QSL via OM2FY, by the Bureau or direct. More is on-line at www.om0c.com/suriname.

Above from various DX news sources.

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE TICK

And finally this week, most ham are well aware of time standard station WWV at Ft. Collins, Colorado . Its run by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and radiates 10,000 watts on 5, 10, and 15 MHz; and 2500 watts on 2 point 5 and 20 MHz. And over the years WWV broadcasts time and frequency information 24 hours per day, 7 days per week to millions of listeners worldwide.

Well now it appears to have an on-line rival. Well, one thats at least a tongue in cheek rival called "The Tick." Take a listen:

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THE TICK HERE

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The Tick is the creation of Douglas Grant, KD1TJ, who happens to own Lownoise Productions in Tucson, Arizona. We asked him to tell us how The Tick came about.

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KD1TJ: "Back in the late 70's, about the time that I got my ham ticket and while I was still working in commercial radio, I turned a broadcaster and friend of mine onto shortwave listening, which I had been doing since the 60's. I sold him one of my used radios and he became familiar with what was on the dial. He would listen to Vladimir Posner on Radio Moscow, theatrical works on the BBC and all the other noises that you hear like WWV. So he and I used to joke about the announcements that might be heard on that time and frequency station if it were commercial radio, like -- all the time, all the time.

"Fast forward to 2003. Another friend of mine had moved to Atlanta and was working as a television engineer for The Weather Channel. And he revealed that one of the local TV weathermen on the air in Atlanta was in fact one of the voices of WWV -- John Doyle.

"So on a whim I wrote to John and I told him about some of the laughs we'd had at WWV's expense over the years and inquired if he might want to voice

ome lines in order to create a spoof . And, to my delight he liked the idea, did some recording for me. What resulted is The Tick. The new WWV."

--

Grant tells Newsline that he has received lots of very positive feedback since he brought The Tick to the world of cyberspace several years ago. You can check out "The Tick" for yourself at www.lownoiserecords.com/wwv_the_tick.html (ARNewsline" and The Tick)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News, Australia's WIA News and of coarse "The Tick," that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline". Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's" only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline", P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, Im Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, in Auckland, New Zealand, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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899. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 35 (Friday, September 5, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-05 19:18:59 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080905191812.34AB032B2C@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2470
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 35
September 5, 2008
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+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==========================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========================================================

==> ARRL, AMATEUR RADIO GEARS UP FOR HANNA, IKE

As the ARRL Headquarters staff continues to support response and
recovery efforts in Louisiana and the areas impacted by Hurricane
Gustav, yet another storm begins to shift some of the focus eastward.
Tropical Storm Hanna, currently forecast to impact the North and South
Carolina coastline early Saturday morning, has begun to activate ARES
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preparations from Florida northward. Hanna is responsible for at least 137 deaths in Haiti.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), a hurricane watch is in effect from north of Edisto Beach, South Carolina to Okracoke Inlet. A tropical storm watch remains in effect from Edisto Beach southward to Altamaha Sound, Georgia. A tropical storm warning remains in effect for the Central and Northwestern Bahamas. A tropical storm watch means tropical storm conditions are possible within 36 hours.

ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, has begun to put protocols in place to support any of the ARRL Sections that may be impacted by Hanna. "We are beginning the coordination efforts with the individual Sections that could be on the receiving end of what is becoming an active storm season for the United States mainland. While Hanna currently remains a tropical storm, we must ensure that all Amateur Radio preparations are in place in case the storm turns into a hurricane."

According to ARRL North Carolina Section Manager Tim Slay, N4IB, hams in his state are ready for Hanna. "The Amateur Radio Station at the State Emergency Operations Center is ready to go. We will begin operating from there on Friday at 8 PM and go until about mid-day on Saturday or for however long is needed." Slay also said the Tarheel Emergency Net, the North Carolina HF ARES Net that meets on 3.923 MHz, has been tested and is prepared for the incoming storms.

Slay said that hams in his state have verified that the equipment is all in working order at the State Emergency Operations Center. The South Carolina Healthcare Emergency Amateur Radio Team (SCHEART) <http://www.scheart.us/> -- a system of strategically located repeaters linking 64 South Carolina hospitals by Amateur Radio, forming a statewide emergency communications network -- is also on alert.

ARRL South Carolina Section Manager Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, said South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford has called for a voluntary evacuation for those who live along that state's coastal areas. "It's incredibly important that we be prepared [for Hanna] and for people in areas that could be the most affected to be prudent," Governor Sanford said. "More than anything, this storm may serve as a reminder to everyone along the coast to be prepared for what could still come your way in this season. That means having a full tank of gas, a storm kit and an evacuation plan as these storms head our way."

The Weather Channel's Tim Ballisty called Hanna an "ugly mess" since the storm is not acting like a typical storm: "Hanna has no markings of a classic-looking tropical cyclone. It is a highly disorganized tropical storm and will have a lot to do in a short period of time to organize and strengthen to a hurricane."

Ballisty warned that people should not be fooled by Hanna's appearance. "It is important to note that one should not focus solely on [Hanna's]

center of circulation," he said. "In fact, the worst of Hanna may not actually be found close to the center of circulation but rather away from it. Impacts such as tropical storm-force gusts, tropical downpours and very choppy surf will be felt hundreds of miles away from the center. That being said, the center of Hanna is projected to make landfall near the coastal South Carolina/North Carolina border, or perhaps just east of there, very early on Saturday morning."

After landfall, Hanna is expected to spread rain and breezy conditions up the mid-Atlantic and Northeast coast on Saturday, impacting several major cities. Due its rapid forward speed, the storm will not linger. Hanna will be exiting off the New England coast by as early as mid-morning Sunday. Rainfall totals are not expected to come anywhere close to what was seen with Hurricanes Fay or Gustav.

"If nothing else, [Hanna is] a good dress rehearsal for Ike if Ike were to come," said Peter Judge, a spokesman for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

Fast on Hanna's heels, Ike is the third major hurricane of the 2008 Atlantic hurricane season; it is not yet threatening any land. A Category 4 hurricane on Thursday, Ike was downgraded to Category 3 early Friday morning.

For now, Ike is of no threat to land, but could threaten the Bahamas by Sunday and into early next week. Residents of the Bahamas should monitor Ike carefully the next several days. Ballisty said that as of now, it is too early to tell if Ike would have any impact on the United States. "The entire Southeast coast should pay close attention to the progress and forecast track of Ike," he said.

Josephine, a tropical storm in the eastern Atlantic remains fairly weak. It continues to struggle with maximum sustained winds now near 50 MPH; this storm is currently no threat to land; however, the storm continues to feel the effects of wind shear and dry air, and this may keep any additional strengthening in check. Josephine will continue to move west-northwest over the next several days and will not be a threat to land in the near future.

==> AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS WERE READY FOR HURRICANE GUSTAV

After several days of harrowing watching and waiting for Hurricane Gustav to make landfall, the storm slammed into southeast Louisiana Monday afternoon, leaving flooding, wind damage and power outages in its wake and evacuees eager to go home. As Amateur Radio operators across the area moved from an emergency response stance to clean-up, evaluation and repair, the need for some changes to operations and equipment became clear, as well as the vastly improved response as compared to Hurricane Katrina. As the storm made its way inland, ARRL Division, Section and public information volunteers in and around the area impacted by the Category 2 hurricane, reported that they were preparing to deploy themselves and other volunteers to strategic locations once conditions

allow.

Throughout the week, staff at ARRL headquarters coordinated conference calls between key emergency communications volunteers, Division and Section leadership officials and ARRL HQ in order to facilitate communications among the participants and to respond to any requests for assistance. Dennis Dura, K2DCD, ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager, commented: "Based on what we hear and what we receive in the daily situation reports, it will really dictate what kind of response we're going to have. In the beginning of a storm event, we don't have a clear idea of what the needs are. Once those on the scene tell us what they need, we will support them. Requests for emergency communications personnel will come from Section Managers or their designees, and we as an organization will meet those requests. Gustav is different from Katrina in a lot of ways. For one thing, people are much better prepared down there."

On Monday, September 1, Louisiana Section Manager Gary Stratton, K5GLS, told conference call participants that he was expecting to head to the Baton Rouge Red Cross Marshalling Center the next day. He reported that credentialing for ham volunteers who will be sent to locations requesting Amateur Radio support was being handled, and emergency nets were activated. Louisiana Section Emergency Coordinator Jim Coleman, AI5B, expected to head to Baton Rouge Tuesday as well.

Assistant South Texas SM Mike Schwartz, KG5TL, of Muldoon, reported that 4500 New Orleans-area evacuees were relocated to shelters in surrounding counties. He reported that about 20 ham radio operators were ready to travel to where they are needed. "When we find out, we're ready to deploy," he said.

Mississippi SM Malcolm Keown, W5XX, of Vicksburg, expressed concern about the impending effects from Gustav. He said up to 20 inches of rain could fall in central Mississippi, and tornado warnings have been issued.

Southeastern Division Vice Director Sandy Donahue, W4RU, mentioned that numerous Red Cross shelters have been set up in Georgia to handle the needs of evacuees.

Northern Florida Section Manager Paul Eakin, KJ4G, offered the services of four Winlink stations to forward messages from the states more directly affected, as needed.

ARRL Directors Henry Leggette, WD4Q, of the Delta Division, Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, of the Southeastern Division and Coy Day, N5OK, of the West Gulf Division also took part in the September 1 conference call, as did West Gulf Vice Director Dr David Woolweaver, K5RAV, and Delta Vice Director Karl Bullock, WA5TMC.

At Poplarville, Missisippi -- county seat of Pearl River County -- Emergency Operations Center Communications Officer David Moore, N5ELI, said, "We have some stuff to do, but it's not bad." He noted a defective

antenna that was discovered during operations for Gustav, as well as a few operational details that need to be worked out before future events. But, noted ARRL Mississippi Section Public Information Coordinator Larry Wagoner, N5WLW, who manned the Emergency Operations Center in Picayune, Mississippi, essential services were provided in spite of the problems, as contact was maintained with the shelters in the area as well as other individuals and agencies needing assistance.

Harrison County Emergency Coordinator and District Emergency Coordinator for the Gulf Coast District Tom Hammack, W4WLF, echoed that reaction, noting the heavier damage to his coastal community: "The harbors are torn up," he observed, saying that a small tornado had been sighted near the port, which reportedly damaged a few buildings in the area and knocked out power for a time.

"We had communications with the Coast Guard representatives, on 2 meters, as well as marine VHF," Hammack said. "We had hams at other locations as well." He noted that Ed Byrd, KA5VFU, had the radio links to the area hospitals working, too. "In general it went pretty fair," he said. "This was a cakewalk for us compared to Katrina," Hammack noted, adding, "But the farther west went you go, it wasn't any cakewalk at all. Hancock County (located due west of Harrison County) got hit pretty hard."

North of the coast, Tim Purvis, N5UDK, Emergency Coordinator for Stone County and Assistant Emergency Coordinator for the Gulf Coast District noted that one mobile home was destroyed in the storm. "All in all, it went real well," he said. Like the other officials in the area, he said the storm was a learning exercise for the Amateur Radio community. "We need to get our repeater to a higher location and we need to get more people with emergency Yagis." He said in some cases, hams in outlying areas of the county had a hard time making it into the repeater during the storm. "These are people who may have lost or taken down their antennas," he said, "and they were trying to operate on a mag mount on top of a refrigerator from 20 miles away."

One problem noted by several officials in the area was the signal propagation from the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MSEMA) office near Jackson. "A new antenna up there would help," said one. "We had a real hard time copying the signal from MSEMA," said another.

Local hams were not the only ones learning lessons from the storm. Purvis noted that while the MSEMA official at the Stone County Emergency operations Center was familiar with Amateur Radio, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) representative did not know anything about ham radio and the service that hams provide before the storm. By the end of operations Tuesday, she had quite an education, Purvis said, noting that she was not only very impressed with what hams can do, but now wants to become licensed as an Amateur Radio operator herself and is very interested in SKYWARN operations. "We have a feather in our cap on that one," Purvis said.

SKYWARN operations went well across the region, as hams from all over the southern Mississippi area called in to report sightings of severe weather and damage from the storm. "Like you (in Pearl River County), we were inundated by warnings and reports," Purvis said, adding, "I just wish we could get all those people to sign in on a regular basis."

Local officials said the area fared much better in Gustav than in 2005's Hurricane Katrina. "Compared to Katrina, we didn't lose any local communications, phone or Internet. In Katrina, they lost everything," said Purvis. "Our major function was communications with the shelters, storm spotting and being on standby for other services," he added.

Stone County had one shelter open, which closed early Tuesday. Those requiring longer stays were transferred to shelters in Picayune and Hattiesburg. The Stone County shelter housed about 50 people at one point. The shelter in Picayune had about 130 people maximum -- mostly from Louisiana, where nearby New Orleans and St Tammany Parishes remained closed Tuesday.

By Tuesday morning, crews were out evaluating damage to local power lines, cable TV, phone lines and trees, and hams were getting ready for the next time they are called to serve, keeping a close eye on Hurricane Hanna and Hurricane Ike.

==> ARRL HAM AID GO KITS SUPPORT AMATEUR RADIO OPERATIONS DURING HURRICANE GUSTAV -- AND BEYOND

As Amateur Radio operators prepared for Hurricane Gustav, the ARRL deployed complete radio stations comprised of industry-donated Amateur Radio equipment, thanks to the generous contributions of ARRL members to the Ham Aid Fund. Created in 2005 to assist with the response to Hurricane Katrina, the Ham Aid Fund is designated to finance Amateur Radio equipment needed for disaster response. In preparation for Hurricane Gustav, ARRL received requests for radio equipment from Louisiana and Texas. The shipping costs for this equipment were covered by the Ham Aid Fund.

According to Assistant Manager of the ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Department Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, several kits were shipped to Louisiana; Fusaro is handling Ham Aid requests during Hurricane Gustav. "We sent three HF kits, 3 VHF/UHF kits and a combination kit complete with HF, VHF and handheld transceivers to the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) facility in Baton Rouge, as well as four VHF/UHF base antennas and a support box that included coax, rope, wire antennas and connectors." Fusaro also said that a 600 W amplifier was sent to Jim Coleman, AI5B, in Bogalusa, Louisiana to be used at the Emergency Operations Center there, and an HF radio was sent to Joel Colman, NO5FD, of New Orleans, replacing his rig that was damaged during set up at the firehouse.

"To me, these Go-Kits ramp up ARRL's ability to support Amateur Radio volunteers in the field when the next big disaster hits," said ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. "They won't replace or

supplant anything that's already on the ground and working well, but the kits will strengthen it and add flexibility to Amateur Radio's overall response capabilities."

In setting up these Go Kits, League staffers consulted with volunteers who were in the field during Hurricane Katrina to find out what gear served them best or what they wished they'd had but didn't. The Go Kits, stowed in rugged, waterproof Pelican 1650 containers, enable the League to loan out needed equipment on a moment's notice. "The idea is that this makes it easy to ship," explains Fusaro, "and since they're less than 50 pounds apiece, they can be shipped by air."

The HF Kit contains a 100 W HF transceiver, a tuner and antenna, a microphone and a power supply. The VHF/UHF Kit includes a dualband mobile transceiver, power supply, headset, 10 handheld transceivers and a supply of alkaline batteries. In the Handheld Transceiver Kit are eight dualband handheld transceivers and antennas, plus a stock of extra batteries. The Support Kit includes a length of BuryFlex RG-213 coaxial cable, rope, 15 foot jumper cables with battery clamps at one end and an Anderson Powerpole on the other. The kit includes various fittings and adapters to connect to the power distribution unit and to make RF feed line connections. All kits contain any necessary manuals.

Hobart said it's imperative to sustain and enhance ham radio's emergency communication capabilities for the future: "Disasters happen to be one place Amateur Radio can shine," she pointed out. "We need to maintain a high level of readiness to do those things that are second nature to ARES members, but that the public is just coming to recognize." Making the Go Kits available to ARES teams, Hobart said, will help to cement Amateur Radio's position as a community resource. "We want to be able to ensure that we have the personnel and the equipment," she said. "With a disaster of any magnitude, we need to be ready."

Since the arrival of Hurricane Gustav, Hobart said that the Ham Aid fund has been depleted. "With more storms on the horizon, the ARRL is seeking member contributions to rebuild the Ham Aid Fund. This vital lifeline of resources to support the ARRL Field Organization and Amateur Radio Volunteers will benefit from the renewed generosity of radio amateurs." Contributions in any amount can be made online <https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/basic/>.

==> LOOK FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF QST IN YOUR MAILBOX

The October issue of QST -- our first-ever Radiosport issue -- is jam-packed with all sorts of things today's Amateur Radio operator needs, with a special focus on Amateur Radio contesting. From product reviews to experiments to public service, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

Steve Clifford, K4GUN, offer his views "On Becoming a Rove Warrior." In this article, Clifford expounds on the joys of roving -- mobile operating in VHF+ contests -- and offers some lessons and tips gleaned

from his first roving operation. Gil McElroy, VE1PKD, gives readers "A History of Radiosport." Did you know that CQ CONTEST could be heard on the bands as far back as the early 1920s? Discover the origins of how contesting began as McElroy takes us on a contesting history journey.

In addition to the articles featuring contesting, ARRL Contributing Editor H. Ward Silver, N0AX, has put together an 8 page radiosport insert -- you can easily find this section, thanks to the bright yellow page edges! This section will feature such articles as how to interpret your Log Checking Report, guidelines for the upcoming contest season and a list of resources that no contester should be without, as well as a listing of major contests throughout the year.

ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, announces how 2009 is the Year of the State QSO Party. Be sure to check out October QST to find out more about this exciting new event. Of course, no issue of QST would be complete without "Contest Corral" and "This Month in Contesting."

ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, describes the events and decisions from the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting, as well as announces the six winners who were bestowed awards for 2007-2008.

If you're in the market for a new rig, be sure to check out October's Product Review: NCJ Managing Editor Rick Lindquist, WW3DE, gives his take on the ICOM IC-7700 HF and 6 meter transceiver. In his review, Lindquist says "The IC-7700's attributes seemed shaped more toward the serious contester and DXer, but it's a superior performer with features enough to attract any active HF or 6 meter enthusiast. The price will put the radio out of reach for some, but this piece of radio gear more than fills the average ham's desires, not to mention the operating desk."

Of course, there are the usual columns you know and love in October QST: "Hints & Kinks," "The Doctor Is IN," "How's DX," "Eclectic Technology," "World Above 50 MHz," "Hamspeak" and more. Look for your October issue to arrive soon. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please visit the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> MEMBERSHIP MANAGER TO LEAVE ARRL

On Friday, October 3, the ARRL HQ family will say goodbye to Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, as she moves away from her native Connecticut. In her short time here, Breen quickly became popular as she traveled to hamfests and conventions around the country -- as well as making videos that have been posted online -- promoting the League to members and non-members alike; she headed up the ARRL team at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention this past May <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/05/17/10103/?nc=1>.

"This job was much more than a job to me," Breen said. "Amateur Radio became part of my life. When I started, I honestly didn't think I'd ever

really understand the technical side of things, never mind actually build anything. Since coming to the ARRL, I've built my own antennas and a small transceiver; I couldn't have done any of this without my Elmers. Because of this experience, I've become a strong proponent of mentoring -- you don't have to be a ham for 50 years to become an Elmer."

Breen said that talking to hams around the country and then meeting them at hamfests, as well as connecting with new friends all over the world, has been an "amazing experience. I've loved going to Amateur Radio events and working with countless volunteers that give of their time, energy, experience and funds to continue to promote the Amateur Radio Service. I've had the unique opportunity to spend a lot of time with our field volunteers and I have seen personally the dedication and passion these folks have -- I think they are some of the biggest unsung heroes in ham radio. I don't know of any other hobby or service that has such dedication and passion. I am proud to have had the opportunity to make the personal connection, to bring a piece of ARRL Headquarters to our members and to help develop a sense of belonging for our members."

Breen's supervisor, ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said that she will be missed "a great deal. Members -- and particularly new members -- appreciate her enthusiasm as an advocate for ham radio and ARRL. We've all enjoyed Katie's willingness to share her own stories as a new radio amateur."

Inderbitzen said the search to find a qualified candidate for ARRL Membership Manager is underway. Interested individuals should have a background in membership marketing and experience developing membership recruitment and retention strategies. An understanding of the Amateur Radio Service is desired. The complete job posting and instructions for applying can be found online on the ARRL's Job Announcement Web page <http://www.arrl.org/announce/jobs/>.

==> IARU REGION 2 EC: "ACTIVE MEMBER-SOCIETIES ARE VITAL TO ENSURE AMATEUR RADIO'S FUTURE"

Late last month in Panama, the Executive Committee of IARU Region 2 <http://www.iaru-r2.org/> held its annual meeting. According to IARU Region 2 President Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AMH, the importance of having active and inclusive IARU Member-Societies is the "only way to ensure the future of Amateur Radio." Leandro said this theme was "underlined" throughout the meeting. The United States is a member of Region 2.

At the meeting, the Executive Committee called on the Region 2 Area Directors to establish links at the area and country level to work with an Emergency Communications and Monitoring System. Once those links are established, the Area Directors will work with recently designated Coordinators in the Region <http://www.iaru-r2.org/coordinators/>.

The Committee heard reports regarding the IARU's participation in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) and the Caribbean

Telecommunications Union (CTU). The CTU is aware of the importance of radio amateurs in emergency situations and has requested the IARU's support to have active Member-Societies in its region. CTU countries include Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Turks and Caicos, and Trinidad and Tobago; the IARU is an Associate Member of CTU.

Other actions by the Executive Committee included:

* The Executive Committee initiated preparations to participate in Telecom Americas 2010, to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in March 2010 <http://www.itu.int/americas2010/>.

* The Committee requested the support of the Region 2 Member-Societies in order get more countries in the region to sign on to the International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP) <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/>. Countries that currently accept the IARP are Argentina, Brazil, Canada, El Salvador, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.

* The Committee announced that an introductory study guide for all those interested in becoming new radio amateurs will be made available in Spanish within the next few months. This guide will be published in a digital format, allowing for easy distribution.

* Emergency Communications Coordinator Cesar Pio Santos, HR2P, advised the Executive Committee that he is compiling an inventory of emergency networks in Region 2. The Committee decided that the listing should be completed "as soon as possible" and underlined its importance to the region.

The next Region 2 Executive Committee meeting will be in September 2009 in Lima, Peru.

The meeting was attended by President Reinaldo Leandro, YV5AMH; Vice President Dario Jurado, HP1DJ; Secretary Ramon Santoyo V., XE1KK; Treasurer and Area E Director Noel E. Donawa, 9Y4NED; Area A Director Daniel A. Lamoureux, VE2KA; Area B Director Rod Stafford, W6ROD; Area C Director Pedro Rodriguez, CO2RP; Area D Director Marco Tulio Gudiel, TG9AGD, and Area G Director Reinaldo Szama, LU2AH. IARU President Larry Price, W4RA was also present, representing the IARU International Secretariat.

==> PENTAGON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB TO HOST SPECIAL EVENT STATION COMMEMORATING 9/11

On Thursday, September 11, the Pentagon Amateur Radio Club (PARC) will operate a Special Event station commemorating the 7th anniversary of the attacks that occurred on the Pentagon, the World Trade Center and over Pennsylvania in 2001 <http://www.k4af.org/>.

This special event will be held in conjunction with President Bush's visit to the Pentagon to dedicate the new Pentagon Memorial <http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2008/0708_memorial/index.html>, honoring the 184 people, both at the Pentagon and on American Airlines flight 77, who lost their lives in the attacks. Operators will be on 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters -- both phone and CW -- with plans to operate on a 12 hour basis (1200-2400 UTC). There will be a special QSL card available for stations that work K4AF.

For more information, please contact Gary Sessums, KC5QCN <kc5qcn@arrl.net>. QSL via PARC, PO Box 2322, Arlington, VA 22202.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Happy we who can bask in this warm September Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: We're still looking at a quiet sun, but currently a solar wind is disturbing the Earth's magnetic field. Six meter operators -- after enjoying a fine season of sporadic E propagation this summer -- may see some added excitement from auroral propagation. The planetary A index was 33 on Thursday, September 4, the highest daily number in over a year. I don't know when it was last that high, but the closest recent numbers were 32 on April 23, and 31 on March 27. Planetary A index for September 5-10 is predicted to be 20, 15, 8, 5, 5 and 5. It is expected to rise to 20 on September 14. Sunspot numbers for August 28-September 3 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 66.1, 66.8, 67.1, 66.7, 65.8, 66 and 66.2 with a mean of 66.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 2, 3, 3, 3, 4, 3 and 7 with a mean of 3.6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2 and 7 with a mean of 2.7. There has been some news about the current solar minimum regarding continuous days without spots. August was the first calendar month with no sunspots since 1913. Of course, there have been periods longer than 30 days, but generally over a two calendar-month period in which there were some sunspots in each month. As of Thursday, September 4, there have been 46 continuous days with no spots. That is the seventh longest period of no spots, looking back over 150 years to the mid-19th century. If there are no sunspots through this Sunday, at 49 days this will be the fourth longest spot-free period. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Henry David Thoreau's "A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers."

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: The International G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key Contest is September 5-7. On September 6, be sure to look for the Russian RTTY WW Contest, the NCCC Sprint, the Wake-Up! QRP Sprint and the AGCW Straight Key Party. The All Asian DX Contest (Phone), the RSGB

SSB Field Day and the IARU Region 1 Field Day (SSB) are September 6-7. The North American Sprint (CW) and the DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest are September 7. The Tennessee QSO Party is September 7-8. Next weekend, look for the ARRL September VHF QSO Party on September 13-15. The NCCC Sprint is September 12 and the PODXS 070 Club 80 Meter Autumn Sprint is September 12-13. The FISTS Get Your Feet Wet Weekend is September 12-14. The Swiss HTC QRP Sprint is September 13. The WAE DX Contest (SSB) and the Arkansas QSO Party are both September 13-14. The North American Sprint (SSB), the SKCC Weekend Sprintathon and the ARCI End of Summer Digital Sprint are September 14. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is September 18. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, September 21, 2008 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, October 3, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001); Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006); Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009); Technician License Course (EC-010); Analog Electronics (EC-012), and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARRL Sets up E-mail Addresses for Use During Hurricanes, Tropical Storms: In an effort to streamline hurricane support operations at ARRL Headquarters, the League has set up two e-mail addresses for hams to pose questions or relay information to HQ Staff relating to hurricane or named tropical storm events. If you need to communicate with ARRL HQ regarding these storms, please use <hurricane@arrl.org> or <hurricane@arrl.net>. These e-mail addresses will be monitored during each storm's descent on the US, as well as throughout the hurricane season.

* Steven Weber, KD1JV, Wins August QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for August is Steven Weber, KD1JV, for his article "A 40 Meter CW/SSB Transceiver for the Homebrew Challenge."

Congratulations, Steven! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the September issue by Tuesday, September 30.

* MARS Assists with Hurricane H&W Traffic for American Soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan: Army Captain Jeff Hammer, N9NIC, who represents the Army Military Affiliate Radio System (Army MARS) <http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/> in Iraq, has appealed to the families of troops deployed overseas that have been affected by the recent tropical storms and hurricanes to let their loved ones know all is well at home. "There are a lot of soldiers from the Gulf States here in Iraq," Hammer said, "and their families may be impacted by the hurricanes and not have a way to communicate with their soldier to let them know their status in the coming week(s). If you are unable to deliver hurricane-related Health and Welfare messages from a family member to a service member in Iraq due to lack of communication assets or insufficient address information, send them directly through an Amateur Radio operator or Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) operator <AEN5NAA@winlink.org>. MARS operators currently deployed in Iraq will do their best to get all messages delivered immediately." Hammer said that Army MARS also can handle messages to service members in Afghanistan, but delivery may be delayed. Direct entry of MARSgrams is available via the MARSgram Web site <http://www.mymars.org/>. The site provides full instructions and a message form that will be transmitted automatically via the Army MARS system.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!): letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call 860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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900. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1622 - September 12, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-12 14:39:51 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080912014709.015b0928@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2471
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1622 - September 12, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1622 with a release date of Friday, September 12th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. The sun stays silent and so does High Frequency DX, ham radio prepares to face Hurricane Ike, South Africa may give its hams some new operating privileges, Russia considers joining the pan-European CEPT licensing scheme, and a report on this years World Radiosport championship games. All this and more coming your way on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1622 as we begin right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO SCIENCE: SOLAR OBSERVERS REPORT NO SUNSPOTS IN AUGUST

A new record has been set by the sun, but its not one that will make hams who need long range propagation very happy. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, reports:

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Daily Tech dot com says that the sun has reached a milestone not seen for nearly 100 years. That being an entire month has passing without a single visible sunspot being recorded.

Sunspot data has been collected since 1749. According to statistics from Mount Wilson Observatory here in Los Angeles, the entire month of August passed without a spot being seen on the face of the sun. The last time such an event occurred was June of 1913.

When the sun is active, it's not uncommon to see sunspot numbers of 100 or more in a single month. Every 11 years, activity slows, and numbers briefly drop to near-zero. Normally sunspots return very quickly, as a new cycle begins. However, this year which corresponds to the predicted start of Solar Cycle 24 has been extraordinarily quiet, with the first seven months averaging a sunspot number of only 3. August followed with none at all.

The researchers say that the astonishing rapid drop of the past year has defied predictions, and caught nearly all astronomers by surprise. The event is significant since many since scientists who follow climate changes now believe solar magnetic activity or lack of it is an influencing factor for climate on earth.

For ham radio operators who depend on high solar activity to produce long communications paths, the silence on the High Frequency bands due to a lack of sunspot activity is all but deafening. As we go to air, no sunspots are reported as visible and the number of distant signals the average ham station can hear and work on most of the High Frequency bands remains at what is likely an all time low.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, in Los Angeles.

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The complete article on the lack of solar activity and its effect on climactic change is on line at
www.dailytech.com/Sun+Makes+History+First+Spotless+Month+in+a+Century/articl
e12823.htm)
(Dailytech.com, others)

**

RESTRUCTURING: NEW RSA BANDPLAN FAVORS ZS HAMS

Proposed changes in South Africa's allocation table for radio spectrum use could mean more operating privileges for Zed-S hams. Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, has the details:

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On July 22nd, South Africa's telecommunications regulator published the revised table of frequency allocations, a process that is mandated by that nations Electronic Communication Act. The proposed South African table includes the expansion of the 40 meter band to 7 200 kHz as well as a new low frequency allocation from 135 point 7 to 137.8 kHz in the long wave spectrum. Also the limitation that currently exists for Zed R prefix hams in the 14 MHz band has been removed. The South African table of frequency allocations also include an interesting grant for use by radio amateurs in the 40 MHz band. The frequencies 40 point 675 to 40 point 685 MHz may be used for propagation studies with a maximum power limit of 10 Watt EIRP, but limited to Zed S prefix licensees.

The South Africa Radio League has reviewed the proposal and has made a formal suggestion to the nations telecommunications regulator concerning 160 Meters. SARL would like to have the 160 meter band expanded to 2 point zero MHz. It also would like to see a new allocation in the 5 MHz spectrum.

SARL has also addressed spectrum needs in the 2 300 to 2 450 MHz microwave ham band and also an allocation in the 3300 to 3 500 MHz band. It says that this would align South Africa with other parts of the world where this band is being considered for amateur satellite use. This allocation is not generally allocated in ITU region one except in some individual CEPT countries who have an allocation for amateur satellites in the 3400 to 3410 MHz band.

Reporting from down under in Auckland, New Zealand, I'm Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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The next step is for the South African governments telecommunications agency to review all the comments received and to hold public hearings if it feels that they are required. Once the final table has been agreed, it will be published in the Government Gazette together with the date of when the new table will replace the old one. In the meantime. South Africa hams are advised that this is all still a proposal. All current South African ham radio regulations and allocations remain in force. (SARL)

**

WORLDBEAT - RUSSIA: CEPT LICENSING MAY BE ON ITS WAY

Russia may be on the verge of signing on to the pan-European CEPT ham radio licensing scheme. According to information supplied by Mitch Wolfson, DJ0QN, a working committee in that nation recently held a workshop to prepare a draft recommendation to the State Commission on radio frequencies. In it, the committee recommends joining the T/T 61-01 agreement for reciprocal licensing in 2009.

The only objection came from those concerned with issues of national security, but the proposal worked out seems to satisfy Russia's Federal Security Service and its expected that the proposal will move forward into the Russian rulers making process. More information in the Russian language is at hwww.srr.ru. (DJ0QN)

**

RESCUE RADIO: MARS OFFERS COMMUNICATIONS TO STORM FAMILES

A message of support for military families from MARS. Captain Jeff Hammer, N9NIC, who represents the Army Military Affiliate Radio System in Iraq, has appealed to the families of troops deployed overseas that have been affected by the recent tropical storms and hurricanes to let their loved ones know all is well at home.

According to Hammer, there are a lot of soldiers from the Gulf States here in Iraq and their families may be impacted by the hurricanes and not have a way to communicate with their soldier to let them know their status in the coming weeks. He says that if you are unable to deliver hurricane-related Health and Welfare messages from a family member to a service member in Iraq due to lack of communication assets or insufficient address information, send them directly through an Amateur Radio operator or Military Affiliate Radio System operator. He says that MARS operators currently deployed in Iraq will do their best to get all messages delivered immediately.

Hammer adds that Army MARS also can handle messages to service members in Afghanistan, but delivery may be delayed. A direct entry MARSgram form is available at www.mymars.org. The site provides full instructions and a message form that will be transmitted automatically via the Army MARS system. (MARS)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N2OBS Echolink node in Summerville, South Carolina

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS MAKE READY FOR HURRICANE IKE

Ham radio operators along Texas eastern shore are preparing for the onslaught of hurricane Ike. The storm that spent two days ravaging Cuba is now in the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more:

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As this newscast is prepared on Thursday, September 11th, Ike is a Category 3 hurricane packing winds in excess of 130 miles per hour. It is moving West-North West at between 8 and 10 miles per hour with landfall predicted early on Saturday the 13th somewhere along the south-Texas coastline between Brownsville and Houston.

In anticipation of Ike, the ARRL and its South Texas Section have made large scale preparations to provide any needed communications. And according to Allen Pitts, W1AGP, who is the ARRL headquarters Media and Public Relations Director in Newington, the League has already sent emergency radio equipment into the area to pre-position gear for deployment. Also, plans are in place for bringing in radio amateurs from their states and regions if needed. Pitts adds that coordination is also in place with the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Baptist Men's kitchens, many Emergency Operations Centers and other relief agencies.

The ARRL has also established a pair of e-mail addresses for hams to use to pose questions or relay non-emergency information to the headquarters staff relating to hurricanes or named tropical storm events. If you need to communicate with headquarters regarding storms like Ike, please use hurricane@arrl.org or hurricane@arrl.net. While these e-mail addresses are not monitored on a 24/7 basis, they are checked during each storm's descent on the US, as well as throughout the hurricane season.

Also on alert a numerous severe weather related networks. The Hurricane Watch Net will be operational primarily on 14.325 Mhz. Also playing a major role will be the Voice over Internet Protocol Weather Net that links together repeaters and individual stations using VoIP technology.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the studio in Los Angeles.

--

Hurricane Ike is a developing story. We will have more on it and the role of ham radio in next weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (ARNewsline(tm),

ARRL, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO WAS READY FOR HURRICANE HANNA

Packing winds gusts over 70 miles per hour, Hurricane Hanna, hit the United States on Saturday, September 6th at the border of North Carolina and South Carolina. But Amateur radio operators involved in emergency communications were ready for whatever the storm might pack, including the possibility that Hanna might spawn some tornadoes:

--
Net Audio
--

That was Jim Sellars, N0UAM, in control of the Voice over Internet Protocol Weather Net. He was putting out a warning from the National Weather Service that tornadic activity accompanying hurricane Hanna was possible.

Thankfully, Hanna caused minimal damage to coastal areas of the Carolinas as it moved North-North East at 28 miles per hour. According to the U.S. National Hurricane Center the storm did dump as much as 10 inches of rain as it meandered up the Eastern U-S. coast.

Before making landfall on U-S soil, hurricane Hanna devastated Haiti, which also was hit by Hurricane Gustav and Tropical Storm Fay in the past month. Hanna reportedly killed about 495 people in Haiti. United Nations humanitarian affairs chief John Holmes says that as many as 600,000 people may need assistance in that nation. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC ORDERS FORM TO STOP SELLING GPS JAMMERS

A merchandiser of GPS jamming devices has been issued an official Citation by the FCC. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the details:

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In its September 8th notice to MicroVideoX, LLC of Grand Junction, Colorado, and owner Greg Marston, the regulatory agency alleges that a letter of inquiry dated last June 3rd the FCC initiated an investigation into whether MicroVideoX, LLC is marketing in the United States unauthorized radio frequency devices. Specifically, the GPS Counter Track, and the GPS Counter Track Portable.

The Commission says it found evidence that MicroVideoX, LLC was selling these devices through several sources including eBay. Also that it was running demonstration videos of them on YouTube dot com.

In its response to the June inquiry, MicroVideoX stated that it had imported a total of 53 GPS Counter Track units and 24 GPS Counter Track Portable units. Of these it had sold approximately 48 units. Also that it had marketed the devices on eBay and YouTube.com only until about March

13th.

But the FCC says that it observed the promotional video still active at another website as late as July 11th. This one called www.revver.com.

The bottom line. The FCC has ordered MicroVideoX to immediately cease the advertising and sale of these devices. It says that if after receipt of the citation, MicroVideoX violates the Communications Act or the Commission's Rules in any manner, that the Commission may impose monetary forfeitures not to exceed $11,000 for each such violation or each day of a continuing such a violation.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

MicroVideoX, LLC appears to be complying with the FCC edict. A check of eBay for a GPS jammer shows that currently no United States based company is advertising such a device there. However there are others outside the U-S with ads on eBay for similar devices and these companies claim that they ship, worldwide. (FCC)

**

RADIO THEFT: RADIO TOWER STOLEN IN PA

Scrap metal thieves have gotten more brazen this time trucking away a complete 120 foot high radio tower near Windbar, Pennsylvania.

According to news reports, police believe the thieves threw cables over the tower guy wires and yanked it down with a truck. They say that they also found cut bolts and torch marks on nearby grass.

Authorities believe the thieves then cut into smaller pieces in order to get it out of the wooded area, but they can't figure out how they did it without anybody noticing.

The tower hasn't been used for years, but the family who owns it was in talks with a company to use it to bring wireless Internet service to the Windber area. The thieves also got away with a 300 pound transformer full of copper. (Published reports)

**

EMI ENFORCEMENT: TEXAS POLICE RADIO INTERFERES WITH WATER SPRINKLERS

A new emergency radio system serving a couple of Texas towns is causing a rather watery problem for its neighbors. John Williams, VK5BUI, tries to dry it all out.

--

All was going well with the testing of a new police communication system in the Texas cities of Cedar Hill, DeSoto and Duncanville, until it was found to be producing an unwanted side-effect in the city of Plano some 30 miles

away.

The police transmissions have been setting off an expensive network of radio-controlled sprinklers used for parks and road median strips. Worse still, the issue took on a life of its own through radio talk-back programs and other media outlets trying to point blame for the technical hitch.

Then came news that the new emergency system also interfered with radio equipment that monitored the levels of three water towers. Attempts to find a mutually agreed solution appear to have failed so it is off to the Federal Communications Commission for a determination. 'm John, VK5BUI.

--

With matters such as the switchover to digital broadcasting and other important items on its immediate agenda, it will be interesting to see how the FCC the FCC reacts to this wet request. (WIA News)

**

RADIO EDUCATION: LCWO TEACHES MORSE ONB THE WEB

LCWO.net is a new website to learn and practice Morse telegraphy. Called Learn CW Online all you need for using LCWO is a web browser. This gives the user the opportunity to practice CW wherever an internet connection is available. It also lets users retain their personal settings, scores and statistics. Check it out at LCWO.net on the World Wide Web. (WebNews)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: PEORIA SUPERFEST TURNS 50

A word of congratulations to the Peoria Superfest which celebrates its 50th year as it holds forth September 20th to the 21st at the Exposition Gardens in Peoria, Illinois. The Peoria Superfest is a combined ARRL sanctioned hamfest, computer show and flea market that began back in 1958. More abut this years 50th anniversary event is on-line at www.peoriasuperfest.com. (WA9VRH)

**

SPECIAL EVENT: COMMEMORATING KATRINA AND RITA

The SouthEast Louisiana Amateur Radio Club will conduct a special event station to commemorate the third anniversaries of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.. The operation will take place on Saturday , September 13th from 1400 to 2000 UTC with stations on 7.250. and 14.250 Mhz. QSL to Scott Hernandez, K5R 957 Nancy St. Mandeville, Louisiana 70448. (SELARC)

**

SPECIAL EVENTS: POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY

California's Anaheim Police Amateur Radio Club will operate special event station K6P from September 18th to the 21st. This, in remembrance of POW-MIA Recognition Day

POW and MIA are acronyms for "Prisoner of War" and "Missing in Action" and refer to members of the military who have served the nation and have served our nation. Operation will be on SSB on 40 throuh 15 meters along with PSK-31 and RTTY on their appropriate frequencies.

QSL with a self addressed stamoed envelope to KM6HB: Mark McMullen, P.O.Box 27271, Santa Ana, California, 92799 (Southgate)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: WILMINGTON NC GOES ALL DIGITAL TV

Residents of Wilmington, North Carolina became the first in the nation to experience the transition to digital television. This, as the city's full service television stations shut off their analog transmitters and went all digital all the time. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, reports:

--

The change took place at noon, Eastern Standard time on Monday, September the 8th. That's when FCC Chairman Kevin Martin flanked by local broadcasters flipped a symbolic eight-foot high switch during a ceremony in downtown Wilmington as a way to signify the new era of TV was about to begin.

Wilmington broadcasters had volunteered to make the switch to digital operation five months ahead of the February 17th 2009 deadline Congress set for the rest of the nation. This, as a way to test the new ATSC digital system before it goes national. The test is intended to give the FCC as well as broadcasters and consumers in other markets a better idea of how to ensure the 2009 switch to digital goes smoothly.

In general it did go pretty well. FCC officials on scene did say they received several hundred calls from local residents, some of whom were not aware that the switch had taken place even though it had been widely advertised for months. Others were simply having trouble hooking up digital television converters to their analog sets.

FCC staff members planned to remain in the area for several days. This, to help resolve any further problems residents might have with setting up converter boxes and finding the right antennas.

Wilmington, North Carolina is the 135th largest television market in the United States, with about 180,000 television households across five counties. However, only about 7 percent of those households rely on over the air analog broadcasts, compared with a national average of about 13 percent. This made it the ideal test bed for a full scale trial of the new all A-T-S-C all-digital broadcast television system.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM in Reno.

--

As previously reported, Congress mandated the switch to digital to free up spectrum for new wireless services. Off-air viewers will need to get a converter box or upgrade to a digital TV set. Cable and satellite TV subscribers should not notice a difference as any digital conversion is handled by the delivery provider. (Adapted from various published reports)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AO-16 ON FOR NOW IN BENT PIPE MODE

The temperature on board the AMSAT Oscar 16 ham satellite has come up enough so that the watchdog timing problem has gone away. On September 1st, Amsat North America Vice President for Operations, Drew Glassbrenner, KO4MA, turned the satellite on. He then and commanded it into bent pipe mode. As a result, AO-16 now operates as a cross mode, cross band voice repeater, with an uplink on 145.920 FM. The downlink is reduced carrier AM, similar to double sideband, on 437.026. Most stations find receiving the downlink on USB works best.

Work is continuing to predict how long this latest period of operation may last, but initial estimates are around 2-3 months total. There may not be another opportunity to use AO-16 after this one. This is because the satellite will generally head towards longer eclipses and lower temperatures for several years. (ANS)

**

WORLDBEAT - EUROPE: NI-CAD BATTERIES TO BE BANNED IN EUROPE

Ni-Cad batteries will soon be a thing of the past in Europe. On September 26th a new Europen Union directive comes into force preventing the importation of Ni-Cad and certain other batteries into Europe.

In April of 2004 the European parliament voted to ban Nickel-Cadmium batteries based on them being an ecological hazard. At that time the parliament also adopted restrictions on the use of lead in batteries. It says the lead content can be fully replaced by environmentally preferable Alkaline Manganese batteries.

And what about the impact of this ban on ham radio gear? According to information from Icom U-K, Ni-Cd batteries for their equipment will only be available until its stocks are exhausted. Icom says that alternative types of battery for current equipment have been available for some time, so there should be no problem in finding an substitute.

But Icom U-K says that for older equipment where Ni-Cd was the only type of battery available, replacements may not be available. (Southgate, European Public Health Alliance)

**

CONTEST CALANDER: CQ WW DX CONTESTS IN OCTOBER

Turning to news from the world of radio sporting, word that the 2008 CQ World Wide DX Contests take place the last two weekends next month.. The phone portion of the contest is October 25th to the 26th while the C-W event is October 29th to the 30th. Both contests run from 0000 U-T-C on Saturday to 2400 U-T-C on Sunday. More information and complete contest rules can be found beginning on page 94 of the September issue of CQ Magazine or on the web at www.cq-amateur-radio.com. (DXNL)

**

CONTEST CALANDER: 2007 SEPT VHF CONTEST CERTIFICATES MAILED OUT

Also, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X Certificates for the 2007 September VHF QSO Party have been mailed out. Certificate winners should receive them just in time to use as motivation to do well in the 2008 running of the same event. (VHF Reflector)

**

DX

In DX, word that the DX Magazine's 2008 Most Wanted Survey is now up and ready to collect data on the publications website. The publishers are encouraging those interested to submit their needed countries lists to because this is the primary survey that DXpedition planners use to decide where to go. To cast your votes go to www.dxpub.com and click on 2008 survey. The results will be published in the January/February 2009 issue of The DX Magazine.

On the air, listen out for EA7ATX and EA7AY operating as HK1AT from Columbia for the next several weeks. An activation of San Bernardo Island is planned for September 14th through 19th. QSL direct only via EA7ATX.

The SV-DX-Group will be active from Limnos Island in Northern Aaegaein through mid-September as SY8L. Listen out for them on 160 through 8 meters using all modes. QSL via SV2DGH.

A team of 8 Korean operators will be active from Tok Island in the Sea of Japan between September 13th to the 18th. They will be using the special call D9D. QSL as directed on the air,

Lastly, DL7UFN and DL7VEE will operate from Paraguay portable Zed-P-6 through the 14th of January 2009. The pair will hit the airwaves in the capital Asuncion on 160 through 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK at the station facilities of ZP5AZL. QSLs via their home calls, either direct or via the bureau.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE 2008 WORLD ARDF CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

And finally this week, the 2008 summer Olympics are over and so is this year's world championships of radio direction finding games. And in the latter team USA brought home a medal. Newsline's Joe Moell K0OV has the details:

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Members of ARDF Team USA are returning from the 14th World Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding, held in a resort community near Seoul, Korea. Ten competitors from 7 states, plus two officials and a visitor, traveled to Korea to take on about 330 competitors from two dozen other countries. As always, the eastern European and former Soviet bloc countries took most of the awards, but this year, for the first time, a North American team member medaled in one of the five age divisions for males. It was George Neal KF6YKN, who won a bronze medal in the category for men ages 50-59 during the two meter competition on September 4. He found all four of his required transmitters in 1:23:42, about five minutes longer than the gold medal winner took. The route he chose was a little over six kilometers long.

USA has been represented at the biennial ARDF World Championships since 1998 and our performance continues to improve, thanks to an increasing number of training sessions around the country. This is the second consecutive World Championships in which the USA has brought home a medal. At the World Championships in the forests of Bulgaria in 2006, Nadia Scharlau of North Carolina won bronze in the 80-meter contest.

As the team members return home, more photos and results are becoming available. See the latest at the "Homing In" Web site, www.homingin.com, where you will also learn how you and your family can begin enjoying the fun of on-foot hidden transmitter hunting. That's homingin, as one word, homingin.com.

From southern California, where we will welcome the team members back with a special ARDF event for beginners and experts on September 20, this is Joe Moell, K-zero-O-V for Amateur Radio Newsline.

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Our congratulations to all who took part in this years Amateur Radio Direction Finding world championship games. (K0OV)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the

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also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box
660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jeff Clark,
K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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901. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 36 (Friday, September 12, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-12 23:46:52 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080912233832.F34FF30F8A@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2472
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 36
September 12, 2008
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IN THIS EDITION:

* + Hurricane Ike Eyeing Galveston Island
* + Tropical Storm Hanna Made Presence Known on Eastern Seaboard
* + ARRL Presents New Membership Benefit
* + 2008 Field Day Logs Received, Posted Online
* + IEEE Section to Honor First Voice Transmission
* + ARRL, TAPR Prepare for Digital Communications Conference
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ ITU Leadership Visits Asian Amateur Radio Exhibit
+ VHF Society to Hold Conference Next Month

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

ATTENTION ALL AMATEURS: With Hurricane Ike fast approaching landfall in
the Gulf Coast area, Net operations in the upper portions of 80, 40 and
20 meters have been activated. The ARRL asks Amateur Radio operators to
be considerate of these Nets -- if you are asked to change frequencies
because you're on a Net for Hurricane Ike operations, please cooperate.

==========================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========================================================

==> HURRICANE IKE EYEING GALVESTON ISLAND

Hurricane Ike -- currently a Category 2 hurricane, but expected to reach
Category 3 status sometime today -- is poised to make landfall near
Galveston Island around 3 AM early Saturday, if it keeps on its current
track and speed. Hams in Texas and Louisiana have had a bit of a
breather since Hurricane Gustav
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/09/03/10311/?nc=1> came through
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two weeks ago. ARRL Section leadership in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Arkansas reported in ongoing conference calls with ARRL Headquarters that they are ready for Ike.

* South Texas

According to ARRL South Texas Section Emergency Coordinator Mike Schwartz, KG5TL, the following counties in South Texas have received mandatory evacuation orders: San Patricio, Aransas, Matagorda, Brazoria, Galveston, Chambers, Jefferson, Hardin and Orange. Calhoun, Victoria and Jackson have been issued voluntary evacuation orders, while certain ZIP codes in Harris County -- home of Houston, the country's fourth largest city -- received mandatory evacuation orders. Schwartz said that Emergency Management Officials in New Braunfels have requested Amateur Radio communications support.

"People are heading out of town, up Interstate 45, out of Houston, and Interstate 290, to San Antonio," Schwartz said. Austin, the state capital, is in the South Texas Section, and Schwartz said that that city will serve as the State's marshalling center. Schwartz also reported that ARES and RACES groups have been working in tandem "very well" with each other.

In September 1900, Galveston experienced the worst hurricane (a Category 4 storm in today's measurements) -- some say the worst natural disaster -- in US history; more than 8000 people perished in that storm <http://www.1900storm.com/>.

* North Texas

In ARRL's North Texas Section, Section Emergency Coordinator Bill Swan, K5MWC, said approximately 15 American Red Cross shelters are already open. "ARES members will be providing communications at these locations," he said. "Many coastal residents escaping from Ike are expected to head up to the North Texas Section."

According to Swan, Emergency Management Agencies in the Section will move up to Condition 3 -- an alert status -- as soon as the storm comes through. "Right now, there are agreements in place throughout the area for county-to-county aid."

Amateur Radio operators are providing support to FEMA Region VI during Hurricane Ike, Swan said, "through the establishment of a coordination communications link that state agencies can request FEMA support, as well as to respond to requests from FEMA for information that agencies can use in their response to those impacted by Hurricane Ike." FEMA Region VI covers the states of Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Louisiana. "FEMA has been very pleased with the activity and support of Amateur Radio here in the North Texas Section," Swan said.

Swan said that the coordination link "will provide the basis for future interfaces with FEMA as the amateur community in Region VI seeks ways to provide support as a part of the National Response Framework,

specifically to the Emergency Support Function #2 of that Framework that deals with communications. It will also serve to identify those areas where Amateur Radio can provide a service to FEMA. The role of Amateur Radio is still evolving, but it is clear that the amateur community can assist in providing interoperability between agencies at the local, state and national level." A 2 meter link has been opened to FEMA Regional Headquarters in Denton, just north of Dallas.

* West Texas

ARRL West Texas Section Manager John Dyer, AE5B, said that while his Section isn't expected to feel the storm as his counterparts in the other two Sections will, hams in West Texas are ready for whatever is needed. He said that three shelters for those with special medical needs are being set up in the West Texas Section in Lubbock, El Paso and Amarillo, as well as Oklahoma. "The State is considering using the airport in Midland as a way to get in and out of the area. With the storm coming in, they don't think that the airports in Dallas [NTX] or Houston [STX] will be very usable."

Section Emergency Coordinator for the ARRL West Texas Section J. T. Caldwell, WA5ZFH, reported that portions of Presidio County are more than 11 feet above flood stage after persistant rains over the last few days. Presidio County sits on the banks of the Rio Grande, the natural border that separates Texas from Mexico. "Reservoirs in Mexico are 106 percent full," Caldwell said, "and authorities there are dumping water from their reservoirs that feed into the Rio Grande, and we are looking at that to cause some major flooding."

Public Information Officer Steven Polunsky, KE5GDR, reported that the water being released into the Rio Grande is causing major problems. "We do not know at this point how long the release [from the reservoirs to the Rio Grande] will continue," he said. "It is creating a hazardous situation affecting Presidio and Brewster Counties. Redford, a town in Presidio County, has been isolated for three days. Food is being airdropped. The road to Lajitas is under five feet of water."

Lubbock, Caldwell said, is being "inundated with remnants of Tropical Depression Lowell in the Pacific," and there is "some concern" how much rain the area will receive when the storms meet up with each other. "The ground here is completely saturated. We're in trouble if we get rains from Hurricane Ike. It could turn into a severe flooding event, since the water has virtually no place to go," he said.

* Louisiana

In Louisiana, Section Manager Gary Stratton, K5GLS, said that Cameron Parish is "completely underwater," and that mandatory evacuation orders have been issued for Cameron, Calcasieu, Lafayette, Iberia, Lafourche, Jefferson and St Bernard Parishes; Beauregard, Allen, St Martin, Iberville, St Mary, Livingston, Terrebonne and Plaquemines Parishes have receive voluntary evacuation orders.

"Eighteen shelters, including a special needs shelter in Shreveport, have been opened," Stratton reported. "ARES is providing communications support in each of these shelters."

* Arkansas

Arkansas Section Manager Dave Norris, K5UZ, said his main concern is flooding. "The ground here is over saturated from Hurricane Gustav," he said. "In tracking the storm, we're on the 'bad side' of it. Tornados are a big concern, so SKYWARN is in a 'wait and see' mode and doing what we can to get everything prepared."

Amateurs in the Arkansas Section are on standby, waiting to see if their assistance is needed in the Louisiana and South Texas Sections, Norris said.

* Mississippi

Mississippi Section Manager Malcolm Keown, W5XX, reported that there is one shelter open on the coast, but there has not been a request for Amateur Radio support for that shelter. "Hancock County - the county closest to Louisiana on the coast - has been issued mandatory evacuation orders, and the National Guard has been deployed to assist with anything needed down there," Keown said. "Highway 90, which runs parallel to the coast, has been closed."

* Oklahoma

Oklahoma Section manager John Thomason, WB5SYT, said he has been in contact with that state's Emergency Operations Center. "We have two concerns right now in Oklahoma," he said, "Flooding and preparations to host evacuees fleeing Ike. We're in a state of readiness." Saying that the governor has declared a state of emergency, Thomason said that Oklahoma Section leadership is in contact with the Salvation Army and American Red Cross.

* Hurricane Ike's Progress

At 10 AM (CDT) Friday, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) reported that Ike was heading toward the west-northwest near 12 MPH, with its center about 295 miles east of Corpus Christi, Texas and about 195 miles southeast of Galveston, Texas. A turn toward the northwest is expected later today, with a turn toward the north expected on Saturday. Forecasters at the NHC said that Ike's center will be very near the upper Texas coast by late Friday or early Saturday. Because Ike is a very large tropical cyclone, weather will begin to deteriorate along the coastline soon.

Isolated tornadoes are possible on Friday over portions of Southern Louisiana and extreme Southern Mississippi, the National Weather Service said. Isolated tornadoes are possible Friday night over portions of Southwestern Louisiana and Southeastern Texas.

If Ike keeps on its current track, forecasters are calling for the storm to make landfall along the Central Texas coast early Saturday morning as

a major hurricane. A hurricane warning is in effect from Morgan City, Louisiana, to Baffin Bay, Texas. A tropical storm warning remains in effect south of Baffin Bay to Port Mansfield, Texas. A tropical storm warning is also in effect from east of Morgan City to the Mississippi-Alabama border, including the city of New Orleans and Lake Pontchartrain.

==> TROPICAL STORM HANNA MADE PRESENCE ON KNOWN EASTERN SEABOARD

Tropical Storm Hanna made its way up the East Coast of the United States, making landfall on the North/South Carolina border at 3:15 AM (EDT) Saturday, September 6. The storm produced tropical storm-force winds gusts, with some locations experiencing sustained tropical storm-force winds. Amateur Radio operators in the Carolinas and northward were prepared for the storm.

According to ARRL North Carolina Section Manager Tim Slay, N4IB, hams in his state were ready for Hanna, with personnel in place at the Amateur Radio Station at the State Emergency Operations Center. Slay said plans called for the hams to start operating from there Friday evening, going until about mid-day on Saturday when the EOC was secured at 12:30 PM.

The Tarheel Emergency Net, North Carolina's HF ARES Net that meets on 3.923 MHz, was on stand-by status Friday night, going active at 6 AM Saturday. North Carolina Section Emergency Coordinator Bernard Nobles, WA4MOK, said the Net remained active "until Emergency Management [officials] release Amateur Radio. The Tarheel Net received reports from across the state, mostly about the amounts of rainfall, which are anywhere from 1 to 5 inches."

Nobles said that the Amateur Radio station at the North Carolina Eastern Branch Emergency Operations Center in Kinston began operations at 6 AM Saturday. Later that morning, the EOC lost commercial power and the amateur station went on battery power until power was restored, about an hour later. Operations at the Eastern Branch were secured around noon.

According to Nobles, Hanna has not been as bad as expected, but there were several thousand people without power in North Carolina's coastal region. "We have been incredibly fortunate," North Carolina Emergency Management spokeswoman Jill Lucas said. "We have had no significant damage. We have had some trees down and local flooding, but nothing significant."

ARRL South Carolina Section Emergency Coordinator Charlie Miller, AE4UX, reported that on Friday evening, the South Carolina Emergency Management Division had the State Emergency Operations Center at Operations Condition 1 (OPCON 1) -- the highest level of alert -- with the SEOC manned 24 hours a day. "All normal communications modes are functioning," he said. At 9:30 AM on Saturday, the SEOC closed and all county EOCs returned to normal operations. "During Hanna, no communications outages -- beyond normal day-to-day outages -- were reported," he said.

On Saturday, "Port buoys are being inspected by the Coast Guard, and all three South Carolina ports are anticipated to be opened this morning," Miller said. "During Hanna, 22 Red Cross shelters received 650 people; eight people sought shelter in a shelter designated for 'special medical needs.'"

Miller said that there were no reports of injuries or "significant damage" in South Carolina.

ARRL Sections up the coast to Maine were notified on Friday on reporting protocols if ARES was activated in response to Hanna. From Friday evening throughout Saturday, status reports were received from the Eastern Massachusetts, Eastern New York, New York-Long Island, Northern New Jersey, Southern New Jersey and Virginia Sections.

==> ARRL PRESENTS NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

With just a mouse click or two, ARRL members can now access the online QST magazine archive <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qqnsearch.html>. This new benefit -- a service of the ARRL Technical Information Service (TIS) <http://www.arrl.org/tis/> -- provides PDF copies of all QST articles from December 1915 through December 2004, enabling members to view and print their favorite article, project and more. For many years, the TIS has provided members with assistance researching ARRL periodicals and publications, as well as providing members and non-members with article reprints for a small fee. Access to the new online digital QST archive is free for ARRL members, and is for their personal use only -- material in the archive may not be freely distributed or copied.

"Having access to every issue of QST through 2004 is absolutely incredible!" said ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI. "The best of the best of QST from every era is now at the fingertips of every ARRL member with a keyboard and an Internet connection. Members can research articles on any subject that interests them, or just browse the past issues. This will be a popular membership benefit that will be of special value to new and long-time hams alike. This valuable content will help radio amateurs who use QST as a technical resource -- for projects, equipment 'hints and kinks' -- and for other research contributing to the advancement of the radio art. We know many hams will simply enjoy perusing these pages of history, too."

The ARRL Periodicals Archive and Search lists every article for QST from 1915 to the present, QEX from 1981 to the present, Ham Radio from 1968 to 1990 and NCJ from 1973 to the present (please note that beginning in 1998, each issue of QEX covers two months). Only ARRL members will be able to download and print copies of the QST articles.

QST magazine is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. An interest in Amateur Radio is the only essential qualification of membership. ARRL membership is $39 per year in the US. For a complete list of membership benefits and dues, please visit the ARRL Membership Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> 2008 FIELD DAY LOGS RECEIVED, POSTED ONLINE

All 2008 Field Day logs that have been received have been posted to the Claimed Scores page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/claimed> on the ARRL Web site. They reflect all applications sent from the b4h.net Web applet <http://b4h.net/cabforms/>, as well as those received via the US Postal Service and usable electronic submissions sent via regular e-mail (non-Web applet submissions).

According to Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, "In some cases we did not receive sufficient information, so we can't post them at this time. A follow-up e-mail was sent to those concerned that included a blank summary sheet and a request to please complete the form and resubmit. In cases where we have not heard back from those requests, the entries are currently not on the list and can't be included until complete information is received back by the ARRL."

Those with missing entries, who have questions or who find errors in their listing should contact Henderson via e-mail <n1nd@arrl.org> or by phone at 860-594-0236 after Tuesday, September 16. When you call, please have your receipt number available -- if sent via the b4h.net Web applet -- or other means to verify the submission was made before the July 29 deadline.

==> IEEE SECTION TO HONOR FIRST VOICE TRANSMISSION

On Saturday, September 13, the Boston Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) <http://www.ieee.org/> will commemorate the first wireless radio broadcast in 1906 by Reginald A. Fessenden at Brant Rock, Massachusetts. IEEE members will award an IEEE Milestone in Electrical Engineering and Computing in recognition of this landmark innovation <http://www.ieee.org/web/aboutus/history_center/milestones_intro.html>.

IEEE President Lewis Terman will be on hand to award the IEEE Milestone Plaque during a one-day program honoring early radio innovations and commemorating the accomplishments at Brant Rock. The award ceremony will take place in Marshfield, close to where the original radio tower once stood. After welcoming remarks, there will be a presentation by radio historian Jack Belrose, VE2CV; Belrose, recipient of the Radio Club of America's Armstrong Medal for his contribution to the radio art and science, is with the Radio Sciences Communications Research Centre in Ottawa, Canada.

According to organizers, more than 100 people representing the radio broadcasting industry, local officials, historic communities, educators, students and Amateur Radio associations are expected to attend; a portion of the program will address the role of Amateur Radio enthusiasts in developing this great industry. While at the event, students between the ages of 10-12 will be able to build crystal sets during the afternoon session; they will be able to take these sets home with them.

Attendance is free and open to the public. More information is available on the IEEE's Boston Section Web site <http://fessendenmilestone.quartomese.com/> or by calling the IEEE Boston headquarters at 781-245-5405.

==> ARRL, TAPR PREPARE FOR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE

Aficionados of digital communications are gearing up for the 27th annual ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC) September 26-28 in Chicago, Illinois <http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>. The ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference is an international forum for radio amateurs to meet, publish their work and present new ideas and techniques. Presenters and attendees will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental results, and practical applications. The DCC is for all levels of technical experience -- not just for the expert. Not only is the conference technically stimulating, it is a weekend of fun for all who have more than a casual interest in any aspect of amateur digital electronics and communications; introductory sessions are scheduled throughout the conference to introduce new technical topics for both beginners and experts.

Topics at the DCC include, but are not limited to: Software defined radio (SDR); digital voice (D-STAR, P25, WinDRM, FDMDV, G4GUO); digital satellite communications; Global Position System (GPS); precision timing; Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS); short messaging (a mode of APRS); Digital Signal Processing (DSP); HF digital modes; Internet interoperability with Amateur Radio networks; spread spectrum; IEEE 802.11 and other Part 15 license-exempt systems adaptable for Amateur Radio; using TCP/IP networking over Amateur Radio; mesh and peer-to-peer wireless networking; emergency and Homeland Defense backup digital communications; using Linux in Amateur Radio; updates on AX.25, and other wireless networking protocols.

QEX Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, will represent the ARRL at the Conference. He will also be giving a talk "Writing for Publication -- It's Not Rocket Science (Even if You Are Writing About Rocket Science!)." Retired ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, will also represent the League. Rinaldo will speak on "SDR Outlook."

The DCC provides a separate (and lockable) room for participants to bring and show off their latest projects. Tables and power will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring their own equipment and display for all to see, learn, and ask questions about, as well as a small sign and/or flyer naming and describing their project.

D-STAR digital voice and data will be the focus of the DCC Friday evening session. Pioneers and leaders in D-STAR digital voice and data technology will be presenting the technical innovations in D-STAR and how it is being used worldwide. In addition to the Friday evening session, ICOM will be at the DCC demonstrating D-STAR radios in the demonstration room, and TAPR's 70 cm and 23 cm D-STAR digital voice and data repeaters (KT7APR) with Internet gateway will be on the air.

WINMOR, an HF digital protocol designed for use with the Winlink 2000 network, is set to be unveiled at the DCC. According to developer Rick Muething, KN6KB, WINMOR will effectively eliminate the need for external PACTOR hardware. "This new protocol is implemented through a Windows application that uses a computer sound card for all the analog-to-digital conversion. It provides error-free ARQ transfers within 200, 500 or 2000 Hz bandwidths," Muething said. In terms of throughput, Muething said that the 200-Hz WINMOR mode appears to equal the performance of PACTOR I. In WINMOR's 2000 Hz mode, its performance rivals PACTOR III. "WINMOR is a work in progress," Muething said. "We won't be pulling the wraps off a finished application at the conference. We're close, though. I'd like to see on-air testing in 3 to 6 months."

Each year, the DCC hosts an in-depth 4 hour seminar on Sunday. Past seminars have included such topics as Software Defined Radios, Spread Spectrum Design and Theory, RD Design and Deployment, PICmicro MCU Design and Development, Packet Radio Networks with Millions or Billions of Stations and others. Seminars are given by experts in their field -- this year is no different. Phil Harman, VK6APH, will present "Software Radio Through the Looking-Glass."

Harman, licensed for more than 40 years, has worked on leading-edge RF techniques related to receivers and transmitters. His current passion is the development of fully digital HF radios. Harman co-writes the Software Defined Radio column in the "RSGB Radio Communications" journal and also co-authored the SDR chapter in the latest "RSGB Handbook." He will guide participants through the basics of SDRs right up to the very latest techniques that digitize signals directly at the antenna socket. Using diagrams and a minimum of math, Harman will cover such subjects as front end design, mixers, I and Q signals, digital up and down conversion, AGC techniques, noise blanking and high efficiency power amplifiers. The presentation will be highly interactive, so be sure to bring along that question that has been puzzling you for so long! Conference presentations, meetings, and seminars will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel Elk Grove Village, Illinois. It is highly recommended that participants book rooms prior to arriving. A block of rooms at the special DCC room rate of $89.00 single/double is available; this rate is good until the block is all sold out. The hotel provides a complimentary shuttle to and from O'Hare Airport.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Close bosom-friend of the maturing Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: A new sunspot -- number 1001 -- emerged on Thursday, September 11. It is actually a single group with two small magnetic disturbances; we hope it is not another like the last sunspot, a weak one that barely emerged on August 21-22. That spot was so small that some observatories didn't count it, but it was a Solar Cycle 24 spot. August was much ballyhooed as the first time since 1913 that there was a month or more between the most recent sunspot appearances. Actually, it was the first time that a whole calendar month went by with no spots. Of course, this doesn't really mean anything more than any other 30 day period with no

spots because the calendar is based on arbitrary beginnings and endings. Sunspot numbers for September 4-10 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 65.9, 65.2, 65.8, 66.6, 67.1, 67.1 and 67.2 with a mean of 66.4. Estimated planetary A indices were 33, 7, 7, 8, 8, 6 and 4 with a mean of 10.4. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 17, 7, 7, 7, 9, 4 and 2 with a mean of 7.6. The US Air Force predicts planetary A index for September 12-17 at 5, 8, 20, 12 and 8. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions September 12, unsettled September 13, unsettled to active September 14, unsettled September 15, quiet September 16, quiet to unsettled September 17 and quiet September 18. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' "To Autumn" <http://www.bartleby.com/126/47.html>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, check out the ARRL September VHF QSO Party on September 13-15. The NCCC Sprint is September 12 and the PODXS 070 Club 80 Meter Autumn Sprint is September 12-13. The FISTS Get Your Feet Wet Weekend is September 12-14. The Swiss HTC QRP Sprint is September 13. The WAE DX Contest (SSB) and the Arkansas QSO Party are both September 13-14. The North American Sprint (SSB), the SKCC Weekend Sprintathon and the ARCI End of Summer Digital Sprint are September 14. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is September 18. Next weekend is the ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest and the ARRL International EME Competition on September 20-21. YLRL Howdy Days are September 18-20. The NCCC Sprint is September 19 and the Feld Hell Sprint is September 20. Be on the lookout for these contests on September 20-21: The Colorado QSO Party, the SARL VHF/UHF Contest, the Scandinavian Activity Contest (CW), the CIS DX Contest, the South Carolina QSO Party, the Washington State Salmon Run and the QCWA Fall QSO Party. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest and the 144 MHz Fall Sprint are both on September 22. The SKCC Sprint is September 24 and the BCC QSO Party is September 25. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, September 21, 2008 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, October 3, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001); Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006); Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009); Technician License Course (EC-010); Analog Electronics (EC-012), and Digital Electronics (EC-013).

Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ITU Leadership Visits Asian Amateur Radio Exhibit: For four days earlier this month, members of Asia's information and communications technology (ICT) sector convened at ITU Telecom Asia <http://www.itu.int/ASIA2008/>, focusing on core issues relating to ICT expansion across the region. The event featured the latest technologies and innovations -- including Amateur Radio -- as well as an extensive forum that explored key technologies, policies and applications. The IARU <http://www.iaru.org/>, in an effort to promote the benefits of the Amateur Radio Service throughout the region, participated in the event. The IARU booth was organized by IARU Region 3 <http://www.iaru-r3.org/> with assistance from the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (RAST) <http://www.qsl.net/rast/>, the IARU Member-Society in that country. IARU Region 3 Director Gopal Madhavan, VU2GMN, said that while at ITU Telecom Asia, ITU Secretary General Dr Hamadoun Toure, HB9EHT, and Dr Eun-Ju Kim, Head of the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, visited the IARU booth, staying and talking with hams and visitors for more than half an hour.

* VHF Society to Hold Conference Next Month: The Pacific Northwest VHF Society (PNWVHFS) <http://www.pnwvhfs.org/> will host their 15th annual conference <http://www.pnwvhfs.org/administration/conference.htm> in Moses Lake, Washington, on October 3-5. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, will travel to the conference to represent the League. An avid 6 and 2 meter operator, he will give a general update on Contest Branch issues that affect VHF+ operators, speak about the ARRL's new Fred Fish Memorial Award <http://www.arrl.org/awards/ffma/> and check QSLs for VUCC <http://www.arrl.org/awards/vucc/> and other ARRL awards. Joe Taylor, K1JT -- Nobel Laureate and developer of WSJT <http://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/>, software for VHF meteor scatter communications -- will be the keynote speaker. Along with social events throughout the conference, a formal program of speakers, presentations, technical programs and round-table discussions will take place Saturday morning and afternoon. Following a brief society annual meeting that afternoon, there will be an informal swap meet in the parking lot. Society members and non-members are encouraged to attend the conference. For more information, please visit the PNWVHFS

conference Web site. -- PNWVHFS Secretary Steve Pack, WB7VAS

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the
American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur
Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax
860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general
news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site
<http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news
updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers
informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News
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"Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify
membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change
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automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
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The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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902. IC-718

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-13 21:16:13 UTC
From: kadlam262@gmail.com
Message-ID: <741d07fb-efcf-4cf8-a8bd-474689de6010@v16g2000prc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2473

Can someone advise on problems with an Icom ic-718?
Suddenly, I can no long xmit on full power. I can get it put out maybe
40W according to the built-in meter and according to my tuner. Also,
when tuning the tuner in xmit mode, there is a hum that gets loud or
soft depending on the tunning - coming from the xmitter. Is it
possible that one of the two 2SC2904's in the PA unit has blown?
Help / advice is appreciated.

903. Tristao towers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-14 06:12:42 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <gaia00041a@news1.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2474

Funny how time slips by when you're not paying attention.

I've always wanted a tower. I was impressed by the one at the club station that I used to hang out and bother the operators before I was licensed.

At long last, 41 years after I got my novice license, I have a tower.

Admittedly, it's still laying on it's side in the driveway having laid in a friend's back yard for 11 years. ;-) But... I _have_ my tower now.

A simple affair, not self supporting, it needs to bolted to the side of the house and the top needs guying when all the way up. And sure, it's only 38' tall. But I _have_ my tower now.

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

904. Re: IC-718

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-14 08:32:00 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.09.14.05.57.06.639747@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2475

On Sat, 13 Sep 2008 17:16:13 -0400, kadlam262 wrote:

> Can someone advise on problems with an Icom ic-718?
> Suddenly, I can no long xmit on full power. I can get it put out maybe
> 40W according to the built-in meter and according to my tuner. Also,
> when tuning the tuner in xmit mode, there is a hum that gets loud or
> soft depending on the tunning - coming from the xmitter. Is it
> possible that one of the two 2SC2904's in the PA unit has blown?
> Help / advice is appreciated.

Doesn't sound like a bad PA transistor from here.

Two guesses:

- Something has happened to your antenna system. The ground has opened,
or the shield of the coax has opened, or a connection on the antenna
itself has opened. Causing high RF levels in the shack, which are feedin
g
back into the radio.

- Something is wrong with your power supply. It's no longer able to
deliver rated voltage at the current necessary to power the IC718 at full
output. A failed pass transistor (or driver transistor) can cause this.
Actually, so can a loose connection in the cable connecting the supply to
the radio.

Divide and conquer. Get your hands on a dummy load & a voltmeter.

Can you transmit at full power into the dummy load? If so, there's
something wrong with your antenna. (or external tuner, or coax, or groun
d)

If you *can't* transmit at full power into the dummy load, leave it
connected and measure the power supply voltage as you transmit. It shoul
d
stay above 12.5 volts. If it doesn't, there's something wrong with the
supply.

If you can't transmit full power into the dummy load but the supply
voltage is staying above 12.5 then you probably do have a problem with th
e
IC718 itself.

Good luck.

905. Re: Tristao towers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-14 21:29:27 UTC
From: Fred Anonymous <anon@anon.org>
Message-ID: <gajvfledi1$8302bc10@news.demon.co.uk>
Source record: 2476

"Jeffrey D Angus" <jangus@socal.rr.com> wrote in message
news:gaia00041a@news1.newsguy.com...
> Funny how time slips by when you're not paying attention.
>
> I've always wanted a tower. I was impressed by the one at the
> club station that I used to hang out and bother the operators
> before I was licensed.
>
> At long last, 41 years after I got my novice license, I have
> a tower.
>
> Admittedly, it's still laying on it's side in the driveway
> having laid in a friend's back yard for 11 years. ;-) But...
> I _have_ my tower now.
>
> A simple affair, not self supporting, it needs to bolted to
> the side of the house and the top needs guying when all the
> way up. And sure, it's only 38' tall. But I _have_ my tower
> now.
>
>
> Jeff-1.0
> wa6fwi
>

Hi Jeff.

Congratulations I know the feeling! Hope you get the tower into use without
too much of a delay.

73, Ian G4EAN.

906. Re: New to Ham Radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-15 04:24:30 UTC
From: Larry <noone@home.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9B0FD234FF34Fnoonehomecom@208.49.80.253>
Source record: 2477

KJ4DIY <hwitzenburger@cfl.rr.com> wrote in news:883a588d-eae3-4b81-8672-aadd3380ee5a@26g2000hsk.googlegroups.com:

> Hi from KJ4DIY
>

Hi, Howard and Welcome to Ham Radio!

I got my novice in 1957 when I was 11 thanks to the local hams in our little town in upstate NY. It was a defensive move on their parts because us boys used to hang out in their hamshacks all the time working DX on their radios and they figured the ONLY way to get rid of us and get control of their equipment back was to get us our licenses and help us build novice stations of our own so they could have some PEACE! It worked pretty well...

It's been a helluva ride.

Please do not judge any of us from what you see in some of these newsgroups or may hear on some 75 meter frequencies. We're NOT a bunch of nasty old men who hate everyone that hasn't been on the air since dirt was new...(c;

My record youngest ham failed his first test when he was 7 because he ran out of paper printing those big letters on the Novice Morse test. We gave him plenty of paper the next time around and he got his Novice at 7, Tech at 8 and General at 9, at which point he moved away. That was a long time before we could search on the internet to find him, again.

I think you waited way too long to make the jump.

73 de Larry W4CharlestonSouthCarolina
waiting for Hurricane Ike to come blow the place away, again....

.

907. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-15 06:00:05 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1221458402@panix.com>
Source record: 2478
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

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Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2008/07/20 17:39:34
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
```

promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. Crossposts of regular discussion articles between rec.radio.amateur.moderated and other discussion newsgroups are not permitted.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/ announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers, and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header, containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the moderators if one is not already provided.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

Mentions of small amounts of free items for giveaway will be permitted |
on an occasional basis from casual, non-commercial owners, and at the |
discretion of the moderators. The items should be free except for |
reasonable direct costs such as shipping, must be directly |
amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable condition, and be |
practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is intended as a |
common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, provided that it |
doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion newsgroup with |
classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in salvage |
condition. |

---

2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with
the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines
for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the
newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be
automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters
per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these
Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital
signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned
from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common
text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information
about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by
their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns, are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or

members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should

not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

908. Re: Tristao towers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-15 12:01:11 UTC
From: Edward Feustel <efeustel@hughes.net>
Message-ID: <23jsc4l4hqnrior1ohrdnkes38vpptjfur@4ax.com>
Source record: 2479

On Sun, 14 Sep 2008 02:12:42 EDT, Jeffrey D Angus
<jangus@socal.rr.com> wrote:

>Funny how time slips by when you're not paying attention.
>
>I've always wanted a tower. I was impressed by the one at the
>club station that I used to hang out and bother the operators
>before I was licensed.
>
>At long last, 41 years after I got my novice license, I have
>a tower.
>
>Admittedly, it's still laying on it's side in the driveway
>having laid in a friend's back yard for 11 years. ;-) But...
>I _have_ my tower now.
>
>A simple affair, not self supporting, it needs to bolted to
>the side of the house and the top needs guying when all the
>way up. And sure, it's only 38' tall. But I _have_ my tower
>now.
>
>
>Jeff-1.0
>wa6fwi
Jeff-1.0,
You may want to check carefully for corrosion and if you find any
get the surface scraped down and get it hot dipped galvanized.
73,
Ed, N5EI

909. Re: Tristao towers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-15 23:38:18 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <b7stc49s9j8rn7m1fhpfejo8sme32eq8ia@4ax.com>
Source record: 2480

On Mon, 15 Sep 2008 08:01:11 EDT, Edward Feustel <efeustel@hughes.net>
wrote:

>On Sun, 14 Sep 2008 02:12:42 EDT, Jeffrey D Angus
><jangus@socal.rr.com> wrote:
>
>>
>>I've always wanted a tower. I was impressed by the one at the
>>club station that I used to hang out and bother the operators
>>before I was licensed.

>You may want to check carefully for corrosion and if you find any
>get the surface scraped down and get it hot dipped galvanized.

You may also want to check with your local building department to see
if the local codes make any special provisions/requirements when used
towers are installed.

You are getting a building permit (not to be confused with a use or
zoning permit), right?
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
ARRL Volunteer Counsel

email: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

910. Re: Tristao towers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-16 01:24:08 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <JzDzk.160$UB3.78@trnddc07>
Source record: 2481

"Phil Kane" <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote in message
news:b7stc49s9j8rn7m1fhpfejo8sme32eq8ia@4ax.com...
> On Mon, 15 Sep 2008 08:01:11 EDT, Edward Feustel <efeustel@hughes.net>
> wrote:
>
> >On Sun, 14 Sep 2008 02:12:42 EDT, Jeffrey D Angus
> ><jangus@socal.rr.com> wrote:
> >
> >>
> >>I've always wanted a tower. I was impressed by the one at the
> >>club station that I used to hang out and bother the operators
> >>before I was licensed.
>
> >You may want to check carefully for corrosion and if you find any
> >get the surface scraped down and get it hot dipped galvanized.
>
> You may also want to check with your local building department to see
> if the local codes make any special provisions/requirements when used
> towers are installed.
>
> You are getting a building permit (not to be confused with a use or
> zoning permit), right?
> --
>
> 73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
> ARRL Volunteer Counsel
>
> email: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

Most towns are responsible for how they put up light and utility poles. Get
in touch with their public works people. When you follow their own specs
there's not much more they can say since you have found their own point of
liability.

911. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1623 - September 19, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-19 13:20:22 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080919013431.015b5910@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2482
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1623 - September 19, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1623 with a release date of Friday, September 19th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Hurricane Ike hits Texas and ham radio is ready. Also, Australian ham T-V to go digital, an electronics show is raided in Germany and D-Star comes to a remote corner of the world. Find out where on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1623 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO FACES HURRICANE IKE

Amateur radio was ready when hurricane Ike made landfall on the East Texas coast on Saturday, September 13th. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF is in the newsroom with a look at the storm and the work of the nations ham radio community during and after the storm:

--

Ike came ashore on Galveston Island packing driving rain and wind gusts in excess of 110 miles per hour. It flooded thousands of homes and businesses, shattered windows in Houston's skyscrapers while knocking out power and telephone service to millions of people. Cellular telephones reportedly became all but useless. But ham radio continued to operate throughout the storm and was the first to report the results of Ike's landfall:

--

Audio is available in the MP3 version of this weeks newscast dowbloadable at www.arnewsline.org

--

That was Jim Sellers, N0UAM, in Springfield, Missouri, who was in control of the Voice over Internet Severe Weather Net. This was one of a pair of severe weather nets that played a key rile in tracking Ike. The other was the Hurricane Watch Net with hits home on 20 Meter SSB and an alternate frequency on 40 Meter SSB. With long distance propagation on the high frequency bands not very good, the VoIP Net played a significant role in gathering information for the National Weather Service as the storm made its way up toward the North:

--

Audio is available in the MP3 version of this weeks newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

--

Meantime, back along the Texas and Louisiana coastlines, Ike began to spawn a series of tornadoes as reported on the VoIP Net by then net control Richard Long, KF6BKA, operating from Nashville, Tennessee:

--

Audio is available in the MP3 version of this weeks newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

--

Even with poor propagation, some stations in Texas were able to pass along information on the High Frequency bands, This transmission was recorded using the N2JEU Internet controlled remote receiver in upstate New York:

--

Audio is available in the MP3 version of this weeks newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

--

Unfortunately the signal dropped back into the noise before we could get his callsign, but he was among many hams involved in keeping the information on Ike flowing.

As word of the immensity of Hurricane Ike became known, the staff at ARRL headquarters in Connecticut began to plan for its aftermath. Anticipating that communications staffing requests would expected to exceed resources in the Hurricane Ike recovery areas the ARRL began planning the coordination requests for additional ham radio personnel. These would be volunteers from adjoining and near-by states out of Ike's path but close to Texas and Louisiana. Meantime, hams involved in the emergency continued to handle information requests from across the region:

--

Audio is available in the MP3 version of this weeks newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

--

By late Sunday, September 14th, Ike had been downgraded to a Tropical Storm was moving out of Texas. Both the Hurricane Watch Net and the VoIP Nets were secured and it was time for relief efforts and damage assessment to begin.

And in another report coming in on Tuesday, September 16th, members of ARES South Texas District 14, were are manning at least six Points of Distribution in Harris County Texas. These operators were and possibly

still are providing communications between the National Guard units at the distribution centers and the Harris County Office of Emergency Management, to coordinate the delivery and re-supply of food, water and ready to eat meals to Ike's victims. Ironically, most of the participating amateurs are also victims, having suffered property losses and expected power outages to last approximately three weeks.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the newsroom in Los Angeles.

--

The story of Hurricane Ike and its aftermath will be with us for some time to come. We will have more on the role of ham radio in post storm relief efforts in next weeks newscast. In the meantime, if you happen to hear any on the air ham radio relief communications please tape it and send it to us for inclusion in future Hurricane Ike reports. (ARNewsline(tm) the ARRL and various other sources. Audio via the VoIP Weather Net and the N2JEU remote receiver)

**

RADIO SCAM ALERT: WEBSITES PFISHING THE FCC

It appears as if someone or a group of someone's is trying to scam the Federal Communications Commission out of some money. According to news reports attorney Harry Cole told Radio World that his firm advised the commission last week that it found two fake Internet sites that are attempting to misdirect those licensees trying to pay their regulatory fees online.

The fees in question are due on September 25th. In a press release the FCC said that the phony websites are reportedly trying to collect financial information. The agency is urging regulatory fee payers to make any Internet payments directly through the commission's authorized Internet site. It also says that its Inspector General is looking into the matter. (RW)

**

RADIO LAW: W3NYI WINS TOWER BATTLE

Some good news for a Pennsylvania ham what had been fighting to keep his tower and antenna. Word that Chuck Mills, W3NYI, will be able to keep his tower after all. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has more:

--

A few weeks ago here on Newsline, we told you the story of Chuck Mills, who lives in a small town east of Pittsburgh.

Mills was granted a permit and then had it lifted by Penn Township officials after neighbors complained about his plan to erect a 53-foot, tilt-over, crank-up tower in his development.

American Radio Relay League volunteer legal counsel Michael Lazaroff, K3AIR, stepped in and tried to allay concerns of the township officials.

But, when Lazaroff tried to meet all concerns raised by the township in a second filing for a permit, he got a call from the township's attorney that the second application would likely be denied.

But that didn't stop Lazaroff.

He told the township attorney that the small community could be facing a very expensive legal fight which he predicted it would lose if it denied the second permit.

Lazaroff also noted a story in the local press reported the township treasurer complained that the municipality already had exhausted its legal budget for the year handling Mills' appeal hearing.

In an email to Amateur Radio Newsline, Lazaroff says he heard nothing more about Mills' second application.

But, Lazaroff's research into state law found language stating any building permit application not acted upon within 15 business days is automatically granted.

Lazaroff tells Amateur Radio Newsline he sent the township a letter citing the statute and advising officials that any interference in the timeline would result in an immediate lawsuit.

Two days after the 15-day period expired, Lazaroff says Mills received his permit.

Meanwhile, legislative remedies to prevent future problems like the one Mills faced are making their way through Pennsylvania's state House and Senate.

As of this week's deadline, the Pennsylvania Senate was preparing to pass a bill barring municipalities from interfering with amateur radio tower installations.

The bill contained an amendment mentioning a possible height restriction for certain townships, but left it open to legal interpretation whether any restriction would have to be followed.

The Pennsylvania House has a similar bill - without the amendment - awaiting action.

Those lobbying for passage of the bills say there appears to be a broad base of bi-partisan support for addressing the issue.

We'll keep you updated on the progress in future reports.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia

--

Needless to say that Mills is happy that the fight is over. (W3WN, ARNewsline(tm))

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WL7CVG repeater serving South-central Alaska.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO CHANGES: AUSTRALIAN ATV REPEATER TO GO ALL DIGITAL

A fast scan Amateur Television repeater in Australia will be among the worlds first to go fully digital. W-I-A newsman Rob Carmichael, VK3DTR, speaks with the ham who is making it happen:

--

(ROB VK3DTR) Good morning, I have with me Peter Cossins VK3BFG who has some very interesting news about the Melbourne ATV repeater.

(PETER VK3BFG) Yes Rob- the plan is to digitise the output of VK3RTV on Mt Dandenong which services Melbourne and Geelong. The project will use German made commercial modules and a linear amplifier
to convert this repeater to digital transmission.

(ROB) Sounds interesting, how will we be able to pick up the digital TV signals?

(PETER) That will be very easy by using the now readily available set-top boxes that convert the off air digital signal so they can be seen on an ordinary analogue TV receiver.

(ROB) Sounds very interesting indeed and I bet it will encourage more people to get involved. When will it happen?

(PETER) That's right Rob, it should stimulate more activity on ATV. The plan is start the project in December and its completion will depend on securing the necessary funding.

(ROB) Thank you Peter. Now back to our studio.

--

Newsline will be following this interesting ham radio digital television conversion as it progresses. (WIA News)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: DTV ENTERING THE HOME STRETCH

And speaking about digital television, the FCC has issued a new report on the status of the digital build out by full power television broadcasters It shows that over 96 percent of active full power television stations are either fully operational with digital service or

are on track to have their full digital service operational by February 17, 2009.

Here are the numbers. Some 1,002 stations which is 56 percent of a current total of 1,798 active television stations reported that they have fully constructed their post-transition DTV facilities and are ready for the DTV transition. The only step remaining for these stations is to terminate analog operations on or before next February's analog cutoff date. (FCC, CGC)

**

ENFORCEMNENT: $18,000 FINE AGAINST TEEN IS CANCELLED BY THE FCC

The FCC has dismissed an $18,000 fine levied against a Largo, Florida teen they identify only as John Doe due to his age. This after the youth who now in state custody told the agency that he had no income to pay. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the rest of the story:

--

As previously reported , back on August 24, 2007, the United States Coast Guard contacted an agent from the Tampa Office, who was en route to locate the source of the false distress calls received by that maritime service. The Coast Guard told the FCC agent that it had used direction finding to determine that the false distress calls were coming from a location in or near a mobile home community in Largo, Florida. The Coast Guard also told the agent that the Largo Police Department had just apprehended a student who lived in this mobile home community and who had several radios. This included a marine band transceiver in his bedroom that was connected to a 12 volt marine battery and whip antenna.

Later that day the teen confessed to the Largo Police Department that he had stolen a marine radio from a boat and used it to make five false distress calls to the Coast Guard from his bedroom.

The Largo Police Department arrested our John Doe on charges unrelated to the false distress calls. It also confiscated one marine radio, two CB radios, a marine battery and a whip antenna from his residence. On August 30, 2007 the FCC confirmed that the marine radio confiscated from the teen could in fact operate on maritime channel 16.

On April 30, 2008, the Tampa FCC Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture to John Doe in the amount of $18,000. This, for the apparent willful and repeated violation of Sections 301 and 325 of the Act.

John Doe did not submit a response to the notice, and this past June 30th the Enforcement Bureau released the Forfeiture Order. Soon after, our John Doe submit a petition for reconsideration of the Forfeiture Order. In his pleading he expresses sincere remorse for his actions. He also requested a reduction or cancellation of the forfeiture, because it would pose a financial hardship.

In his filing he explained that he was only a sixteen-year-old, that he has never had a job and has no sources of income. He also noted that he has been in the custody of the state of Florida and in a juvenile detention facility since this past February .

After examining the financial documentation submitted by this John Doe, the FCC concluded that cancellation of the forfeiture is warranted. This, based solely on his lack of income and the fact that he is currently in the custody of the state.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline. I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reporting.

--

Because of the seriousness of the violation, the FCC did admonish this young John Doe for his willful and repeated violation of Sections 301 and 325 of the Communications Act. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: INVESTIGATORS RAID BERLIN ELECTRONICS EXPOSITION

And some enforcement action of a different sort. This as authorities in Germany confiscate electronics that they believe to be patent violations. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jeff Clark, K8JAC, is here with the details:

--

German criminal investigators have confiscated a substantial amount of electronic equipment from the IFA Conference in Berlin. According to Media Network, the items seized include at least 170 TV sets, 140 MP3 players, 60 DVD recorders and 43 car radios.

Media Network days that the manufacturers of the goods are suspected of infringing patents. The majority of the items were manufactured in the Pacific Rim. Among them were such big names such as Hyundai IT, whose display of flat screens was removed by the investigators in full view of the public.

Although criminal investigators have visited IFA shows before, this is the first time that they have operated on such a massive scale. About 200 enforcement personnel are believed to have been involved in the enforcement action.

I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC.

--

The Berlin IFA Conference ran through Wednesday, September 3rd. (MediaNetwork)

**

RADIO LAW: STATION NOT TO BLAME FOR CAR ALARM FAILURES

Car alarms going off can be annoying, but for a broadcaster it's even worse
when your radio station gets blamed for it.

Take the case of WRBQ-FM in Tampa Florida. According to the Tampa Tribune, the FCC says that the station which operates on 104.7 MHz uses a frequency that may contain a harmonic. One that could possibly be the same as the frequency used by some car alarms.

The Tampa Tribune reported last week that a radio stations signal may be causing some alarms going to either go off or stop working. But says the FCC, the station is not in violation of any law since it says that the car alarms in question are required to be designed to accept and reject any interfering signals.

And not everyone is convinced that WRBQ is the cause. The newspaper said that some think the problem could be traced to a local police radio system or even wireless phones. Well let you know if we hear more.
(RW)

**

D-STAR NEWS: D-STAR COMES TO THE AZORES

D-Star has come to one of the remotest points on the globe. This, with word that the first D-Star repeater in the Azores Islands is on the air.

The CQ0DAH dash B D-Star repeater is located on Santa Bï¿½rbara Mountain on Terceira Island. It operates on UHF Channel RU576, with a transmit frequency of 438.450MHz and receive frequency of 430.850MHz, transmitting 25 watts out.

The adoption of D-Star in a remote outpost like the Azores is very significant since ham gear is not easy to come by in that part of the world. What it also seems to mean is that the D-Star digital system is quickly becoming the world standard that will eventually replace analog F-M for ham radio ham radio utility repeater communications. This, even though its only supported by Icom with most other manufacturers having turned their backs to it or trying to push alternatives that the ham radio community is showing little interest in adopting. (D-Star Remailer)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE PNW VHF CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER

The Pacific Northwest VHF Society will host their 15th annual conference . This, in Moses Lake, Washington, from October 3rd to the 5th.

Joe Taylor, K1JT, the astrophysicist who won the Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery with Russell Alan Hulse of a "new type of pulsar is the keynote speaker. Taylor is best known in ham radio as the developer of WSJT software for VHF meteor scatter communications.

Other scheduled events include technical programs, presentations, and round-table discussions as a part of the formal program of speakers. There

will be an informal swap meet in the parking lot. More information about the conference is on-line at www.pnwvhfs.org (VHF Reflector)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

A WORD FROM SUPPORT FUND ADMINISTRATOR ANDY JAREMA, N6TCQ

This is Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, Newsline Support Fund Administrator. This would normally be the spot in the newscast when I'd be able to make some thank-yous to those who help us keep the news coming your way, but our producer has informed me that there's just too much breaking news happening this week for me to do that.

Rest assured I'll be back in future weeks, but in the mean time I'd just like to say that these reports require us to go get the news, it doesn't come to us. There will be an address at the end of this newscast where you can help us to help keep you informed, or you can do it through PayPal on our official website, arnewsline.org. Thank you, and as they say: now back to the news. (Support Fund)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: AMSAT BOD MEMBERS SEEKING NEW PRES

Some names in the news. First off is word that AMSAT North America has elected three people to its Board of Directors, but is in search of a new president. As a result of the 2008 Board of Directors election, Tom Clark, K3IO, Lou McFadin, W5DID and Gould Smith, WA4SXM will serve on the AMSAT BOD for 2 years. The alternate is Bill Ress, N6GHZ. (ANS)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: W1GPS WONT RUN FOR ANOTHER TERM AS AMSAT-NA PRES

Meantime, current AMSAT President Rick Hambly, W2GPS, has notified the organizations Board of Directors that he is not a candidate for President for the upcoming year. Hambly has served as President of AMSAT since October 2004.

To fill Hambly's position the members of the new Board will then begin a formal search process to recruit and select a new President. This process is expected to take several weeks with the goal of having a new President identified prior to the AMSAT Board of Directors meeting on October 23, prior to the AMSAT Symposium in Atlanta. (ANS)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: NEW IRTS NEWS EDITOIR - EI8JB

The Irish Radio Transmitters Society has appointed Charles Carolan EI8JB as the new News Editor. Carolan resides in Navan having moved there from Dublin. Although his EI8 call is relatively recent, he was first licensed while living in Canada as VA3IRL back in 1995. Carolan to take over from Mark Wall EI7IS. (GB2RS, Southgate)

**

EMERGING HAM TECHNOLOGY: CW SKIMMER SPARKS DISCUSSION

Its new, exciting and can make C-W operation a breeze. We are talking about a new Morse reception assistance program that is so advanced that it has the world of Amateur Radio talking. Jim Linton, VK3PC, reports:

--

CW skimmer makes paddles go further?

Like virtually all sports, amateur radio does have its controversies and a current one is called the CW Skimmer, but what is it?

A clever piece of software developed by Alex Shovkoplyas VE3NEA, the Canadian who is also behind the DX Atlas and a number of other ham radio programs.

CW Skimmer receives and decodes signals and graphically shows them as a band map on a computer screen, listing stations by callsign and frequency.

The software obviously can help to more easily find stations, which could be very useful during a contest of a DXpedition.

Meanwhile Pete Smith N4ZR is pushing for listening centers to be set up using the software to create a 'reverse beacon' network.

CW Skimmer is sparking lots of debate as to whether it's just a new innovation that should be embraced by radio amateurs, or outlawed by ham radio contest rule makers.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton VK3PC.

--

The bottom line is that C-W Skimmer is here, people are using it. And like it or not you cannot regulate mans ingenuity nor can you turn back the sands of time. (WIA News)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SOUTH AFRICAN HAM-SAT MAY LAUNCH BY YEARS END

Another ham radio satellite may be on-orbit soon. According the Russian Federation TASS news agency the South African Amateur Radio satellite Sumbandila could be launched this year.

The TASS report quotes the head of the Federal Space Agency Anatoly Perminov as saying that Sumbandila is likely to be launched into orbit as the associated pressures along with a Russian spacecraft known as Meteor-M. Meteor-M is currently scheduled for launch by the end of 2008. (Southgate)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: THE SUDAN AGAIN ON THE BIRDS

The Sudan is once again active on the Amateur Radio Satellites. This, with word that ST2NH is operational from Khartoum. To request a scheduled contact please contact Nadir via the email address given in his entry at QRZ.com. (ANS)

**

ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING STEAM IN THE BRITISH ISLES

On the air. Word that special event station GB2STI will be operating 'Railways On The Air' event the weekend beginning on Saturday, September 27th. This, from the excursion platform of the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland at Whitehead. The station will be operated on 80, 40 and 20 meters by members and friends of the Antrim and District Amateur Radio Society as part of the celebrations of the first steam passenger train to operate in the British isles. A special QSL Card will be available for all contacts made during the event. QSL via GI0KPF at his callbook address. (GB2RS)

**

ON THE AIR: NEW SOLAR BEACON DOWN UNDER

And something interesting from down-under. A new solar powered QRP beacon is operating on a frequency of 3 point 686 MHz with an output power of only 90 milliwatts. The transmitter feeds a half-wave dipole and is in a horse stable at Beverly, an historic settlement in Western Australia's wheat belt
country. That's about 130 kilometers east of the city of Perth.

So far it's been heard in VK2, VK4 and VK6. Its owner is Barrie Burns, VK6ADI. He welcomes any and all reception reports via e-mail to vk6dir (at) bigpond (dot) com. (WIA News)

**

DX

In DX, HA3JB in Morroco will activate the new callsign CN2IPA of the "International Police Association" from September 21st through October 5th. Gab will use CW, RTTY, PSK, SSTV and some SSB and plans to take part in the CQDX RTTY Contest. QSLs should be sent via his homecall and count for the International Police Association award.

And F6AJA, wants to remind everyone to visit the Les Nouvelles DX web page to see more than 5,700 old QSL cards in several different albums and

galleries. The URL is LesNouvellesDX.free.fr.

F5IRO will be on Martinique from September 21st until February 2009. He will likely be using his home call portable F M using CW, digital modes and also SSB on 40, 30 and 20 meters during his little spare time on weekends after 2200 UTC. QSLs direct or via bureau.

Lastly, listen out for LA7WCA, to hit the airwaves from Svalbard as JW7WCA from September 19th to the 26th. He will be accompanied by LA8BCA and LB9UE. The three will work mostly in SSB and only some CW on 160 through 10 meters. QSL's for JW7WCA go via LA7WCA.

(Above from various DX news services)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: A COMPUTER WITH HUMAN COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS

A computer system that can carry on a discussion with a human being by reacting to signals such as tone of voice and facial expression is being developed by an international team of researchers. Amateur Radio Newsline's Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, tells us about this latest experiment in artificial intelligence:

--

The project is known as SEMAINE and it plans to build SAL. That's short for the Sensitive Artificial Listener system.

SAL will have the ability to perceive a human user's facial expression, gaze, and voice and then interact with the user. When engaging with a human, SAL will be able to adapt its own performance and pursue different actions, depending on the users non-verbal behavior..

Professor Roddy Cowie, from the School of Psychology, leads the team at Queen's University in Belfast, Ireland. He says that a basic feature of human communication is that it is colored by emotion. He says that when we talk to another person, the words are carried on an undercurrent of signs that show them what attracts us, what bores us and so on.

Professor Cowie says that the fact that computers do not currently do this is one of the main reasons why communicating with them is so unlike interacting with a human. It is also one of the reasons we can find them so frustrating to use. .

But SEMAINE and projects like it will change the way people interact with technology. They hope that this means that you will be talking to your computer in 20 years time. When you eventually are able to do this, Professor Cowie asks that you pause for a minute, and remember that the human sciences at Queen's University helped to lay the groundwork.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, in Los Angeles.

--

The SEMAINE project is led by the German Center for Research on Artificial Intelligence. The other partners are Imperial College in London, the University of Paris , the University of Twente in Holland, the Technical University of Munich and of coarse Queens University in Ireland. The European Commission awarded SEMAINE a grant of 2.75 million Euros after it was ranked first out of 143 bids for medium-sized projects in the area of cognitive systems and robotics (Adapted from materials provided by Queen's University Belfast on-line release)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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912. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 37 (Friday, September 19,2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-19 19:33:52 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080919193234.BACA430DB6@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2483
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 37
September 19, 2008
****

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Hams in Texas and Surrounding States Active as Ike Pounds Gulf Coast and Inland Areas
* + Areas Not Directly in Storm's Path Also Affected by Ike and Lowell
* + W1AW Supports EchoLink Operations During Ike
* + Third Annual ARRL On-Line Auction Set for October
* + Brennan Price, N4QX, Returns to ARRL Staff
* + ARRL Welcomes USTTI Students
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ ARISS Update

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==========
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, <k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========

==> HAMS IN TEXAS AND SURROUNDING STATES ACTIVE AS IKE POUNDS GULF COAST AND INLAND AREAS

As Hurricane Ike weakened and became a tropical storm and then a tropical depression after slamming ashore near Galveston, Texas early Saturday morning, hams in several ARRL sections were supporting agencies with their communications needs. Although the final word on all the locations where ARES was providing communications support has yet to be reported, it was clear that Amateur Radio played a part in the response to the massive storm.

In a conference call with ARRL Headquarters staff the morning of Sunday, September 14, ARRL section leadership reported that ARES was supporting Emergency Operations Centers throughout the region, and that equipment

shipped to the Gulf Coast under the Ham Aid program was either being put to use or held for possible use as requests arrive.

* Texas

South Texas Section Emergency Coordinator Mike Schwartz, KG5TL, whose section took the brunt of Ike's wind and rain, reported that he had spoken earlier to 9th District Emergency Coordinator Brian Cater, KC5YSM. Cater said his district, located to the east of Houston and Galveston, had lost power, but some food was available at hotels and other venues that were using backup generators. Electric utility poles were holding up well, since many had been replaced with newer ones after 2005's Hurricane Rita.

Schwartz reported that ARRL North Texas Section Emergency Coordinator Bill Swan, K5MWC, sent two communications vehicles and a couple of ham radio operators from his section to the Orange area in South Texas.

Hams in the Houston and the surrounding area responded to calls earlier this week to assist served agencies with Points of Distribution (POD) around the Greater Houston area. These PODs are set up to distribute water, ice and food to area residents dealing with Ike and that storm's aftermath. According to Joe Gadus, KD5KTX, an ARRL Public Information Officer in the South Texas Section, members of ARES South Texas District 14 -- under the leadership of District Emergency Coordinator Jeff Walter, KE5FGA -- were manning at least six PODs. "These hams provided communications between the National Guard units at the PODs and the Harris County Office of Emergency Management to coordinate the delivery and resupply of food, water and MREs (meals ready to eat) to the victims of Hurricane Ike," he said. "Most of the participating amateurs are also victims [of the storm], having suffered property losses and power outages expected to last approximately three weeks."

Late Sunday, the Texas State Operations Center released a Situation Report that included the following:

"Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES): State emergency communications operations began at 1800 Thursday, September 11, with the activation of the State RACES network. Operations consisted of monitoring joint emergency frequencies. These were operated by RACES and ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) and other civil/Amateur Radio Clubs.

"Military Affiliated Radio Service (MARS): Texas MARS operators activated AAN6ETX (Texas SOC MARS station) at 0800 local on September 13, 2008. AAN6ETX was put into 24/7 operation beginning at 1900 local on September 13. The MARS and RACES have been actively teaming together to solve problems and get information to the appropriate parties. Increased activity began on Saturday after the storm made landfall and damage assessments were in progress. Five reports were received from Houston Transtar, which had no other means of submission, other than Winlink. Messages and critical information regarding safe routes were relayed to

a relief group heading into the Orange County area. At one point contact between the SOC and the City of Port Arthur was lost and the MARS station was able to connect them with a Navy MARS/ARES/RACES person in the area. The MARS is also supporting and monitoring Task Force IKE's recon team via AAR6NAC. As of Sunday, September 14, 2008, the combined RACES/ARES/MARS nets received and relayed multiple emergency communications reports to the SOC, and local jurisdictions."

* West Texas

Meanwhile, remnants of Tropical Storm Lowell are still affecting residents of the West Texas Section. Section Emergency Coordinator J.T. Caldwell, WA5ZFH, reported that the levees in the town of Presidio -- a town on the banks of the Rio Grande of about 5000 people -- are holding, "but water is close to the top." Even before Ike hit, that town was more than 11 feet above flood stage resulting from rains left by Lowell. Mexican authorities have been dumping water from their reservoirs that feed into the Rio Grande, causing that river to flood, affecting Texas towns in the region.

"Additional water is being released from Luis Leon dam in Mexico," Caldwell said; a portion of the levee broke on the Ojinaga, Mexico side Tuesday night at approximately 11 PM CST. Presidio's lowest areas have been evacuated. Emergency workers also shut down the Presidio-Ojinaga International Bridge connecting the city to Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico, which was in danger of flooding as the Rio Grande continued to rise Tuesday. "Do not travel down here if your intent is to get to Ojinaga," Presidio City Administrator Cynthia Clarke warned travelers, adding that there had been three breaks in a levee. "There's no way to get across."

"The forecast calls for the river level to rise sequentially each day," Caldwell said. "No one currently expects the levees to hold... [and] residents have been advised that if they hear sirens, immediately leave and seek higher ground -- hundreds of residents have [already] been evacuated. The shelters here have since been combined into one shelter at the Presidio Elementary School with about 120 people in it," with more expected as the levees breech or overtop.

* Louisiana

>From Louisiana, where residents are recovering from the effects of Hurricane Gustav, Section Manager Gary Stratton, K5GLS, reported to those on the conference call that Amateur Radio volunteers have had constant telephone communications through the Ike emergency, and there have been no problems at all with VoIP systems <http://www.arrl.org/qst/2003/02/VoIP.pdf>. There is supplemental sheltering for Hurricane Gustav and additional shelters for Ike. Most shelters are supported by local clubs and ARES groups around the state, working with EOCs. Section Emergency Coordinator Jim Coleman, AI5B, is participating in Louisiana VOAD conference calls <http://www.nvoad.org/>.

* Arkansas

>From Arkansas, Section Manager David Norris, K5UZ, reported via e-mail that SKYWARN nets in the state were busy Saturday and Sunday. "Several tornados were spotted and tracked with some causing damage in Cabot and possibly Apin. There has been quite a bit of straight-line wind damage in the state, and as of 10 PM September 14, approximately 20,000 customers were without power. Many trees are down in my area and both of my 75/80 meter arrays have fallen victim to the storm. No tower collapses here, just a lot of mangled wire."

* Illinois

After the remnants of Ike and Lowell brought 9 inches of rain to the Chicago area, Illinois Section Manager Tom Ciciora, KA9QPN, reported Monday morning that "Grundy County ARES activated in support of county EMA efforts in flood control. One shelter is activated at this time. Additionally, both Kane and Kendall Counties have been especially hard hit with numerous road closures and evacuations. It was a real character-builder for Kane County, as their EOC also flooded yesterday."

* ARRL Headquarters Maintaining Coordination Efforts

Following Sunday's conference call, the group of ARRL section leaders and Headquarters staff who had been participating in conference calls that spanned three major storms on three consecutive weekends agreed to suspend them. They can be reestablished on short notice, however. In addition, W1AW suspended its monitoring and coordinating operations as of 6 PM Eastern Time Sunday.

Coordination of Amateur Radio's response to the recent hurricanes continues, and ARRL Headquarters continues to participate in national conference calls coordinating the response efforts on an as-needed basis, as do volunteers in Texas and Louisiana.

Only on September 15, were many of the VOAD and other supporting agency crews beginning to be able to move in to areas that have seen the most destruction. ARRL Headquarters will be receiving further reports of the exact contributions hams are making in the recovery effort, and we will share them as information arrives.

==> AREAS NOT DIRECTLY IN STORM'S PATH ALSO AFFECTED BY IKE AND LOWELL

While Hurricane Ike, as well as Tropical Storm Lowell, caused severe damage in and around the impact zone of the Texas Gulf Coast, the storm's aftermath was felt as far north as Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. Just like their counterparts on the Gulf Coast, ARES members in the Midwest are assisting served agencies in their area.

While Ohio was not in the direct path of Hurricane Ike, that state is definitely feeling the aftermath of the storm as more than 2 million homes -- 18 percent of the population -- in the southwest portion of that state and neighboring Kentucky have been without power since Sunday, according to a story on ohio.com, an online service of the Akron

Beacon Journal.

On Wednesday, ARRL District Emergency Coordinator for Ohio District 4 Robert Spratt, N8TVU, reported that the Butler County Emergency Management Agency had requested ARES assistance to "move a shelter trailer that can support up to 450 clients from the Hanover Township Fire Department to the City of Hamilton," a distance of about 5.5 miles. Spratt said that the shelter was being established to house those residents whose homes had been structurally damaged or deemed unsafe.

Hurricane-force winds of up to 78 MPH blew through Ohio on Sunday, causing damage in 84 of the state's 88 counties, said Ohio Governor Ted Strickland. The governor declared a State of Emergency, allowing the Ohio Department of Transportation to help local communities remove debris from roads.

Calling the power outage "the worst and widespread I have seen," a spokesman for the Dayton Power & Light Company said that 50 transmission poles that support larger voltage lines were down and some utility poles "were snapped in two." A spokesman for Duke Energy (which serves Ohio and Kentucky) said that even with the influx of electrical crews from outside the area, "We're still looking at some customers being without [electrical] service until Saturday or Sunday."

In Illinois, Governor Rod R. Blagojevich declared seven counties -- Cook, DuPage, DeKalb, Grundy, Kane, LaSalle and Will -- disaster areas. With the state proclamation, state assets and personnel will be provided to affected communities to help them respond and recover from the floods.

On Monday, September 15, the Grundy County ARES team was activated at 11:30 AM, said DEC Bob Cockream, AA9EE. "The KB9SZK VHF repeater was closed to all but flood-related and emergency traffic. We supplied a person to assist with communications to the Red Cross shelter at the Coal City High School, and another two hams to the village hall to help with both radio and phones. We had seven other EMA/ARES members working the field delivering sand bags and checking in on residents, as well as checking water levels, and reporting back to the village hall."

Neil Ormos, N9NL, DEC for Cook County/Chicago, reported that he hasn't heard of any ham radio activations in Cook County yet, "but if people have been activated, they may be too busy to report. In general, conventional communications systems are working. The Red Cross has four shelters open in Cook County, but they are using conventional communications and have not sought ham radio assistance."

In Indiana, only one county -- Harrison County in the southern part of the state -- has had an official ARES activation. According to AEC Scott Taylor, K9SET, the area had no phones -- either landline or cell -- or electricity. "I recorded several 70 MPH gusts on Monday, and there are many, many trees and power lines down, as well as major structural damage to homes and business here in my town of Corydon. It may be three

to five days for some to get power. Only a few businesses seem to have power, but no residences have it at this time."

In Dearborn County and Southeastern Indiana, there has been "much storm damage," said Dearborn County EC Ken Courtney, WA9BLA. "On Tuesday, we had winds here from 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM; on Sunday, we recorded gusts of 70 to 80 MPH across the area wide -- hurricane Category 1 strength. A mobile home rolled over and a semi was blown over on the I-275 bridge to Kentucky. There have been four fatalities in the Greater Cincinnati area, all with trees falling on people; one fatality was in Ohio County, Indiana."

Courtney said that several hams will be doing disaster damage surveys later this week for the Dearborn County Homeland Security Agency.

The ARRL is still receiving reports from the field concerning recovery efforts from these states. We will be updating our information as it becomes available. To catch up on the latest information, please visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org>.

==> W1AW SUPPORTS ECHOLINK OPERATIONS DURING IKE

Throughout the course of Hurricane Ike, operators at W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, hooked into the HF radio of ARRL West Gulf Vice Director David Woolweaver, K5RAV, via EchoLink <http://www.echolink.org/>.

According to W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, the link enabled hams in Newington to monitor the Texas Emergency Net. "Through Dr Woolweaver's initiative, we could use EchoLink in this fashion to assist ARRL HQ staff monitor critical Net operations using HF -- a capability we have never taken advantage of before."

Carcia said that the reason the HF/EchoLink connection was used was due to the frequency the Texas Emergency Net was using. "The Net was on 75 meters," Carcia said, "and propagation did not favor us here in New England to be able to hear the transmissions. By using Dr Woolweaver's link, we could hear everything on the Net."

During the monitoring sequence, Woolweaver changed the frequencies on EchoLink to enable ARRL HQ to stay on top of and monitor conversations related to message relays, Coast Guard contacts and Health and Welfare traffic from across Texas and the surrounding states. According to ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, this capability will be critical to future emergency communication response at ARRL Headquarters: "Without the EchoLink/HF connection, we here at ARRL would not have able to be in contact with ARRL South Texas Section Leadership."

Woolweaver is working on getting more Texas stations involved in the EchoLink network to help out with future emergencies. He said that EchoLink can be successfully utilized to monitor and to engage stations on VHF and HF. "Using stations with EchoLink node capabilities and

access to VHF and HF equipment, W1AW and other personnel at HQ will be able to become active participants and consultants in local and regional operations," he said. "You cannot underestimate the value of first hand information. The EchoLink to remote HF connection allows W1AW and ARRL staff to monitor and participate in local and regional operations any where any time. It does not get much better than that!"

==> THIRD ANNUAL ARRL ON-LINE AUCTION SET FOR OCTOBER

The Third Annual ARRL On-Line Auction kicks off October 23, running until November 1 on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/auction>. This is your chance to pick up one-of-a-kind Amateur Radio items. To see what the Auction will offer this year, be sure to check out the Auction preview that begins October 16. Last year, the Auction attracted more than 3000 registered bidders from more than 40 countries. While the majority of buyers were from the USA, Canada and the UK, there were buyers from Australia, Malaysia, Grenada, Vietnam and Tanzania.

According to ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, "Last year's on-line auction -- our second -- proved to be a successful and enjoyable event for both hams and ARRL staff members alike. When the bidding ended, we realized that we had sold 162 items and raised just over $50,000." Proceeds from the auction benefit ARRL education programs including activities to license new hams, strengthen Amateur Radio's emergency service training, offer continuing technical and operating education, as well as creating instructional materials.

ARRL Business Services Manager Deb Jahnke, K1DAJ, encouraged everyone to come and peruse the wide variety of offerings: "Browse through the Web site frequently, as items will be added on a daily basis. We also encourage you to look through the 'Help' and 'About Us' sections. You'll find useful information about bidding, FAQs and a host of other facts. To ensure an enjoyable experience, please be sure to read all policies under the 'About Us' section."

This year's auction will again include many transceivers and other items that have appeared in the QST Product Review column and have thus been thouroughly tested by the ARRL Lab. There will be many vintage items offered, as well. Also, returning by popular demand will be four ARRL Lab unique "junque" boxes. These boxes have a starting bid of $50 and have almost anything you could ever possibly imagine in them. No one -- except the ARRL Lab staff -- knows what exactly is inside each box, but each is guaranteed to be full of things that the Lab staff consider valuable (but keep in mind that they collect just about anything).

Jahnke said that due to many requests last year, "all product review items in the On-Line Auction include a link to a PDF file of the actual Product Review, as well as a reference to the QST issue that the review appeared in."

==> BRENNAN PRICE, N4QX, RETURNS TO ARRL STAFF

Brennan Price, N4QX, returned to the ARRL Staff as the League's Technical Relations Manager on September 15, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, earlier this summer. From 2000-2004, Price served as Field and Regulatory Correspondent and Assistant Technical Editor at ARRL Headquarters. As Technical Relations Manager, he will be responsible for representing the ARRL's interests to federal government agencies, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and other international organizations, and regional telecommunications organizations, personally and through the supervision of other Technical Relations Office staff.

Saying that his goal is to "defend Amateur Radio spectrum, and if the opportunity presents itself, help gain some," Price is currently preparing for a meeting of United States Working Party 5A -- which considers issues in the Amateur Radio and Land Mobile services -- in Washington next week.

Price holds a BA in chemistry from Vanderbilt University, an MS in chemistry from Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), and a JD with honors from the University Of Connecticut School Of Law, where he was appointed Executive Editor of the "Connecticut Law Review." Admitted to the Connecticut bar in 2005, he had been in private practice with a firm in Hartford. Price was first licensed in 1997 as KF4UZB, earning his Amateur Extra class license by 1999, acquiring the call signs KU4WJ and N4QX in the process. He is an ARRL Volunteer Counsel <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/local/vci.html> and has stayed current with regulatory issues affecting the ARRL and Amateur Radio.

While at the "Law Review," Price was invited to publish a scholarly summary of case and statutory law related to PRB-1, the FCC's limited preemption of Amateur Radio antenna and antenna support zoning restrictions <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/PRB-1_Pkg/Price.pdf>. This 29 page summary is designed to inform amateurs and their counsel, as well as municipal counsel, of the state of the law before any party adopts an unwise strategy

"We are fortunate to have filled this key position with someone with Brennan's experience, training and passion for Amateur Radio," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "His strong regulatory background and knowledge of the ARRL as a former staff member and active volunteer will help him come up to full speed very quickly. He jumped into preparations for the 2011 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-11) on his first day back."

Price said he welcomes the chance to return to ARRL and join its Technical Relations staff: "The League's Technical Relations efforts have paid tangible dividends to Amateur Radio operators over the years: Our allotment at 60 meters and more broadcaster-free space on 40 meters are but two examples. I am pleased to have the chance to advocate for Amateur Radio on the national and international stage. Although WRC-11 is three years away, preparatory work is well underway, with Technical

Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, representing the ARRL at a meeting of a Permanent Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) in Argentina this week."

When not at work or on the air (he especially enjoys operating CW on 10 meters), Price enjoys officiating football and playing chess.

==> ARRL WELCOMES USTTI STUDENTS

Next month, the ARRL will welcome students from various countries from all over the world who want to learn how to administer and regulate Amateur Radio programs in their home countries. This course, offered by the United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI) <http://ustti.org/>, will help participants create, administer and foster an Amateur Radio Service in their countries.

Designed for those in developing countries who regulate and manage their country's Amateur Radio Service, this course will help participants learn just who radio amateurs are. ARRL staff instructors will help course participants discover the ever-expanding universe of Amateur Radio communication. They will explain why Amateur Radio operators -- upwards of three million individuals in virtually every country of the world -- have earned licenses to operate stations in the Service and why they are recognized, both by their governments and internationally, as a valuable voluntary telecommunications resource. Course participants will also discover how a telecommunications administration can bring the benefits of a healthy Amateur Service to its nation.

Now in its 26th year, USTTI is a nonprofit venture involving leading US-based communications and information technology corporations and leaders of the federal government cooperating to provide tuition-free management, policy and technical training for talented professionals from the developing world. This is the 24th year the ARRL has participated in the program.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "To taste the luxury of sunny beams" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Last week saw another brief sunspot appearance followed by a quick fade. This was an old Solar Cycle 23 spot -- number 1001 -- resulting in a sunspot number of 12 for September 11. Sunspot numbers for September 11-17 were 12, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 1.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 66.9, 66.3, 66.4, 66.8, 67.5, 69.4 and 67.1 with a mean of 67.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 2, 2, 0, 6, 15, 9 and 3 with a mean of 5.3. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 1, 0, 0, 4, 11, 7 and 3 with a mean of 3.7. For the near term, nothing indicates any emerging sunspots. The geomagnetic indicators should remain quiet with a planetary A index of 5 until the end of the month. From September 30-October 2, the planetary A index is expected to be 8, 30 and 8. Eight is a low number, but 30 indicates a geomagnetic storm, probably expected from a recurring coronal hole spewing a strong solar wind. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical

Information Service Propagation page
<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's
Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin
page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought
to you by John Keats' "I Stood Tip-Toe upon a Little Hill"
<http://www.bartleby.com/126/2.html>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This weekend, the ARRL 10 GHz and Up
Contest and the ARRL International EME Competition are on September
20-21. YLRL Howdy Days are September 18-20. The NCCC Sprint is September
19 and the Feld Hell Sprint is September 20. Be on the lookout for these
contests on September 20-21: The Colorado QSO Party, the SARL VHF/UHF
Contest, the Scandinavian Activity Contest (CW), the CIS DX Contest, the
South Carolina QSO Party, the Washington State Salmon Run and the QCWA
Fall QSO Party. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest and the 144 MHz Fall
Sprint are both on September 22. The SKCC Sprint is September 24 and the
BCC QSO Party is September 25. Next weekend is the NCCC Sprint on
September 26 and the AGCW VHF/UHF Contest on September 27. Look for the
CQ Worldwide DX Contest (RTTY), the Texas QSO Party and the Scandinavian
Activity Contest (SSB) on September 27-28. The UBA ON Contest (CW) is
September 28 and the 222 MHz Fall Sprint is September 30 (local time).
The RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest is October 1. All dates, unless otherwise
stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking
for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event
Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains
open through Sunday October 5, 2008 for these online course sessions
beginning on Friday October 17, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency
Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital
Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008),
and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been
developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative
text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some
include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students
register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks
(depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of
day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times
convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by
answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as
providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted
through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present
-- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where
it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page

<http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARISS Update: On September 13, Prairielands Council Scouts attending the Space Jamboree at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Illinois participated in an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact with Flight Engineer Greg Chamitoff, KD5PKZ. Telebridge station WH6PN in Hawaii assisted with the contact. Thirteen Scouts were able to ask Chamitoff 17 questions during the pass. Scout leaders replayed the question and answer session later in the day for all 3000 Scouts attending the Jamboree. The audio was fed into the EchoLink AMSAT server and Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP) Reflector 9010. Currently, ISS Expedition 17 has three ham astronauts on board: Chamitoff, Commander Sergei Volkov, RU3DIS, and Flight Engineer Oleg Kononenko, RN3DX. Chamitoff is scheduled to return to Earth next month when the space shuttle brings Flight Engineer Sandra Magnus, KE5FYE, part of Expedition 18, to the ISS; Commander Michael Fincke, KE5AIT, will lead Expedition 18, arriving on the ISS via a Soyuz flight with Flight Engineer Salizhan Sharipov. ARISS notes that school contact approvals have been delayed due to the closure of Johnson Space Center for Hurricane Ike. To date, ARISS has supported 360 ISS-to-Earth school contacts and 10 terrestrial contacts.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!): letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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913. Collins Radio is 75 years old!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-19 19:39:04 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <d7de475a-8568-4642-b261-587694dcff98@73g2000hsx.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2484

All,

In case you missed the announcement on the ARRL website:

http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2008/09/11/10326/?nc=1

Collins Radio celebrates it's 75th year over the next week, starting
on 9/20/2008 at 0:01 UTC though 9/26/2008 23:59 UTC.

Why do you care?

Well... If you collect QSL cards and would like to get the card that
celebrates this once in a lifetime event, all you need to do is
operate 4 out of the 6 club stations and get a QSL card from each,
then turn in these 4 cards for the special event certificate. It will
be quite a challenge to get 4 of the stations in the next week, but if
you have the time and keep an eye on the DX Spotting clusters this
could be a fun thing to try.

Why do I care?

Well, personally I'll be operating W5ROK for a number of hours during
this event. We are competing among ourselves to see who can do the
best job of logging QSO's. I doni¿½t think Ii¿½ll win, but I intend to
make it as hard as I can on the guys who will. I plan to operate
voice and PSK and I need your help getting your call into our log!

Warm up that station, watch the DX spotting clusters and give us a
call.

Let's Operate!

KC4UAI

914. BREAKING NEWS FROM AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE - D-STAR ASSISTS ROUTE 66 EVENT AND GARRIOTT TO OPERATE ARISS FROM SPACE

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-19 20:40:52 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080919133817.039b9d28@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2485
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

BREAKING NEWS FROM AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE

The following two items arrived after our regular newscast was
released. While we will include synopses in our next newscast, their
importance requires release at this time.

ARNewsline

FROM ICOM:

ï¿½Route 66 On The Airï¿½ Adopts D-STAR Digital Radio Operations

BELLEVUE, WA (September 10, 2008) ï¿½ During the running of the 2008
Route
66 On The Air, event leaders will be adding the D-STAR digital
communications mode to the existing HF/VHF/UHF analog modes. From September
13 ï¿½ 21, over a dozen ham radio clubs located along the famous
highway
are taking part as official participants. The Citrus Belt Amateur Radio
Club out of San Bernardino, CA is the sponsoring club that is hosting this,
the 9th annual running of the event.

The event is not a race. According to the eventï¿½s official Website
(http://www.w6jbt.org/): ï¿½The purpose of this event is an
opportunity to
offer amateur radio operators a fun way to "Relive the Ride" and their own
memories of Route 66, and to celebrate the highway's 82nd anniversary.ï¿½
ï¿½

A list of special events radio stations can be found on
http://www.w6jbt.org/Route_ota/General_Pages/SpecialEventStations.htm.

Not all stations will be utilizing D-STAR. A partial list includes special
event station:

Lovation of Rout 66 Special Event Callsign

Kingman, AZ, USA W6F
Albuquerque, NM, USA W6H
Oklahoma City, OK, USA W6K
Joplin, MO, USA W6N Station will be active 9-19-08 08:00 ï¿½ 17:00

Central Time
Lebanon, MO, USA W6O Station will be active 9-19-08 08:00 ï¿½ 17:00
Central
Time
St. Louis, MO, USA W6P Station will be active 9-20-08 08:00 ï¿½ 17:00
Central Time
Chicago, IL, USA Rover Station WD5ERD via NS9RC port B

Station will be active 9-21-08 08:00 ï¿½ 17:00 Central Time

To contact these stations, the special event 1x1 callsign is to be entered into the URCALL Field (With the exception of Chicago which will be a zone call /NS9RC B) with the RTP2 set for gateway use.

For a modest fee, a special D-STAR certificate is available for hams who ï¿½workï¿½ (complete a successful two-way conversation with) at
least one
of the official special event D-STAR club stations or a participating D-STAR mobile station signing "mobile 66". Please visit the official Website for details. (<http://www.w6jbt.org/>http://www.w6jbt.org/)

About Route 66: The fabled ribbon of highway that ï¿½winds from
Chicago to
L.A.ï¿½, as sung by Nat King Cole, was established in 1926 and served
as
the first major improved highway to cross the nationï¿½s heartland and southwest regions. Route 66 holds a special place in mid 20th century Americana, featured in many songs and stories. The highway was decommissioned in 1986 in favor of the newer US interstate system, which did not follow the same route. Some portions of the original Route 66 still exist.

For more information please contact Fred Varian at 425-454-8155 or by
e-mail to
fredvarian@icomamerica.com

FROM ARISS

Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, to communicate with Students and Ham Radio Operators World-wide through the Amateur Radio Station on-board the International Space Station (ISS)

Through multiple agreements with NASA, the Russian Space Agency, RSC Energia, Space Adventures Ltd, and ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station), Richard Garriott will fly to ISS and will communicate with students, ham radio operators, friends, and family world-wide using the ARISS amateur radio station on-board the ISS.

Richard Garriott, with the amateur radio callsign, W5KWQ is the sixth private citizen to be flown by the Russian space agency to the ISS. A

legendary video game programmer and designer, Garriott will be traveling to orbit this October and will speak with hundreds of students while thousands more listen in during a series of ten-minute ham radio contacts. His on-orbit stay on Soyuz and ISS is planned for October 12 ï¿½ 22, 2008.

The locales for the worldwide student contacts include eight Challenger Learning Centers in the U.S., the Austin Liberal Arts and Sciences Academy in Austin, Texas, the Pinehurst School in Ashland, Oregon, the Budbrooke School in the U.K., and the National Space Challenge in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Garriott also plans to have random chats with scouts world-wide as part of the amateur radio ï¿½Jamboree on the Airï¿½ which is planned for
October 18-19.

ï¿½An important aspect of Richard Garriottï¿½s mission is to encourage
studentsï¿½ interest in science and technology through the amateur radio
contacts,ï¿½ said Rosalie White, ARISS International Secretary-Treasurer
and ARISS Program Manager for ARRL (American Radio Relay League). ï¿½ ARISS
team members from all over the world volunteer their time every day so that students receive opportunities that we hope will cause them to study harder and learn more about any educational subject.ï¿½

The connection from the ISS to individual student locations will be established through an amateur radio station set up directly at the school or through the ARISS network of worldwide amateur radio ground stations utilized to link Garriott directly with students. The amateur radio system works similar to the way mission control centers in the United States and Russia talk to their space explorers.

To date, the ARISS international working group volunteer team has conducted over 360 school contacts with crew members using ham radio on the ISS. The team has also set up radio contacts for family members of space explorers via ham radio. And have enabled countless contacts between the ISS crew members and hams on the ground. All previous Space Adventures private citizens who have flown to ISS have used the ARISS equipment to talk to school students, ham radio operators and friends and family.

As part of Richard Garriottï¿½s science investigations, he will be taking
high definition photographs of many parts of the Earth and comparing them to photos taken on previous space missions. In conjunction with his Earth science investigation, Mr. Garriott is flying special amateur radio electronics that will enable him to send and receive low resolution images from space, comparable to cell phone images. Through this ham radio system, called Slow-Scan Television (SSTV), Garriott will beam down images of the Earth to schools and ham radio operators on the ground so that they can actively participate in his mission.

Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, ARISS International Chairman and AMSAT Vice President for Human Spaceflight Programs, states: ï¿½The ARISS team is quite excited about Richardï¿½s flight. He is very interested in bringing the wonders of space to those of us on Earth and he sees amateur radio as a great mechanism to make that happen. Through his school and scout voice contacts, his SSTV image downlinks and his communications with the world-wide amateur radio community, we see his mission as being ï¿½action packedï¿½ from an amateur radio perspective.ï¿½ Bauer continues, ï¿½What is extra special is that Richard Garriottï¿½s flight coincides almost 25 years from when his father, Owen Garriott, made history as the first ham radio operator to communicate with radio amateurs from space on the STS-9 Space Shuttle mission.ï¿½ Owen Garriottï¿½s call sign is W5LFL. Richard also hopes to link up with his father via amateur radio during his flight.

Currently, Mr. Garriott is finishing his final spaceflight preparations at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre (GCTC) located in Star City, Russia. His launch date is scheduled for October 12, 2008, with ISS docking planned for October 14 and undocking planned for October 22. Mr. Garriott was trained thoroughly to be a member of the Soyuz TMA-13/17S crew.

Since its first flight with Owen Garriott, in November 1983, Ham Radio has flown on more than two-dozen space shuttle missions, on the Mir Space Station and on the ISS. ARISS is the first and longest continuous operating educational outreach program to fly on the ISS. ARISS is an internationally-based working group, sponsored by the national amateur radio organizations and the international AMSAT (Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation) organizations from each country as well as the ISS space agency partners. In the United States, ARISS is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation-North America (AMSAT-NA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). NASAï¿½s education office provides support to ARISS and guidance in the development of ARISS educational objectives.

The primary purpose of ARISS is to allow students engaged in a science and technology curriculum to speak with an astronaut orbiting the Earth on the International Space Station. Using amateur radio, students ask questions about life in space or other space-related topics. Students fully participate in the ARISS contact by helping set up an amateur radio ground station at the school and then using that station to talk directly with the on-board crew member. Preparation for the experience motivates the children to learn about radio waves, space technology, science, geography and the space environment. In many cases, the students help write press releases and give presentations on the contact to their fellow students and to the local community. Through this hands-on experience, students are engaged and educated in the Science, Technology, Engineering and

Mathematics (STEM) fields, and are inspired to pursue STEM-related careers.

For more information about amateur radio on the ISS and Richard Garriotti¿½s flight, go to:

http://www.ariss.org
http://richardinspace.com
http://spaceadventures.com
http://www.arrl.org
http://www.amsat.org
http://www.spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/reference/radio/index.html
http://dln.nasa.gov/dln/content/catalog/details/?cidc4
http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/science/experiments/ARISS.html

Scout Jamboree on the Air:
http://www.scout.org/jota

915. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-22 06:00:05 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1222063201@panix.com>
Source record: 2486
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

916. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-22 06:05:02 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1222063501@panix.com>
Source record: 2487
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

917. Re: IC-718

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-25 22:11:07 UTC
From: Brian Reay <see@website.invalid>
Message-ID: <WDSCk.97635$8G.2704@newsfe29.ams2>
Source record: 2488

<kadlam262@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:741d07fb-efcf-4cf8-a8bd-474689de6010@v16g2000prc.googlegroups.com...
> Can someone advise on problems with an Icom ic-718?
> Suddenly, I can no long xmit on full power. I can get it put out maybe
> 40W according to the built-in meter and according to my tuner. Also,
> when tuning the tuner in xmit mode, there is a hum that gets loud or
> soft depending on the tunning - coming from the xmitter. Is it
> possible that one of the two 2SC2904's in the PA unit has blown?
> Help / advice is appreciated.

Doug has made some valid suggestions but another is that RF is getting into your PSU and causing it to drop out of regulation. The IC718 does not like a low supply voltage- once it drops less than 13V the 718 tends to reduce power. (This could explain the "hum".)

There are a couple of other ideas: you aren't trying to measure the PO in AM are you? The 718 runs about 40W on AM. Also, you've not wound the power down and had it slip your mind? (Although never would explain the "hum".

--
73
Brian, G8OSN
www.g8osn.org.uk

918. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1624 - September 26, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-26 09:01:57 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20080926020021.015ba418@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2489
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1624 - September 26, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1624 with a release date of Friday, September 26th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Sunspots continue to elude ham radio but is that about to change? Also, 40 meters should soon be clear of a lot of broadcasters, another ham will soon be headed into space, the trial of an accused murderer of a ham radio couple begins and two young hams will soon be headed on the Dxpedition of a lifetime. Find out who they are on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1624 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO SCIENCE: MORE INFO ON SOLAR CYCLE DELAY

If you are still waiting for all the D-X that was promised last year, you are not alone. Jim Linton, VK3PC, of the WIA News reports:

--

The false start announced last year for the new Solar Cycle 24 has been followed up with speculation of things like ï¿½double dip' minima and even a
new ice age for sunspots. But let's try to stay positive and not subscribe
to thoughts of another minimum of 70 years, as occurred from 1645 to 1715, the only flat-lining in sunspot cycles since records.

Looking back at the onset of previous cycles that followed prolonged periods without sunspots, gives indication that Cycle 24 may have a much greater start-up intensity. Should it behave like Cycles 11 to 14 in the 19th century there will be more years rising and a shorter period in decline.

The latest prediction is that Cycle 24 will be begin in mid 2009. Stay tuned.

The prolonged solar minimum is also occurring at a time of reports in the northern hemisphere of continued sporadic-E enhancement on both the ten and six metre bands.

For the amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton, VK3PC.

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VK3PC adds that Greyline propagation on the High Frequencies is also is experiencing a lack of geomagnetic disturbance. That he says is a good thing. (WIA News)

**

RADIO SCIENCE: NEW SUNSPOT EMERGES

And one encouraging note. Space Weather reports that for the first time in months, a significant sunspot is emerging on the solar disk. Its described as a fast-growing active region with two dark cores, each larger than Earth. The magnetic polarity of the sunspot identifies it as a member of new Sunspot Cycle 24. This is viewed as an encouraging sign that the 11-year solar cycle is indeed progressing, albeit very, very slowly. (SpaceWeather)

**

RADIO LAW: BROADCASTERS SOON TO CLEAR PARTS OF 40 METERS

Ham radio should soon have less interference to contend with on 40 meters. This if all goes as its supposed to in about six months time when those powerful shortwave broadcast stations are supposed to move away from 7.1 to 7.2 MHz as that spectrum fully reverts to the Amateur Service.

By way of background, before 1938 there was an exclusive amateur allocation of 7.0 to 7.3 MHz. But due to world unrest that band parcel was taken away to accommodate propaganda broadcasting in the lead up to World War II.

It had been thought it would be returned to the Amateur Service afterward, but its use for broadcasting continued due to the Cold War. In fact broadcasting increased the size of its primary allocation. While in some parts of the world radio amateurs managed to retain 7.0to 7.3 MHz only the bottom third was amateur exclusive and the remainder shared with shortwave broadcasters.

So, the International Amateur Radio Union mounted a campaign for the 40m band to be return globally to the Amateur Service. Its case stated that such as change would ensure effective communications support particularly in the event of natural disasters.

The I-A-R-U pursued the issue at the World Radiocommunications Conference in 2003. There its work gained 7.1 to 7.2 MHz worldwide for the Amateur Service. It also got an extra 100 kilohertz added on the exclusive allocation, while sharing between 7.2 and 7.3 MHz continues. (WIA News)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: W5KWQ HEADING TO SPACE IN OCTOBER

Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, the son of former astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL, will be the next space tourist visiting the International Space Station. And like his dad, he too plans to talk to those on the ground using ham radio.

A legendary video game programmer and designer, Richard Garriott will be traveling to orbit this October. While on the International Space Station, W5KWQ plans to speak with hundreds of students while thousands more listen in during a series of ten-minute ham radio contacts. Among the localities planned for contact with Garriott are the eight Challenger Learning Centers iacross the United States. the Austin Liberal Arts and Sciences Academy in Austin, Texas, the Pinehurst School in Ashland, Oregon, the Budbrooke School in the U.K., and the National Space Challenge in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Barring any unforseen launch delays Garriott's on-orbit stay is planned for October 12th to the 22nd. W5KWQ also plans to have random chats with scouts world-wide as part of the amateur radio "Jamboree on the Air" which
is slated for October 18th and 19th.

If all goes as planned, W5KWQ will be the sixth private citizen to be flown by the Russian space agency to the I-S-S. More information about his flight and the part that ham radio will play in it is on-line at www.ariss.org and www.richardinspace.com. (ARISS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ARISS NEEDS WEB ASSISTANTS FOR GARRIOTT FLIGHT

I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, with more news on the upcoming flight of Richard Garriot

Early on in his flight, W5KWQ expects to setup a Kenwood VC-H1 portable video transceiver and transmit a new Earth image every 3 minutes. He hopes to have this system on a great deal of his flight and ARISS is encouraging the ham community to bring SSTV equipment into schools and download these images for students in real-time.

But that's not all. ARISS also plans to display images from hams around the
world on a special on a web and blog site. A beta site has been developed and will be rolled out to the ham community in the near future.

To successfully implement the on-line SSTV picture site and support it around the clock during Garriott's flight, ARISS will need some savvy individuals that can sort through the many SSTV photos and keep the SSTV site up to date in near real time. ARISS says that it is looking for global support from a few individuals in each international region to make this happen. That way it will not be asking any one person to volunteer on an around the clock basis.

Obviously, some computer skills will be required. If you are interested in helping on this, please contact ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO. His E-Mail is ka3hdo at comcast dot net and mention that you heard the request on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm)

Again that e-mail address is is ka3hdo at comcast dot net to volunteer for support of the SSTV website being established for the flight by ARISS.

(ARISS)

**

RESTRUCTURING: VK HAMS TO GET LF ALLOCATION

Australia is set to join the 30-odd countries whose radio amateurs have been already given the new low frequency amateur band of 135.7 to 137.8 kHz.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority has released its draft Australia Radio Frequency Spectrum Plan that is to come into force on the 1st of January 2009. It includes 135.7 to 137.8 kHz for the Amateur Service on a secondary basis. This means that VK radio amateurs cannot cause harmful interference to radio-navigation service stations that continue to operate in a number of countries.

The permitted maximum radiated power is one watt effective isotropic radiated power. The New Year should see the Australian Advanced License, gain this band as a new operating privilege. (WIA News)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters ZL6A Monthly Broadcast.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: TRIAL OF ACCUSED KILLER OF HAM RADIO COUPLE BEGINS

The trial of the man accused of plotting the murders at sea of a pair of ham radio operators has begun with jury selection on Monday, September 22nd. Amateur Radio Newsline' Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has been following the case and has the latest:

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The trial of Skylar Deleon, accused of masterminding the 2004 murder of an Arizona ham radio couple is now underway. The former child actor along with four other defendants, are charged with the 2004 special circumstances murder of Thomas and Jackie Hawks, KD7VWJ and KD7VWK on their boat off-shore at Newport Beach, California.

Deleon's trial is being held at the Orange County California Courthouse. Prosecutors are asking the death penalty against Deleon and co-defendant John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Deleon and Kennedy are being tried separately.

Prosecutors claim that Deleon approached the couple with an offer to buy their 55-foot yacht called Well Deserved. The state alleges that Deleon and accomplices then killed the couple on November 15, 2004, when they took him and two other men out for a test run. Prosecutors say that that the

couple was handcuffed, tied to an anchor and dumped alive into the ocean after being forced to sign paperwork transferring the boat's title to Deleon. Their bodies have never been found.

News reports say that jury selection could see up to 1,000 local residents questioned to determine their suitability to serve on a death penalty case. The trial itself is expected to last as long as 14 weeks

Already convicted and sentenced to a pair of life sentences without the possibility of parole is Deleon's former wife Jennifer. After only four hours of jury deliberation she was found guilty on two counts of first degree murder on November 17, 2006. During her trial prosecutors showed evidence that she and Skylar Deleon cleaned the boat with bleach wipes and destroyed evidence and personal items belonging to the Hawks.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

Bruce will have more on the Deleon trial in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (Orange County Register and other published reports)

**

ENFORCEMENT: ANOTHER ALLEGED UNLICENSED STATION OPERATOR INCARCERATED IN FLORIDA

Another alleged unlicensed radio station operator is in jail in Florida. According to Inside Radio magazine for September 10th, authorities in the city of Wilton Manors arrested 23-year-old Constantinos Rigalos for apparently operating an illegal FM radio station. According to the magazine article, Rigalos bail was set at $2,000. Unlicensed broadcasting is a third-degree felony in Florida. (CGC)

**

RESCUE: HIKING HAM RECUED BY QRP RADIO AND MORSE CODE

Knowing Morse code helped an injured ham summon help. This, after being hurt in an accident high in the Cascade mountains of Washington State.

Over the weekend of September 20th Glenn Russell Ruby Jr, W7AU, of Corvallis, Oregon, was hiking in the Cascades when he slipped and suffered a broken his leg. He made it back to his camp site where he used his Elecraft K-1 portable QRP station to send out a call for help on 40 meter C-W. He was able to contact Bob Williams, N7ODM, of Bozeman, Montana. Ruby asked Williams to notify the Snohomish County Search and Rescue in Washington State.

Williams did. He then tried to keep in contact with Ruby. Signals faded out at about 8 p.m. local time but contact was resumed the next morning around 9 a.m. on 7.051 MHz. After that the two hams kept in communications until Ruby was evacuated on horseback from the site by Search and Rescue on Monday, September 22nd. Bad weather in the area had prevented a helicopter

rescue.

You can read a more in-depth account of the rescue of W7AU on the ARRL website newspages. Thats in cyberspace at www dot arrl dot org. (ARRL)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: D-STAR TRAVELS ROUTE 66

D-STAR became one of the modes used during the recent "Route 66 On The Air" commemorative operation that ran from September 13th to the 21st. According to the event website, 7 of the 17 special event stations were D-Star digital voice operations. The D-Star stations were W6F in Kingman, Arizona; W6H in Albuquerque, New Mexico; W6K on Oklahoma City; Missouri stations W6N in Joplin, W6O in Lebanon and W6P in St. Louis. At the Eastern end of the road in Chicago, W6Q was also a D-Starr operation.

For those not aware, the purpose of "Route 66 On The Air" is to give hams a fun way to "Relive the Ride" and their own memories of Route 66. This year the Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club out of San Bernardino, California was the sponsoring club. Over a dozen other ham radio organizations located along the famous highway took part as official participant stations. More is on line at www.w6jbt.org (Icom)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: HAM RADIO AND THE PONY EXPRESS

Ham radio was scheduled to be the communications arm of the 2008 Pony Express trail ride. This, as a part of the September 20th Wild West Extravaganza in Nye County, Nevada..

According to Nevada's Pahrunp Valley Times, the Southern Nye County Amateur Emergency Services was slated to coordinate water stops for the horses and provided a shadow communications network to watch over riders in case they experienced problems. Hams would also function as an adjunct to the Sheriff's Auxiliary for traffic control. Two operators were to be on hand at the end of the trail to provide status reports on the riders carrying the mail.

The ARES members taking party members rode the route in the emergency assistance trailer, the water truck and with the sheriff's auxiliary. The news article said that ham radio was again chosen as to support the event because it has proven to be the only type of communications that spans the distances covered by the trail ride. (Parhump Valley Times)

**

RADIO LAW: NOI ASKS IF ALL SATELLITE RADIOS ALSO RECEIVE HD RADIO AND VICE VERSA

The FCC has released a Notice of Inquiry on issues dealing with receivers for digitally based entertainment radio systems. Media Bureau Docket

08-172 asks if devices capable of receiving Satellite Digital Audio Radio Service should also be forced to include reception capabilities for terrestrial digital audio broadcast , H-D Radio or any other technologies capable of providing audio entertainment services. The same notice also asks if devices capable of receiving terrestrial H-D Radio be forced to include the ability to receive Satellite Digital Audio Radio Service or any other technologies capable of providing audio entertainment services.

The upshot of such a law would be to have one type of consumer receiver marketed that would be capable of receiving every form of digital radio entertainment service no matter where the signals came from. It does not mean that the now fee based services would be free, only that one receiver would be capable of receiving all of them.

The downside of coarse is that such a receiver would likely be far more expensive to produce than those currently designed for a particular digital radio service. This in turn leads to the question of consumers being foirced to pay for a device that includes the ability to receive services that they might not ever want.

The commentary cutoff deadline on M B 08-172 is November 10th with reply comments due no later than December 9th. The link to the actual Notice of Inquiry is
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-2092A1.doc (CGC, FCC)

**

RADIO CONFERENCES: NAB SEEKS PAPERS FOR APRIL 2009 GATHERING

One of the worlds leading communications groups is looking for presentations for an upcoming conference. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jeff Clark, K8JAC, says whom it is and what it wants:

--

The National Association of Broadcasters is asking for technical papers for its next Broadcast Engineering Conference. Radio topics suitable for technical papers include data broadcasting, AM directional antenna systems, automation systems, surround sound, audio coding and H-D Radio implementation, to name a few.

If selected for publication in the Broadcast Engineering Conference Proceedings, the papers would be presented at NAB2009. That show runs April 18th to the 23rd.

For more information please Contact John Marino, vice president, NAB Science & Technology, at jmarino@nab.org. The deadline for submitting a proposal is Oct. 17. If selected, the actual paper would be due Jan. 16, 2009.

I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC.

--

To submit a technical paper proposal, complete the electronic form found at www.nabshow.com/2009/forms/beccallforpapers.asp) (RW)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: W1KRB LEAVES ARRL HQ

Turning to some namrs in the news. First, word that the lady from ARRL headquarters with the never ending smile has departed from League service. This, with word that ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, has resigned her post at and is relocating away from her native Connecticut.

Breen, who is moving to the mid-West has been one of the most popular ARRL representatives to grace hamfests and around the country. She has also been known for her videos that have been posted online that promote the ARRL to members and non-members alike. W1KRB also headed up the ARRL team at the 2008 Dayton Hamvention this past May. (ARRL)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: GRIFFIN THE FUTURE OF THE SHUTTLE

And NASA administrator Michael Griffin has re-affirmed his backing for a White House directive that calls for the 2010 retirement of the shuttle. This, after a Florida newspaper published an internal e-mail in which he expresses dismay over the nation's looming inability to launch its own astronauts.

In the e-mail, obtained by the Orlando Sentinel and published on Sunday, September 7th, Griffin criticized the White House science policy and budget offices for actions that threaten to leave NASA unable to staff the international space station after the shuttle's retirement.

The initial launchings of NASA's new Orion capsule and Ares I rocket, the shuttle's successor, on missions to the space station are not planned until early 2015. The space agency, with White House support, is counting on the purchase of Russian Soyuz rockets to transport NASA astronauts to the space station between 2010 and 2015. The purchases require the approval of Congress, where support waned after Russia's military invaded neighboring Georgia. If approval fails to get a congressional go ahead participation by the United States in the International Space Station could come top a halt.

The bottom line: No matter what the outcome, the decision on the future of the space shuttle is bound to impact on the overall manned ham radio space program and on-orbit amateur radio operations from the ISS. (Published reports)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the

volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: GEORGE PUTNAM DIES AT AGE 94

He wasn't a radio amateur but for decades his on-the-air persona defined what the public perceived as a professional broadcast newsman. And now George Putnam, who anchored radio for three quarters of a century and top rated television news shows in Los Angeles for over 25 years, has died at age 94. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jim Davis, W2JKD, takes a look at the man and his record setting tour behind the mic and in front of the camera:

--

George Putnam began his 74 year long broadcast career in 1934 at WDGY radio in Minneapolis. In 1951 he moved to Los Angeles. Soon afterward he left radio for television and began hosting highly rated newscasts at stations KTTV, KTLA, KCOP and KHJ. And over the years he worked as a newsman, reporter, and commentator for most of the first generation United States broadcast organizations including NBC, ABC, Mutual, Dumont, and Metromedia.

For his contribution to the television industry, he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. George Putnam was also recently honored by the Los Angeles City Council and the county Board of Supervisors for his lifetime of service to the city.

After retiring from television in 1975, George Putnam returned to radio and created his famous syndicated "Talk Back" program. He did his last regular radio program this past May 8th. In a June 12th e-mail to his Newsmax.com readers, Putnam let it be known that he was in the hospital undergoing medical treatment on his liver and kidneys. Even so, he was able to take part in a special on-air celebration of his 94th birthday in mid-July.

According to CRN Digital Talk Radio, actor Ted Knight patterned his character of news anchor Ted Baxter on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" after George Putnam. And for many years, George Putnam rode in the January 1st Tournament of Roses Parade from 1951 until 2000.

--

George Putnam died early Friday, September 12th at his 20-acre working ranch in Chino, California. Over the years he was friends with some members of the Amateur Radio Newsline staff. He will be missed. (From various published reports)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: BLUSAT COULD LAUNCH WITHIN THE NEXT 18 MONTHS

Australia's University of New South Wales BLUEsat amateur radio satellite project could be ready for launch in as early as 18 months.

Weighing around 12 kilograms the solar-powered low earth orbit satellite will carry a flight computer with transmissions to include a beacon and amateur packet radio using the AX25 protocol in a J-mode configuration.

BLUEsat is believed the only university satellite project with an entire volunteer team. There are no full-time members or direct academic supervision. However the project has involved about 100 students since it began back in 1997. (WIA)

**

WORLDBEAT - INDONESIA: AMSAT INDONESIA ANNOUNCED

Indonesia now has its own amateur radio satellite organization. Hakim Satar YBZ0AN, contacted AMSAT-NA President Rick Hambly, W2GPS, with the announcement that AMSAT-Indonesia has formed. More about the new Indonesian AMSAT organization at www.amsat-id.net. (AMSAT)

**

WORLDBEAT - IRELAND: BEQUEST LEADS TO NEW HAM RADIO BOOK

The Irish Radio Transmitters Society has received a grant from the estate of the late Frank Lewis W3JGM. The organization says that it will use the funds to produce an introductory book on amateur radio, written in a popular non-academic format suitable for an Irish readership.
.
The Irish Radio Transmitters Society says that W3JGM was a great friend to many hams in Ireland. As such the society believes that such a would be a fitting tribute to Lewis who loved amateur radio and Ireland.

The Irish Radio Transmitters Society adds that it is in the process of selecting a suitable author to write the test. It hopes that it will wind up in schools and libraries all across Ireland. (IRTS News)

**

WORLDBEAT - BELGIUM: A HAMFEST IN BRULLELS

And while rather short notice, if you happen to be listening in Europe the Belgian Amateur Radio and Computer Rally was slated to take place on Sunday, September 28th. The venue was to be the Hall La Louviere Expo which is about 50 kilometers south of Brussels. Details are on the world-woide-web at www.on6ll.be. (Southgate)

**

ON THE AIR: CELECRATING THE NAVAL BATTLE OF PREYEZE

Members of the Turkish Special Wireless Activity Team are active as TC 470 PDZ through September 30th This, to celebrate the 470th anniversary the naval victory during the Battle of Preveze.

The naval Battle of Preveza took place on September 28th in the year 1538 near Preveza off the shore of northwestern Greece. It was a balttle that pitted an Ottoman Empire fleet against that of a Christian alliance. At the

end of the day, the Ottoman had sunk 10 ships, burned 3 others, captured 36, and had taken about 3000 prisoners.

Now, some 470 year later, the historic event is being commemorated by hams in Turkey. If you are able to make contact with TC 470 PDZ, please QSL via TA1HZ. (Southgate)

**

DX

In D-X, 3B8FQ has announced that he is planning to activate St. Brandon Island as 3B7FQ in October. The dates of the operation have not been determined. More information as it is available.

RW4WM, will be active as 3V8SS from Sousse, Tunisia from September 29th ato October 8th. Activity will be on CW and SSB, with some RTTY. QSL via RW4WM, direct or by the bureau.

DJ9XB will be active from Crete as J49XB between now and October 4th. He will probably operate in the CQ World Wide RTTY Contest on September 27th and 28th. QSL via his home callsign.

LA9SN, will once again be active as JX9SN from Jan Mayen for only a few hours on October 8th. Listen out for him on CW on 30 and 20 meters. QSL direct to LA9SN.

Lastly, A35RK has told the Ohio Penn D-X Newsletter that he will be active from American Samoa as KH8 slash KK6H, from AH8LG home Q-T-H. Operation will be from December 5th to the 9th on CW and SSB. QSL via W7TSQ or electronically via Logbook to the World.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: TWO YOUNG DXERS HEADED TO WILLIS ISLAND

And finally this week, a a follow up to our story a few weeks ago about the upcoming Willis Island DXpedition looking for a pair of young DX'ers to join the party. Now comes word that two young hams have been selected.

The lucky young hams who are about to embard on the ham radio trip of a lifetime are Josh Fischer, W4WJF from North Carolina. He will join the group for the first part of its operation.

Fischer will later be replaced by Rhy Louw, ZS6DXB, from the Republic of South Africa. Louw will also be on hand to close out the Willis Island operation.

The Willis Island DXpedition is one of the most anticipated in years. If all goes as expected, the operation is slated to be on the air from October 9th to the 27th. (Willis Island Team Announcement)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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919. How to PSK? What do all those funny letters mean?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-26 15:49:02 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <60adbcc3-c4eb-4541-bf2c-6a0bbc3c2057@25g2000hsx.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2490

I need a bit of help...

I'm pretty new to this PSK thing. I got to admit that I think it is a very interesting way to have a QSO and that I've enjoyed the handful of contacts that I've managed to have so far. I've learned a lot about PSK and radio in general as I fumbled around trying to get set up and on the air.

Which leads me to where I need help. I've run into a number of "first timers" on the air and we all share the same set of questions about the digital modes, the software, the hardware setup and the syntax of a QSO. I'm fairly proficient at using Google, but I can tell you that there are a lot of details that are hard to find when you are setting all this up for the first time.

Is there a good resource that explains the following:
1. The hardware required to link your radio to the computer sound card
2. The software choices you have
3. How to setup the radio to get a clean signal out, and how to know it's right.
4. How to make a QSO (What do all the letters mean???)
a) How to answer somebody or call CQ
b) How to end a transmission so they know you are done
c) What does 599 mean and how do I formulate the RST reports
d) How to end the QSO

I'm already though #3 and I've learned a lot of the QSO syntax by just doing it and watching other QSO's, but surely somebody has already compiled all this information someplace. Where might that be?

I'm also looking for information about how to harness my PSK software to drive my logging software so I don't have to keep manually entering all the log data. What software is out there that does this, and where can I find it?

-= Bob =-

920. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 38 (Friday, September 26, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-26 17:07:18 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20080926165611.7403430BE0@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2491
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 38
September 26, 2008
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Montana Ham Assists in Rescue of Fellow Amateur 600 Miles Away
* + Simulated Emergency Tests Scheduled for October 4-5
* + Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, Follows Dad Owen, W5LFL, into Space
* + FCC Assigns Contested Vanity Call to Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club
* ARRL to Participate in Combined Federal Campaign
* + Walt Ireland, WB7CSL, Retires from ARRL
* + IARU Award Certificates Get New Look
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
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+ DX Engineering Acquires Comtek Systems
North American Missions Board Stands Down after Gustav, Ike

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> MONTANA HAM ASSISTS IN RESCUE OF FELLOW AMATEUR 600 MILES AWAY

On Sunday, September 21, Bob Williams, N7ODM, of Bozeman, Montana, was
just tuning around on 40 meters, giving his rig a test just before a
scheduled QSO with his brother Rich, K7URU, in Spokane, when he heard a
faint CW signal around 1 PM (MDT): Glenn Russell Ruby Jr, W7AU, of
Corvallis, Oregon had broken his leg and was using a portable radio and
Morse code to send out a call for help. Williams said he was able to
understand the injured man's code even when his signal became very weak.

"He called me. He must have heard me testing out the radio. When I
finished, I signed off with my call, and then I heard, 'N7ODM, this is
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W7AU/7,' so I answered," Williams told the ARRL. "I told him to go ahead, I had solid copy. He told me that he was a hiker that had fallen and broken his leg. He identified himself as Russ, provided information as to his GPS coordinates, the shelter, food and water on hand, as well as his detailed physical condition. He told me exactly who I needed to contact for assistance."

According to Williams, Ruby had slipped on a wet rock and broken his leg while out hiking in the Buck Creek Pass area of the high Cascades in Western Washington, 600 miles away from Williams. "Russ really had his act together," Williams said. "Before he even called for help, he set up his tent. It was raining when he fell, so he climbed into his tent and got into some warm clothes and had a snack of sunflower seeds and dried apricots. After that, he strung up a wire antenna, fired up his Elecraft K1 and called me." Williams said that Ruby told him he had a "couple of weeks worth of battery power" for the radio.

Ruby asked Williams to notify the Snohomish County Search and Rescue in Washington State. "I didn't have their number, so I called my local 911 dispatcher. All they had was the info for King County in Washington, so I called them and they gave me the number for Snohomish. When I got a hold of Snohomish County Search and Rescue, they asked me to obtain additional info from Russ, such as the color of his tent and if he was in a clear or wooded area, and remain in contact with him as long as possible," Williams said.

"Russ and I were able to maintain contact until about 8 PM on Sunday, during which time I was able to pass additional traffic between Russ and Search and Rescue, but then his signal got so weak where I couldn't copy it anymore. Before he faded, we had agreed to try and make contact in the morning. I tried, starting around 6:30, but he never heard me. I finally heard him calling me around 9 on 7.051 MHz. We kept in contact until he was evacuated from the site by Search and Rescue at about 10:35 AM," Williams told the ARRL.

On Sunday, rescue crews reached Ruby, who had set up camp on Buck Creek Pass, at about 6000 feet just west of the Chelan County line. He was taken to safety Monday on horseback. Williams said that bad weather Sunday prevented a helicopter rescue: "It was snowing all night; Russ told me that when he woke up Monday morning, his tent was all covered in snow."

"I just happened to be at the same frequency," Williams said. "It's just a stroke of luck that turned out great. It was quite an experience. I'm just glad that he was a ham radio operator and that I was able to talk to him. It made the difference for him. What I did was not anything special. I'd like to think that any ham in Montana would've done the same thing."

==> SIMULATED EMERGENCY TESTS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 4-5

When emergency or natural disaster strikes, Amateur Radio is often called into the limelight of public service to establish a line of communication to and from the stricken areas. Amateur Radio networks, once established, sustain communication during the emergency efforts by helping the disaster relief workers and public with point-to-point communications or health and welfare messages. During weather related threats or during the actual occurrence of severe weather, Amateur Radio networks are commonly on standby to gather information and report this data to the National Weather Service or other pertinent authorities.

You've read about and/or have heard about these important stages of Amateur Radio public service in QST or on the Web or elsewhere. Make this the year that you take a role to learn more and become ready to serve in public service and emergency communications.

The ARRL sponsors a nationwide trial for Amateur Radio operators for a role in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, the National Traffic System, the National Weather Service's SKYWARN, the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) or other groups as well. It's the ARRL's annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET), and you're invited to join on October 4-5, 2008, or whenever it is held in your area.

To participate in this year's emergency test, contact your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator or Net Manager to find out the details. Although October 4-5 is the focal point weekend, ARRL Sections, ARES teams and nets may conduct their exercises anytime during September through December. If you don't know who to call, please touch base with your ARRL Section Manager for assistance (see page 16 in any QST for contact information or consult the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/sections>). Whether you're a new licensee or an experienced radio amateur, the SET is a golden opportunity to learn or practice useful skills in traffic handling, net operation and emergency communications protocols and management.

ARRL Section Leaders and local or District Emergency Coordinators are encouraged to work closely with served agencies in planning these exercises. This not only helps to heighten awareness of Amateur Radio in the community, but also helps ensure that effective communication networks will be in place if an actual emergency occurs. ARRL maintains National Memoranda of Understanding with several organizations and entities, and the SET is a prime chance to put these agreements into action. More details may be found here <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/mou/>.

You are encouraged to consider this year's ARRL Simulated Emergency Test and all preparations, as well as post-exercise evaluations, as a demonstration of your readiness and Amateur Radio's readiness. Be an active participant in SET, and join others nationwide. Additional background on the annual SET is presented in the article, 2007 Simulated Emergency Test Results. See July 2008 QST, pages 62-65. Also, guidelines and specific SET reporting forms for the ARRL Section and Field Leaders will be posted on the ARRLWeb site

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms>.

==> RICHARD GARRIOTT, W5KWQ, FOLLOWS DAD OWEN, W5LFL, INTO SPACE

Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, a well-known programmer and designer in the video game world, will soon be a household name to those who follow space flights. He's the next private citizen to be flown to the International Space Station (ISS) by the Russian Federal Space Agency (RKA), and is taking ham radio into space just as his dad Owen Garriott, W5LFL -- the first ham to make QSOs from space -- did in 1983.

Richard's fiery ride to space will be on a Russian Soyuz TMA-13, due to be launched on Sunday, October 12; the Soyuz is set to dock with the ISS two days later. According to ARRL Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm> Program Manager and ARISS International Secretary-Treasurer Rosalie White, K1STO, Richard is the sixth private citizen to be accepted by the Russian Space Agency for a short-term mission on the ISS. HIs term as an official crew member of the Soyuz TMA-13/17S crew is scheduled to end with the undocking of the Soyuz on October 22 for its journey back to Earth.

Twenty-five years after his father made that first QSO from space, Richard is bent on honoring him by operating ham radio in space. Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, ARISS International Chairman, said, "The ARISS Team is very happy to be able to make Richard's time in space extra special, since his flight coincides almost exactly 25 years from when his father made history."

The first thing Richard did after passing his Technician exam was to start talking to ARISS in earnest. "ARISS coordinates and sponsors everything to do with ham radio in space, and NASA Mission Control will be handling all of the ham radio schedules," White said. In mid-August, ARISS Team Member Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, set up a training session at NASA Johnson Space Center for Richard. Following that, Richard completed his Russian radio training. ARISS Team Member Sergej Samburov, RV3DR, trained Richard on SSTV, packet, the use of the ARISS equipment, and the onboard computers in Star City, Russia at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre. The next month, Samburov had Richard learn how to handle radio ops, especially pile-ups.

School QSOs are nothing new for ARISS, so what exciting new thing is Richard planning while he spends his time in space? White said he plans on transmitting a show of downlink video images. "Beforehand, SSTV testing will be conducted between him and the ARISS Team, uplinking high resolution images," she said. "The SSTV downlinks will take place during his official Earth observations duties, allowing students and hams to compare images to ones previously downloaded. He may have the SSTV equipment running at random times for the pleasure of ham radio operators. He will use his call sign -- W5KWQ -- on the downlinked video pictures while operating the RS0ISS and NA1SS equipment, with permission from station trustees Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, and Sergej Samburov, RV3DR.

According to ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, Richard plans to take a Kenwood VC-H1 SSTV communicator with him on board the Soyuz for his flight and leave it on the ISS for future ARISS use. "The VC-H1 has completed all hardware certification on the US and Russian sides," Bauer said. "The final test, an EMI radiated emissions test, was performed last week and the test data was delivered to Sergey Samburov, RV3DR, in Russia this week. The VC-H1 provides a very simple interface for ISS crew members and does not require the use of a computer. Computer usage has been a real challenge for ARISS, so the VC-H1 represents a lesson learned to improve ARISS operations."

Richard is the sixth private citizen to be flown by the Russian space agency to the ISS; all other private citizens who have ventured to the ISS before him have also made ARISS QSOs. NASA, the Russian Space Agency, RSC Energia, Space Adventures Ltd and ARISS have developed various agreements to allow space citizens to entice students to science and engineering through ARISS QSOs. For more information about Richard, his space activities and what he hopes to accomplish in space, visit his Web site <http://www.richardinspace.com/>.

==> FCC ASSIGNS CONTESTED VANITY CALL TO WISCONSIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

In an "Order on Reconsideration and Order Proposing Modification" released on Wednesday, September 24, the FCC decided that Falls Amateur Radio Club (FARC) was the rightful recipient of call sign W9CQ. FARC and the QRQ CW and Contest Group (QRQ) had both claimed they were entitled to use the call <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-2138A1.pdf>.

In 2007, the Commission was notified that Paul Kent, to whose amateur station call sign W9CQ was then assigned, had died on January 1, 2006. Therefore, the call sign was due to become available for reassignment through the vanity call sign system on January 2, 2008. On April 3, 2007, Robert C. Moldenhauer filed an application requesting W9CQ as a vanity call sign, stating that he was eligible for the call sign prior to the expiration of the two-year waiting period because he was an in-law of Paul Kent; the application was granted on April 21, 2007. On August 3, 2007, Moldenhauer filed another application requesting modification of his amateur station call sign to, among other call signs, W9IS. This application was granted on August 21, 2007, resulting in his license for call sign W9CQ to be surrendered and canceled. On November 1, 2007, after inquiry by the Commission's Enforcement Bureau, Moldenhauer reported that he had surrendered call sign W9CQ after realizing that he was related to a different Paul Kent and therefore was not eligible for the call sign prior to the end of the two-year waiting period.

On January 2, 2008, FARC filed an application requesting to modify its Amateur Radio station license to W9CQ. The Commission dismissed the application on the grounds that the call sign was not available, because it was less than two years since it had been surrendered by Moldenhauer. On January 23, 2008, FARC filed a petition for reconsideration of the dismissal, arguing that the call sign should have been made available to

the vanity call sign system on January 2, 2008 because Moldenhauer was not eligible for the call sign prior to the expiration of the two-year waiting period. Additionally, FARC requested that call sign W9CQ be assigned to its station license since it was the only applicant that requested call sign W9CQ on that date.

On May 23, 2008, QRQ submitted an application to modify its amateur radio station license to show the call sign W9CQ. The application submitted to the FCC stated that QRQ was acting with the written consent of a nephew of Paul Kent. This application was granted on June 10, 2008.

The Commission, in their decision, stated that they agreed with FARC that call sign W9CQ should have been made available to the vanity call sign system on January 2, 2008, as Moldenhauer was not eligible for the intervening grant of the call sign: "As specifically provided in public notices setting forth the procedures of the vanity call sign system, 'Where a vanity call sign for which the most recent recipient was ineligible is surrendered, canceled, revoked or voided, the two year requirement does not apply.'" The FCC also found that since FARC was the only applicant for that call sign on January 2, 2008, the call sign should have been assigned to FARC's amateur station.

The FCC did not see how, at this time, they could set aside QRQ's application for W9CQ, saying that grant is a "final action," but went on to say that "Section 316(a)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, provides the appropriate vehicle to correct this error." This section permits the Commission to modify a station license "if the action will promote the public interest, convenience, and necessity."

The FCC proposed to modify QRQ's Amateur Radio station license "to show the call sign KC9MWH, which was the call sign assigned to QRQ's amateur station prior to the grant of its application. The proposed modification would serve the public interest by ensuring that the procedures of the vanity call sign system are followed." The FCC stated that upon the modification of QRQ's license, they would then be able to assign call sign W9CQ to FARC "pursuant to its application."

The FCC ordered that the petition filed by FARC is granted "to the extent indicated" in the Order and their application is returned to pending status. It was further ordered that "it is proposed that the license of QRQ be modified" by returning the previous call sign of KC9MWH.

In its decision, the Commission said that in accordance with Section 97.27(b) of the Commission's Rules, they will not issue a modification order until QRQ has received notice of the proposed action "and has had an opportunity to file a protest. To protest the modification, QRQ must, within thirty days of the release date of this 'Order on Reconsideration and Order Proposing Modification,' submit a written statement with sufficient evidence to show that the modification would not be in the public interest. The protest must be filed with the Office of the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission." The FCC further stated

that if no protest is filed, "QRQ will have waived its right to protest the modification and will be deemed to have consented to the modification."

==> ARRL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

For the seventh year running, the US Office of Personnel Management has designated the ARRL to participate in the 2008 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) <http://www.opm.gov/cfc/>. In the past, this campaign for federal government civilian employees, US Postal Service workers and members of the military has generated more than $120,000 for ARRL programs; in 2008 alone, ARRL has received $37,475 in pledges from CFC participants and direct contributions of $21,316.

The CFC provides an easy way to support ARRL's effort to represent its members and all radio amateurs. Similar to the United Way, the CFC encourages individuals to pledge by payroll deduction to non-profit organizations of their choice. The ARRL encourages eligible radio amateurs to consider the League when designating campaign recipients. Payroll deduction through the CFC is an easy way for participants to support ARRL over and above their annual membership. Such contributions support programs that are not funded by member dues, enriching ARRL's ability to serve its members and all of Amateur Radio.

Those wishing to select the ARRL to receive all or part of their payroll deductions should designate organization 10099 when completing their CFC donor forms. Donations to ARRL can be designated for Diamond Club contributions, the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund or the ARRL Education & Technology Program. Donors may also make unrestricted contributions to the League.

One important note: Since the CFC does not provide the ARRL with the names of individual donors, the ARRL Development Office <k1mmh@arrl.org> would appreciate a copy of the donor form to ensure that each contribution is applied according to the donor's wishes and the contribution or pledge can be properly acknowledged. The 2008 CFC ends December 15.

==> WALT IRELAND, WB7CSL, RETIRES FROM ARRL

Technical Relations Specialist Walt Ireland, WB7CSL, part of the ARRL's Technical Relations Office (TRO) in Washington, DC, retired from the League this past summer. Ireland came to ARRL in April 1997 from the Voice of America (VOA) where he was responsible for building HF radio broadcasting stations. While at the TRO, he participated in the preparation cycles for three World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC) - 2000, 2003 and 2007 -- and served as vice chair of the FCC Informal Working Groups that dealt with US proposals for HF broadcasting and amateur requirements.

At the request of the FCC and with the approval of then-ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, Ireland accepted the Chairmanship of US Working Party-6E (which dealt with HF broadcasting) in 1997; he

held this position until WRC-07 after which all US Working Party chairs were assigned to government employees. As Chairman of US Working Party-6E, he headed all of the US delegations to meetings at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland. While there, Ireland often chaired ITU-R Drafting Groups.

Ireland was selected to be Vice Chair of Informal Working Groups of the FCC's WRC Advisory Committees (WAC) in preparation for WRCs-03 and 07. He was also selected by the US Department of State to attend WRC-07 as a Technical Advisor.

Several of the major ITU-R issues Ireland participated in were the protection of 7 MHz from HF broadcasters, protection of the 70 cm band from European and NASA Synthetic Aperture Radars, Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) and Ultra-Wide Band (UWB) transmissions.

Ireland served as the chief instructor for ARRL Amateur Radio Administration Course for Regulators (ARAC), sponsored by the United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI) for the past several years. He now resides in Nevada.

==> IARU AWARD CERTIFICATES GET NEW LOOK

On September 19, the ARRL Awards Branch unveiled a new design for two IARU award certificates: the Worked All Continents Award (WAC) and the 5 Band Worked All Continents Award (5BWAC) <http://www.arrl.org/awards/wac/>. WAC is awarded to amateurs who have confirmed contacts on any band with Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, North America and Oceania, while 5BWAC recognizes hams who have made confirmed contacts with those continents on 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters.

The WAC/5BWAC rules state that all contacts must be made from the same country or separate territory within the same continental area of the world. Contacts made on 10/18/24 MHz or via satellites are void for the 5-band certificate and 6-band endorsement. All contacts for the QRP endorsement must be made on or after January 1, 1985 while running a maximum power of 5 W output or 10 W input. US amateurs must be ARRL members to receive these awards; foreign amateurs must be members of their IARU Member-Society and should apply through their Member-Society.

According to ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the WAC award -- originally announced in the April 1926 issue of QST -- continues to be a popular award around the world with more than 6000 participants since its inception. "Besides the certificate design change, the WAC certificate will also display the award holder's name alongside their call sign. We do this already on the 5BWAC certificate."

Moore said there are a couple of ways that hams interested in applying for WAC or 5BWAC can do so. "They can download the form from the WAC Web site <http://www.iaru.org/wac/wac.pdf> and send it via regular mail (along with QSL cards and payment) to ARRL, or DXCC recipients can send an e-mail <wac@arrl.org>, referring to their DXCC award. We can look

into your account to verify the contacts; just include your payment information in your message," he said.

WAC is currently not supported in ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW), but Moore said that an upgrade to do so is currently in the planning stages. Any comments or questions regarding the WAC or 5BWAC program should be referred to the WAC Desk <wac@arrl.org>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "From the Sun that 'round me roll'd in its autumn tint of gold" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: This week saw the appearance of another sunspot -- a new Solar Cycle 24 spot -- larger and lasting a little longer than last week's Solar Cycle 23 sunspot. It appeared for two days, September 22 and 23, with sunspot numbers of 18 and 16. Geomagnetic activity is very quiet; on September 25, the K index was 0 for a good part of the day. This was true for the mid-latitude index, planetary and the college K index in Alaska. The three corresponding A indices for the day were 4, 1 and 1, respectively. This is especially nice for the lower part of the HF spectrum, such as our 160 and 80 meter bands, and something we don't see during periods of higher sunspot activity. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions September 26-29, unsettled September 30, active October 1 and unsettled conditions on October 2. Sunspot numbers for September 18-24 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 18 16 and 0 with a mean of 4.9. The 10.7 cm flux was 67.2, 67.9, 67.8, 67.9, 69.1, 69.4 and 68.4 with a mean of 68.2. The Estimated planetary A indices were 9, 5, 3, 2, 4, 3 and 4 with a mean of 4.3, and the estimated mid-latitude A indices were 5, 3, 1, 1, 2, 2 and 1 with a mean of 2.1. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Edgar Allen Poe's "Alone" <http://www.doctorhugo.org/synaesthesia/poe.html>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week is the NCCC Sprint on September 26 and the AGCW VHF/UHF Contest on September 27. Look for the CQ Worldwide DX Contest (RTTY), the Texas QSO Party and the Scandinavian Activity Contest (SSB) on September 27-28. The UBA ON Contest (CW) is September 28 and the 222 MHz Fall Sprint is September 30 (local time). The RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest is October 1. Next week is the German Telegraphy Contest on October 3. The YLRL Anniversary Party (CW) is October 3-5. The EU Autumn Sprint (SSB), the TARA PSK Rumble Contest and the NCCC Sprint are October 4. The Oceania DX Contest (Phone), the International HELL-Contest and the California QSO Party are October 4-5. The UBA ON Contest (6 meters) is October 5, the 432 MHz Fall Sprint is October 8 (local time) and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Sprint (CW) is October 9. All

dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday October 5, 2008 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday October 17, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* New Section Managers Get Ready to Converge on Newington: The 16th annual New Section Manager Workshop October 10-12 will give 14 newly elected or appointed Section Managers a chance not only to visit ARRL Headquarters for the first time, but also to gain some perspective on their new leadership positions. During the weekend gathering, participants will not only meet many HQ staffers, but learn some of the ins and outs of how to become effective Section leaders and administrators. According to Steve Ewald, WV1X, Supervisor of the ARRL Field and Public Service Team, the Section Manager Workshop is an orientation and training event for new Section Managers who have come on board within the past year. "The primary purposes of the Workshop sessions are to share ideas and to provide basic administrative, management, leadership and motivational training. We also cover the responsibilities and functions of the Section Manager's position, and the SMs are able to visit with ARRL Headquarters staff members and learn more about the many programs that ARRL supports. The Workshop sessions are presented by several ARRL Headquarter staff members who are experts in their respective areas," Ewald said.

* DX Engineering Acquires Comtek Systems: On September 24, DX Engineering <http://www.dxengineering.com/> announced it had acquired North Carolina-based Comtek Systems <http://www.comteksystems.com/>. Comtek's manufacturing and customer service operations will move to DX

Engineering's Akron, Ohio facility. "Comtek's products are highly regarded among Amateur Radio operators," said DX Engineering president Paul Sergi, NO8D. "The addition of these products to our popular line of antennas enhances our ability to supply complete, high quality, directional antenna systems. It's a win-win for DX Engineering and Comtek Systems customers." James Miller, K4SQR, principal of Comtek Systems concurred: "DX Engineering will continue the tradition of top quality products and customer satisfaction that we have provided for years. DX Engineering and Comtek Systems have complementary product lines and the synergy created by combining the two companies will bring many benefits to the Amateur Radio fraternity."

* North American Missions Board Stands Down after Gustav, Ike: On Wednesday, September 24, the hams with the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief <http://www.namb.net/site/c.9qKILUOzEpH/b.224451/>, a program sponsored by the North American Missions Board, NA4MB <http://www.namb.net/>, stood down after assisting with Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. The group had been helping providing backup communications options in areas that were isolated since August 31. NAMB National Communications Coordinator Terry Jones, W4TL, said that in his opinion, "The thing that worked best in areas that did not have good Internet and cell phone coverage were Winlink Airmail on both the amateur and the MARS side. This medium worked flawlessly and Airmail messages were transmitted via HF radio when voice communications were not possible due to extremely poor propagation. EchoLink worked very well, as did D-STAR. We were able to communicate directly with units in Texas through the D-STAR Gateway via the KI4SBA repeater in Cumming, Georgia. Satellite Internet service also worked well for those that have this technology. What did not work well at all were voice communications from the affected area to NA4MB due to very poor HF propagation." Southern Baptist Disaster Relief -- based in Alpharetta Georgia -- is a partnership ministry of the state Baptist conventions and the North American Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention. It has at its disposal approximately 1500 mobile units, including feeding, chainsaw, mud-out, command, communication, child care, shower, laundry, water purification, repair/rebuild and generators.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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921. Re: How to PSK? What do all those funny letters mean?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-26 18:32:50 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <wY8Dk.87$kI6.84@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2492

A whole lot of digital mode operations are adapted from CW. Bear in mind though, a lot of it is out of lazy typing rather than good operating practice. It is always best to be clear. Use English properly and simply to avoid confusion. For contest operation it is usually specific to the contest.

The interface technology is similar for most of the sound card type modes. You need to understand attenuators and impedance transformation theory but there are particulars for individual models of radio.

Rig control is different and usually involves a serial interface rather than audio interface, but again is specific to adapt to the radio. The change to USB ports is a complication. Rf energy in the shack brings other problems into the mix.

Google is your friend. There are volumes on the various subjects. There is usually a learning curve because of the specific needs of your particular station. My setup is a bit crude but ever evolving. I have found transformer coupling with proper attenuation to deal with impedance matching and common mode interference issues. I keep threatening to build it all into a small box complete with automatic audio source selection with level control, RX out buffered to different outputs and data switching. Look into MFJ and RigBlaster for store bought solutions that are highly adaptable to a variety of rigs and situations.

> I'm also looking for information about how to harness my PSK software
> to drive my logging software so I don't have to keep manually entering
> all the log data. What software is out there that does this, and
> where can I find it?

Look at logging programs that fetch the band, frequency and maybe mode from the rig control port. All you need to do is paste the callsign in from PSK. I bought LogEQF quite a while ago and like the readability and speed of it, but it's kind of a personal thing depending on how you set up the other stuff too.

I like to make timestamp macros in the whatever Digi software, so that the timestamp will be put into the QSO as a redundancy and all gets saved to cache.

922. September 2008 ARS License Numbers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-26 22:05:30 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <0be375a7-2ce3-4e9a-b0a3-0947d64e4959@d70g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2493

These are the number of current, unexpired FCC-issued amateur radio licenses held by individuals on the stated dates, and the percentage of the total number of active licenses that class contains. Percentages may not add up to exactly 100.0% due to rounding.

These totals do not include licenses that have expired but are in the two-year grace period, nor do they include club, military and other station-only licenses.

Effective April 15, 2000, FCC no longer issued new Novice, Technician Plus and Advanced class licenses, so the numbers of those license classes have declined steadily since then.
Also since April 15, 2000, FCC has renewed all existing Technician Plus licenses as Technician. It is therefore informative to consider the totals of the two classes, since the Technician class includes a significant number of Technician Plus licenses renewed as Technician. Due the renewing of Technician Pluses as Technicians, the number of Novices now exceeds the number of Technician Pluses.

On February 23, 2007, the last Morse Code test element, the 5 wpm receiving test, was
eliminated as a requirement.

The ARS License Numbers:

As of May 14, 2000:

Novice - 49,329 (7.3%)
Technician - 205,394 (30.4%)
Technician Plus - 128,860 (19.1%)
General - 112,677 (16.7%)
Advanced - 99,782 (14.8%)
Extra - 78,750 (11.7%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 334,254 (49.5%)

Total all classes - 674,792

As of February 22, 2007:

Novice - 22,896 (3.5%)
Technician - 293,508 (44.8%)
Technician Plus - 30,818 (4.7%)
General - 130,138 (19.9%)
Advanced - 69,050 (10.5%)
Extra - 108,270 (16.5%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 324,326 (49.5%)

Total all classes - 654,680

As of September 23, 2008:

Novice - 18,748 (2.8%)
Technician - 307,813 (46.6%)
Technician Plus - 12,480 (1.9%)
General - 143,815 (21.8%)
Advanced - 62,619 (9.5%)
Extra - 114,860 (17.4%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 320,293 (48.5%)

Total all classes - 660,335

Changes:

>From May 14, 2000, to February 22, 2007:

Novice - decrease of 26,433
Technician - increase of 88,114
Technician Plus - decrease of 98,042
General - increase of 17,461
Advanced - decrease of 30,732
Extra - increase of 29,520

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 9,928

Total all classes - decrease of 20,112

>From May 14, 2000, to September 23, 2008:

Novice - decrease of 30,581
Technician - increase of 102,419
Technician Plus - decrease of 116,380
General - increase of 31,138
Advanced - decrease of 37,163
Extra - increase of 36,110

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 13,961

Total all classes - decrease of 14,457

>From February 22, 2007, to September 23, 2008:

Novice - decrease of 4,148
Technician - increase of 14,305
Technician Plus - decrease of 18,338
General - increase of 13,677
Advanced - decrease of 6,431
Extra - increase of 6,590

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 4,033

Total all classes - increase of 5,655

73 de Jim, N2EY

923. Re: How to PSK? What do all those funny letters mean?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-27 02:56:29 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <SaSdnWjueeFNPUDVnZ2dnUVZ_rzinZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 2494

"KC4UAI" <kc4uai@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:60adbcc3-c4eb-4541-bf2c-6a0bbc3c2057@25g2000hsx.googlegroups.com...
>I need a bit of help...
>
> I'm pretty new to this PSK thing. I got to admit that I think it is a
> very interesting way to have a QSO and that I've enjoyed the handful
> of contacts that I've managed to have so far. I've learned a lot about
> PSK and radio in general as I fumbled around trying to get set up and
> on the air.
>
> Which leads me to where I need help. I've run into a number of "first
> timers" on the air and we all share the same set of questions about
> the digital modes, the software, the hardware setup and the syntax of
> a QSO. I'm fairly proficient at using Google, but I can tell you that
> there are a lot of details that are hard to find when you are setting
> all this up for the first time.
>
> Is there a good resource that explains the following:
> 1. The hardware required to link your radio to the computer sound card
> 2. The software choices you have
> 3. How to setup the radio to get a clean signal out, and how to know
> it's right.
> 4. How to make a QSO (What do all the letters mean???)
> a) How to answer somebody or call CQ
> b) How to end a transmission so they know you are done
> c) What does 599 mean and how do I formulate the RST reports
> d) How to end the QSO
>
> I'm already though #3 and I've learned a lot of the QSO syntax by just
> doing it and watching other QSO's, but surely somebody has already
> compiled all this information someplace. Where might that be?
>
> I'm also looking for information about how to harness my PSK software
> to drive my logging software so I don't have to keep manually entering
> all the log data. What software is out there that does this, and
> where can I find it?
>
> -= Bob =-

Most of the better PSK software includes logging as part of that software.
Then you can export the information in the ADIF format and import that file
to your general log.

Dee

924. D-Star comes to Omaha

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-27 20:55:41 UTC
From: "Paul W. Schleck" <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>
Message-ID: <48de6e9b$0$85790$540ea2cf@novia.net>
Source record: 2495

```
-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
Hash: SHA1

I'm pleased to discover that a D-Star repeater has been set up on 2
meters here in Omaha, Nebraska: KD0CGR/R, 145.175(-). This effort is
being led and coordinated by the Omaha Digital Communications Group,
which holds the repeaters's club callsign:

http://www.omahadigital.org/d-star-repeater/

http://www.omahadigital.org/

http://www.qrz.com/callsign/KD0CGR

This is apparently a coordinated assignment on a vacant frequency pair,
which is a fortunate circumstance from living here in the rural midwestern
U.S.

Gatewaying to Lincoln, 55 miles to the west, to the W0MAO
repeater/gateway, is being supported on a "semi-permanent" basis:

http://www.146760.net/news.php?readmore=20

Looks like minimum equipment buy-in (for a handheld) would be about
$400-$450 for an Icom IC-91AD. That's a bit stiff, but is probably
in-line with what many on this newgroup paid for their first dual-band
HT (and that was in more expensive dollars at the time).

The Omaha Digital Communications Group plans to expand to 1.2 GHz
shortly.

Omaha analog repeater activity for many years now has been mostly in
support of severe weather nets and volunteer weather spotters under the
SKYWARN program. Time will tell how well this new technology can be
integrated into such nets, and other public service communications.

- --
73, Paul W. Schleck, K3FU
pschleck@novia.net
http://www.novia.net/~pschleck/
Finger pschleck@novia.net for PGP Public Key

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----
Version: GnuPG v1.4.5 (SunOS)

iD8DBQFI3m5k6Pj0az779o4RAsGoAJ9vNySYysdZkEj7VU2yHBhC+eeZGACggPsC
yB8oMGDSZpa6qRN0iIVyelk=
=QQPa
```

```
-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----
```

925. I want SEX

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-28 03:29:18 UTC
From: Ronald.Ostroff@aol.com
Message-ID: <MPG.1b5bc968a8f4@news.tpgi.com.au>
Source record: 2496

Lloyd wrote:
>
> I narrow another industrial sphere.
>

http://distribute.bharattv.org

--
Hardly any rural soviets across the architectural monument were honouring within the vast video.

926. Re: How to PSK? What do all those funny letters mean?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-29 19:24:19 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <gbr8e4$1ium$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2497

KC4UAI wrote:
> I need a bit of help...
>
> I'm pretty new to this PSK thing. I got to admit that I think it is a
> very interesting way to have a QSO and that I've enjoyed the handful
> of contacts that I've managed to have so far. I've learned a lot about
> PSK and radio in general as I fumbled around trying to get set up and
> on the air.
>
> Which leads me to where I need help. I've run into a number of "first
> timers" on the air and we all share the same set of questions about
> the digital modes, the software, the hardware setup and the syntax of
> a QSO. I'm fairly proficient at using Google, but I can tell you that
> there are a lot of details that are hard to find when you are setting
> all this up for the first time.

I hear ya! Lots of times we don't have enough background to go on.

One good tool however is in the programs themselves. Many of them have "macros" that you hit a function key and it sends a pre-made bit of text to the transmitter. That is a pretty good place to look for the conventions. and most of us on PSK31 are not as big sticklers for those conventions, so making a "mistake" won't be all that embarrassing.

> Is there a good resource that explains the following:
> 1. The hardware required to link your radio to the computer sound card

This one isn't too bad to google.

http://www.geocities.com/n2uhc/interface.html

http://www.w7ji.com/psk.html

has a nice little interfaces.

I suppose the caddilac interface would be one using optoisolators. The interface I built is similar to the second one on the Geocities page. I use isolation transformers for both the audio transmit and recieve, and a potentiometer to trim the audio level.

> 2. The software choices you have

My favorites are DM780, (see description below) Digipan, and for quirky value - Zakanaka. There are others, but these three are free.

Google on those names. for the downloads.

> 3. How to setup the radio to get a clean signal out, and how to know
> it's right.

Just as a rundown, on PSK, it is best to have all the audio TX levels as low as possible, consistent with putting a signal on the air. Most important is to keep the ALC from engaging. This often limits your power output, but you shouldn't be using too much output on PSK31 anyhow. It's a narrow BW mode, and any flaws in a signal will make problems for other OPs, especially at higher powers. My rule of thumb is 25-30 watts, but never higher than 50 watts.

> 4. How to make a QSO (What do all the letters mean???)

What you need to do is a google search on Q-Signals. There will be a lot of them, not all are applicable any more.

> a) How to answer somebody or call CQ

It's largely a matter of personal preference. Some call CQ twice, some three times. A few do a whole slew of CQ's, which is not needed for PSK, since we can see a person on the waterfall as soon as they start transmitting and tune them in a very short time. Those extended CQ's are for modes where the sending OP is found manually.

But is CQ From (or "de") <your callsign> . You then repeat. Then listen. Give the other Ops a chance to reply. I've seen a few Ops who space their CQ's so cloe that by the time I've answered them, they are in the middle of calling CQ again.

To answer a call, I usually give their callsign twice, then mine twice. After establishing a QSO, it is just once.

> b) How to end a transmission so they know you are done

During the call

Back to you - BTU <their call> de <your call>

Ending the call

73's <their call> de <your call> SK.

> c) What does 599 mean and how do I formulate the RST reports
> d) How to end the QSO

This is an interesting one. Strictly speaking 599 doesn't apply to PSK. It means something like signal strength, readability, and tone. That, plus a lot of users just give everyone a 599, no matter what their signal is. I read somewhere about a alternative numerical exchange for digital users, I'll try to find it again.

> I'm already though #3 and I've learned a lot of the QSO syntax by just
> doing it and watching other QSO's, but surely somebody has already
> compiled all this information someplace. Where might that be?

I smile when I read this because one of the big troubles I had when learning live copy Morse code was that most CW ops use a lot of abbreviations. I was copying words that didn't make any sense to me - and I assumed I was wrong. Wasn't until after a good bit of copying that I figured it out.

Most PSK'ers use a lot more plain English than say CW operators do. Some things such as CQ, 73's and SK are fairly common, and are a nice connection to our roots, but PSK is not like repeaters, where the repeater owner has complete say so about how others speak when they use it.

> I'm also looking for information about how to harness my PSK software
> to drive my logging software so I don't have to keep manually entering
> all the log data. What software is out there that does this, and
> where can I find it?

I would recommend Digital Master-780, which is part of the Ham Radio Deluxe suite. This program does a lot of things for you, as well as the basic program:

Rig control - This is very nice, as many items that might be a menus item on the radio are now a mouse click on teh computer display.

Multiple modes - DM780 does PSK in it's many flavors, RTTY, Feld-Hell Olivia, CW, and many more.

mouse over a callsign, and it tells you the country, and if th estation is in the log yet. right click, and it places the call sign in the log window, and looks up the station info via an internet call sign server.

It has plenty of macros, which are easily modifiable.

When you sign with the other op, it enters the QSO in the logbook. Then it will upload the log to Eqsl.cc. Lots more features too.

Best of all, It is free, as well as being probably the best program of it's type.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

927. How much AM is there on VHF these days?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-29 21:10:48 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <ML6dncLnzZmg33zVnZ2dnUVZ_sLinZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2498

I was just going over the gear I have on the shelf, and I wonder if it's
worth the effort to get my Clegg 99'er six meter rig going again.

Is there any activity on Six-meter AM around Boston? Around the U.S.?

73, Bill W1AC
--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

928. How do I check if old coax is still usable?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-29 21:11:07 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <zvOdndkBQr-K3nzVnZ2dnUVZ_uednZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2499

I have a run of RG-8 coax inside a conduit, and I'd like to keep it in service if possible. How can I test it before I risk my finals trying to put power into it?

It's OK AFAICT with a VOM.

73, Bill W1AC
--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

929. Re: How to PSK? What do all those funny letters mean?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-29 22:26:42 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <h6l2e4lfgaui1ca8r8v2lc4r2qvq4ib5b3@4ax.com>
Source record: 2500

On Mon, 29 Sep 2008 15:24:19 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

>This is an interesting one. Strictly speaking 599 doesn't apply to PSK.
>It means something like signal strength, readability, and tone. That,
>plus a lot of users just give everyone a 599, no matter what their
>signal is. I read somewhere about a alternative numerical exchange for
>digital users, I'll try to find it again.

You may mean QSA 1-5 -- readability - with QSA 5 being a "solid"
contact. I've started using that system - it makes more sense. If
there is a problem with the "cleanliness" of the signal, tell to Op in
words what you are observing.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

930. Re: How to PSK? What do all those funny letters mean?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-29 22:28:58 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <hel2e4peufaqmgur4ktknvdp99oqrk9njo@4ax.com>
Source record: 2401

On Mon, 29 Sep 2008 15:24:19 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

> Ending the call
>
>73's <their call> de <your call> SK.

When I learned Morse in the Dark Ages, I learned that ending signal as
VA - which is exactly the same thing. I always associate SK with
"Silent Key" - an operator who has passed away. My ending macro says
"K2ASP Clear" - remnants of my Public Safety radio dispatch days.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

931. What is the proper environment for a ham shack?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 00:31:36 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <oo-dnXnaUOL42HzVnZ2dnUVZ_qjinZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2402

I'm cleaning up after a broken pipe, and although my cellar is unfinished now, I plan to put a new shack down there RSN, so I need some help.

My questions:

1. What's the ideal environment for modern and Boat-Anchor rigs?

2. How may I monitor conditions (humidity, temperature, ?) without busting the radio budget on weather instruments?

3. What can I do to prevent water damage? Are there automatic water cut-off valves? How do they work?

73,

Bill W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

932. Do you use a vertical on 80?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 00:31:42 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <qvidnX-LD7rK23zVnZ2dnUVZ_qfinZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2403

I've been using an inverted vee for 80 meters, with mediocre results.
I'm willing to experiment with other designs and I like the simplicity
of verticals, but I've got to get something up before the weather turns,
so if you've used a vertical on 80 meters, please answer these questions
for me.

1. Performance?
2. Is noise worse/better/the same?
3. Is a quarter-wave radiator essential, or can it be shorter?
4. Loading/tuning?

73,

Bill W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

933. Co-generation in Emcom?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 00:32:44 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <3qKdnVMNNN8g13zVnZ2dnUVZ_qjinZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2404

I saw a news report about a "Green" home that used a furnace which also provided electricity for the dwelling. I didn't get any details other than that it ran on natural gas.

Please tell me about these units, and if any of them are suitable to provide on-site power and heat during emergency communications deployment.

73,

Bill W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

934. Re: How do I check if old coax is still usable?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 00:51:03 UTC
From: Tom Horne <hornetd@verizon.net>
Message-ID: <0ueEk.884$Dk4.226@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2405

Bill Horne wrote:
> I have a run of RG-8 coax inside a conduit, and I'd like to keep it in
> service if possible. How can I test it before I risk my finals trying to
> put power into it?
>
> It's OK AFAICT with a VOM.
>
> 73, Bill W1AC

Bill
Apply a megaohmmeter to test for any breakdown in the dialectic between the center conductor and the shield and between the shield and ground. A test voltage of 500 would be the highest I would go and I think three hundred would tell you all there is to know about the integrity of the insulation. You already know that the condition of the copper is essentially unchanged.
--
Tom Horne

"This alternating current stuff is just a fad. It is much too dangerous for general use." Thomas Alva Edison

935. Where can I buy parts for Collins and Drake?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 00:52:02 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <bYGdnasNvsX01HzVnZ2dnUVZ_qTinZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2406

I have acquired a Collins 516F-2 power supply, and need to know where I can buy a rebuild kit for it. I also have a Drake AC-4 power supply, and I'd like to recap and restore that too.

Come to think of it, who would you recommend for replacement tubes? Are the packages made up for e.g., a 75S3-B worth it, or should I just buy individual tubes?

Please reply off-list.

73,

Bill W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

936. Need advice on HDTV antenna

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 01:57:20 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <wOydnS7nmYZg2nzVnZ2dnUVZ_oHinZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2407

OK, the cutover to HDTV is coming up, and I want to have a good antenna on the roof long before February, so I'm in need of advice. I'm using a converter box to feed my current TV set, but rabbit ears don't work well at all.

I know I need a rooftop antenna, but the available commercial literature is more hype than help. I'm hoping that someone out there has expertise on the new antennas being offered for HDTV.

I know this depends a lot on what the signal strengths are at my QTH, but assuming that all-other-things-are-equal:

* Are flat-panel units worth the price?
* Can I get by with an old VHF-UHF combination antenna?
* What's the tradeoff between feedline length and antenna gain?
* Do masthead preamps perform well, and is the cost and maintenance worth it?

73,

Bill W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

937. Re: Need advice on HDTV antenna

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 06:00:29 UTC
From: Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@invalid.nospam>
Message-ID: <pan.2008.09.30.05.57.55.89803@invalid.nospam>
Source record: 2408

On Mon, 29 Sep 2008 21:57:20 -0400, Bill Horne wrote:

> OK, the cutover to HDTV is coming up, and I want to have a good antenna

> on the roof long before February, so I'm in need of advice. I'm using a

> converter box to feed my current TV set, but rabbit ears don't work wel
l
> at all.
>
> I know I need a rooftop antenna, but the available commercial literatur
e
> is more hype than help. I'm hoping that someone out there has expertise

> on the new antennas being offered for HDTV.
>
> I know this depends a lot on what the signal strengths are at my QTH,
> but assuming that all-other-things-are-equal:
>
> * Are flat-panel units worth the price?
> * Can I get by with an old VHF-UHF combination antenna?
> * What's the tradeoff between feedline length and antenna gain?
> * Do masthead preamps perform well, and is the cost and maintenance
> worth it?

What market are you in, and how far are you from the local towers?

I would suggest you can get away with an old combination antenna if it's
still in decent shape. You may want to think about replacing the
feedline, it ages less gracefully than the antenna...

My personal experience has been that masthead preamps are pretty reliable
.
However, I'd be slow to use one unless you're in a fringe area. They ca
n
easily overload and make reception *worse*.

938. Re: Need advice on HDTV antenna

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 06:22:58 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <j3t8r5-eh2.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 2409

In article <wOydnS7nmYZg2nzVnZ2dnUVZ_oHinZ2d@speakeasy.net>,
Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:

>I know I need a rooftop antenna, but the available commercial literature
>is more hype than help. I'm hoping that someone out there has expertise
>on the new antennas being offered for HDTV.
>
>I know this depends a lot on what the signal strengths are at my QTH,

.... and on whether the channels in your area are all going to be on
UHF, or whether there are some which will still be on VHF high-band,
or even one or more on VHF low-band.

>but assuming that all-other-things-are-equal:
>
>* Are flat-panel units worth the price?

As to price I can't say (although there's an open-source design or two
floating around which can be home-fabricated).

Flat-panel designs (bowtie-and-reflector, usually, I think) are
probably decent solutions for UHF-only areas. I don't expect that
their performance on VHF is terribly good, unless they're very large.

>* Can I get by with an old VHF-UHF combination antenna?

If you've got a decent ghost-free picture on NTSC with a combo
antenna, chances are probably fairly good that it'll work well enough
for ATSC digital.

If all of your ATSC stations are going to be UHF, you might get better
results with a multi-bay UHF-only antenna... the combo antennas don't
always have a very clean pattern (good front-to-back ratio)

>* What's the tradeoff between feedline length and antenna gain?

Well, a longer feedline leads to greater losses, and if your signal is
already at the lower limit of what's acceptable then you'll need to
make up the lack somehow else... higher antenna gain, or a preamp, or
increasing the signal "seen" by the antenna.

There's a definite tradeoff between feedline length and antenna
height - raising the antenna will increase the feedline length (and
losses), but may give the antenna a better "view" of the transmitter
antenna and thus a stronger/cleaner signal.

If you're a good distance from the transmitter (more than a few
miles), raising the antenna is often a very good tradeoff...

if you don't, the transmitter antenna may be below the horizon (from your antenna's point of view) and you'll be depended on diffracted signal rather than line-of-sight signal. An extra 10' of antenna height may increase the signal into the antenna by quite a bit more than the amount you'll lose in 10' of feedline.

>* Do masthead preamps perform well,

A lot of cheaper preamp designs are prone to overload if there's a strong signal nearby (e.g. fire, police, ham radio), and this is Ungood. Some are prone to instability - they can start oscillating without warning - and this is Really Ungood.

> and is the cost and maintenance
>worth it?

That depends very much on your situation.

If many of the stations you're receiving are quite distant, and if you need a long feedline, and if you've already got a good antenna, and if you buy a high-quality masthead preamp which is resistant to strong-signal overload, and if there are no nearby strong-signal transmitters, then such a preamp may well be worthwhile.

I tend to think that preamps are a decent way to compensate for losses in the feedline. Unless they're quite good, though (low noise figure and high overload resistance) they're not a good substitute for getting enough of a clean signal *into* the antenna - positioning the antenna better/higher, and using an antenna with more directional gain are better bets. Remember, a masthead preamp will amplify ambient RF noise, and multipath reflections just as much as it'll amplify the desired input signal!

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

939. Re: Need advice on HDTV antenna

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 17:16:10 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <iYSdna3wktZXw3_VnZ2dnUVZ_g6dnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2410

Bill Horne wrote:

> * Can I get by with an old VHF-UHF combination antenna?

My advice would be to try it and see. You'll know right away, as digital reception tends to be pretty much "all or nothing". I had no problem with my existing antenna when converting to the new signals.

If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

If it is broke, then do a little research to determine what frequencies you're interested in (VHF, UHF, or both) and how far you are from the transmitting locations. There are web sites that will help with that. Given that information, you'll be in a better position to figure out what you need.

73, Steve KB9X

940. Re: How to PSK? What do all those funny letters mean?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 17:58:56 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <gbtlui$1krm$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2411

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Mon, 29 Sep 2008 15:24:19 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>> Ending the call
>>
>> 73's <their call> de <your call> SK.
>
> When I learned Morse in the Dark Ages, I learned that ending signal as
> VA - which is exactly the same thing.

Why yes. I'd never heard of that.

I always associate SK with
> "Silent Key" - an operator who has passed away. My ending macro says
> "K2ASP Clear" - remnants of my Public Safety radio dispatch days.

The nice thing is having the options.

Do you get on PSK much? Some times of the day there are nice paths from
Oregon to PA on 20 meters.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

941. Re: Do you use a vertical on 80?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 18:03:49 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <YttEk.950$kI6.124@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2412

"Bill Horne" <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote in message
news:qvidnX-LD7rK23zVnZ2dnUVZ_qfinZ2d@speakeasy.net...
> I've been using an inverted vee for 80 meters, with mediocre results.
> I'm willing to experiment with other designs and I like the simplicity
> of verticals, but I've got to get something up before the weather turns,
> so if you've used a vertical on 80 meters, please answer these questions
> for me.
>
> 1. Performance?
> 2. Is noise worse/better/the same?
> 3. Is a quarter-wave radiator essential, or can it be shorter?
> 4. Loading/tuning?
>
> 73,
>
> Bill W1AC
>
Inverted V is more like a vertical. If you have a metal mast, it might BE a
vertical. If you can raise the ends It might work better.

Shorter antenna means narrower bandwidth. You will probably need a tuner
even with a full size vertical on 80m.

I used an inverted L with loading on the 9' vertical section. It had a 25'
horizontal section and worked well for short to medium skip on 80 and 40m.

I now have an HF9v Butternut. Royal pain to tune. Works well for longer
skip, worthless for short skip. Has good bandwidth on all bands 6-40m but
needs a tuner for most of 80 as the 2:1 bandwidth is about 20 kHz. The
inverted L came down because it detuned the vertical too much on all bands.
I wish I had both.

942. Re: How do I check if old coax is still usable?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 18:04:06 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <EEtEk.1019$Dk4.7@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2413

"Tom Horne" <hornetd@verizon.net> wrote in message
news:0ueEk.884$Dk4.226@nwrddc02.gnilink.net...
> Bill Horne wrote:
> > I have a run of RG-8 coax inside a conduit, and I'd like to keep it in
> > service if possible. How can I test it before I risk my finals trying to
> > put power into it?
> >
> > It's OK AFAICT with a VOM.
> >
> > 73, Bill W1AC
>
> Bill
> Apply a megaohmmeter to test for any breakdown in the dialectic between
> the center conductor and the shield and between the shield and ground.
> A test voltage of 500 would be the highest I would go and I think three
> hundred would tell you all there is to know about the integrity of the
> insulation. You already know that the condition of the copper is
> essentially unchanged.
> --
> Tom Horne
>
> "This alternating current stuff is just a fad. It is much too dangerous
> for general use." Thomas Alva Edison

Buried coax is prone to moisture unless the conduit was able to drain and
has air space. If you think it may have had moisture in it, replace it. I
like to replace at 10 years maximum because of contamination from the
chemicals in the dialectric.

943. Re: How to PSK? What do all those funny letters mean?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 20:11:42 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <e385a809-4f59-442b-a091-42b5826c10c0@v28g2000hsv.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2414

On Sep 26, 10:49 am, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> but surely somebody has already
> compiled all this information someplace. Where might that be?
>

Well now.. Just saw this on the ARRL's website... Covers the syntax
questions I had quite well...

http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/Eth-operating-ENarrl-SITE-1jul2008.pdf

Even though I'm still reading it, I would recommend this to all folks
new to Ham Radio before they get on the air. The rest of us may want
to skim though it and see how our operating practice squares with the
ideal.

-= bob =-

944. Re: What is the proper environment for a ham shack?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 20:13:04 UTC
From: Tom Horne <hornetd@verizon.net>
Message-ID: <u3vEk.1042$Dk4.978@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2415

Bill Horne wrote:
> I'm cleaning up after a broken pipe, and although my cellar is
> unfinished now, I plan to put a new shack down there RSN, so I need some
> help.
>
> My questions:
>
> 1. What's the ideal environment for modern and Boat-Anchor rigs?
>
I don't know.
> 2. How may I monitor conditions (humidity, temperature, ?) without
> busting the radio budget on weather instruments?
>
A reasonably accurate electronic Hygrothermograph with alarm functions
can be purchased for about one hundred dollars ($100).

> 3. What can I do to prevent water damage?
Install a flooding alarm that will sense the presence of water in the
lowest point of the basement. Build or buy an autodialer that will page
you through your cell phone if the flooding alarm goes off. If you have
a home burglar and / or Fire alarm system that function can be added to
the system but before having that done be sure you know how much it will
add to the monthly monitoring fee if any.

> Are there automatic water cut-off valves? How do they work?
>
The only ones I've seen are excess flow valves and they only close on a
complete rupture of the piping such as might occur following an
earthquake or explosion. It is possible to set up a flow timer that
would cut off the flow of water using a solenoid operated valve if the
water flow continued for too long a period. That can be wired with a
pre-alert to warn you that the flow will be cut off to give you time to
reset the timer if you are, say, filling the pool or a hot tub. You can
also add water flow supervision to your home alarm system so as to
notify you of any water flow when you are not home. The sensor is
installed after the tap for any automatic watering systems. If you have
a sump pump it can be supervised; either by a home alarm system or a
stand alone device and you can be notified if the water in the sump
rises above the cut in level of it's float switch or if the pump is
running continuously. You can also install a venturi eductor; which is
sometimes called a jet pump; that would pump water using the pressure
and flow from the public water system if your power is out and the water
in the sump rises above the sump pumps cut in level. Since your battery
backed up alarm system or unit would already be complaining about the
high water level and the loss of AC power that would buy you the time to

do something about it by returning home and starting a generator for instance.
> 73,
>
> Bill W1AC
>
WHAT FOLLOWS IS MORE THEN MOST WILL WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ALARM SYSTEMS BUT IS WORTH READING IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING ADDING AN ALARM SYSTEM OR ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS TO AN EXISTING SYSTEM.

Most of this you can build into your alarm system or house monitoring system yourself if you own the system. If the system is under a monitoring contract and it is owned by the monitoring company then you would want to have these functions tied into the supervision of external systems circuit so that you don't get hit with monthly fees for each function monitored. You should only be paying for monitoring four types of signals unless YOU want to pay to have individual functions separately monitored. Be warned that the individual monitoring costs can add up to a very steep bill. The four signals are Trouble, which means the alarm system itself is in need of servicing*; Supervision, which means that a building protective system is operating or in need of servicing; fire, & burglary. Some folks choose to add manual panic alarms for home invasion or robbery but that is often an additional monthly charge on your central station monitoring contract. Most of what you want to know can be signaled directly to your cell phone without any monthly fee by adding off the shelf components to an alarm system you own. Such systems are known as proprietary alarm systems because they are monitored by the Owner / Proprietor or her/his agent. Systems monitored under contract are called Central Station Alarm Systems. Systems that only alarm locally are called, not surprisingly, Local Alarm Systems. Systems that notify a public agency or private service that is not in the alarm monitoring business are called Remote Alarm Systems. Municipalities and local governments of all stripes do not like remote alarm systems because they are too often mistaken alarms. In most states it is now a crime to program an auto-dialing voice message system to call 911 or any other public safety telephone number including non emergency numbers. Local governments want you, or someone you pay to do so, to do the heavy lifting of determining that an actual emergency really does exist. They want a human being to call to tell them what is going on and to take responsibility for the authenticity of the alarm signal. Auto-dialers that relay trouble or supervisory signals are simply ignored by public safety agencies except for the preparation of a citation for violation of the State's alarm system regulatory laws.
--
Tom Horne

"This alternating current stuff is just a fad. It is much too dangerous for general use." Thomas Alva Edison

*This should be included at no additional cost to you if the system is owned by the alarm servicing company or by the Central Station that monitors it. Central Stations are often owned and operated by the company that installed the system.

945. Re: Co-generation in Emcom?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 20:13:37 UTC
From: Tom Horne <hornetd@verizon.net>
Message-ID: <TivEk.1045$Dk4.857@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2416

Bill Horne wrote:
> I saw a news report about a "Green" home that used a furnace which also
> provided electricity for the dwelling. I didn't get any details other
> than that it ran on natural gas.
>
> Please tell me about these units, and if any of them are suitable to
> provide on-site power and heat during emergency communications deployment.
>
> 73,
>
> Bill W1AC
>

Most such systems that can be readily moved around are called ground power units and are designed to service airplanes. Most of them are one offs that were built to serve a particular type of airplane. These are sometimes available to local government through the state surplus office. You could adapt any mobile generator to provide some heat but mobile and portable heating units are commercially available. The adaptations need to be done very carefully so as not to pump exhaust gases into the structure. A duct wye fitting is connected to the cooling air exhaust of the engine alternator unit; read generator; and the remote thermostat changes the damper to dump the heat right there or into flexible ducting that will carry the heat to the space were it is wanted. Such units will heat a larger area if they have both supply and return ducts and dampers. The system can be built from off the shelf parts and only attached to the "generator" when the heat is needed. The condition of the engine becomes a significant factor in the occupants comfort. If the engine is leaking lubricant or coolant then the oder of the heated liquids will quickly become unbearable.
--
Tom Horne

"This alternating current stuff is just a fad. It is much too dangerous for general use." Thomas Alva Edison

946. How can I measure ground conductivity?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 20:14:22 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <YYudneLb-a1CH3_VnZ2dnUVZ_jidnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2417

I'm experimenting with antennas, and I'm going to model some on my
computer, but I need to know the ground conductivity at my QTH.

How may I measure this without special-purpose instruments?

TIA.

73, Bill W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

947. TVI from my laptop PS

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 20:15:12 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <ULCdnRI3ZLpVHn_VnZ2dnUVZ_vOdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2418

I'm getting TVI when I connect my laptop to it's charger/PS. Strangely enough, the TVI doesn't happen when the power supply is plugged in but not connected to the laptop.

Please pass along your experiences and solutions.

TIA.

73,

Bill W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

948. Re: Do you use a vertical on 80?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 20:15:57 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <dfu4e4ln7dta636ini5du0q13seb7l08f8@4ax.com>
Source record: 2419

On Mon, 29 Sep 2008 20:31:42 EDT, Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:

>I've been using an inverted vee for 80 meters, with mediocre results.
>I'm willing to experiment with other designs and I like the simplicity
>of verticals, but I've got to get something up before the weather turns,
>so if you've used a vertical on 80 meters, please answer these questions
>for me.
>
>1. Performance?
>2. Is noise worse/better/the same?
>3. Is a quarter-wave radiator essential, or can it be shorter?
>4. Loading/tuning?
>
>73,
>
>Bill W1AC

I have not used a vertical on 80 meters, so I cannot answer questions 3 and 4. However, I do have some opinions:

Whether a vertical is better than an inverted-V depends upon what you want to accomplish. If you want maximum DX, then the main radiation lobe of your antenna should be at a low angle re. the ground. A vertical antenna has a low angle. A horizontal antenna (an inverted-V is mainly horizontal) must be up about one wavelength (80 meters, 271 feet) to get a low-angle radiation lobe.

But, if you want to contact stations in your state or region (in your case, New England and neighboring states), you want the radiated energy to go nearly vertical, so that it bounces off the ionosphere and returns nearby. A horizontal antenna mounted low does this. I live in the desert southwest near Las Vegas where we have no tall trees to tie antennas to. I have a half-wave 80-meter dipole mounted about 25 feet (0.09 wavelength at 80 meters) high. It gives me nearly-vertical radiation. I have good coverage of Nevada, southern California and Arizona. But no DX. However, I don't chase DX; I'm content to chat locally.

Local interference from lightning, power lines and most other non-intentional sources is vertically polarized, so a horizontal or inverted-V would pick up less of this type of noise. Distant interference from any source would be reflected by the ionosphere and be of random polarization.

73 de Dick, AC7EL

949. Re: How can I measure ground conductivity?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 20:47:46 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <1s25e41v7vdd2f4j1n1av44dmg9sbnmimt@4ax.com>
Source record: 2420

On Tue, 30 Sep 2008 16:14:22 EDT, Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:

>I'm experimenting with antennas, and I'm going to model some on my
>computer, but I need to know the ground conductivity at my QTH.
>
>How may I measure this without special-purpose instruments?
>
>TIA.
>
>73, Bill W1AC

You can get estimated ground conductivity at
http://www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/m3/index.html

73 de Dick, AC7EL

950. Re: How to PSK? What do all those funny letters mean?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 20:48:00 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <qyuEk.1034$Dk4.99@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2421

```
>... My ending macro says
> "K2ASP Clear" - remnants of my Public Safety radio dispatch days.
> --
Using the "k2asp" call is improper police proceedure!! I'm putting you on
report!!

At least we don't have a macro for "breakity broke!"
```

951. Radio path prediction

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 22:38:50 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <fL-dnb5JP4uxDH_VnZ2dnUVZ_srinZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2422

This is a sort of follow-up to my post on 80 meter verticals, but in reading AC7EL's reply, I realized I may be (excuse the expression) barking up the wrong tree.

I am content with ragchewing to locals on 80, but I also want to have a reliable path to my brother's QTH, so the question is really "How do I choose the best band for QSO's from Boston to Washington, D.C."?

Now, obviously, this is a complex topic, but I'm looking for other hams who've set up similar paths: about 450 miles, IIRC. It's just outside the range I'd expect from a "NVIS" dipole on 80, but might be short for 40. If you've dealt with similar path lengths, please chime in.

TIA.

73,

Bill W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

952. Use of ground wires underneath dipoles

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-09-30 22:39:02 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <UPOdnVprccnVDn_VnZ2dnUVZ_i2dnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2423

According to Wikipedia
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Near_Vertical_Incidence_Skywave), a
horizontally-polarized NVIS antenna will benefit from a ground wire
underneath it.

Here's an excerpt:

"An NVIS antenna configuration is a horizontally polarized (parallel
with the surface of the earth) radiating element that is from 1/20th
wavelength ... to 1/8th wavelength above the ground. That proximity to
the ground forces the majority of the radiation to go straight up.
Overall efficiency of the antenna can be increased by placing a ground
wire slightly longer than the antenna parallel to and directly
underneath the antenna. While the ground wire is not necessary under
good to excellent propagation conditions, antenna gain in the 3 dB to
6 dB range are common when the ground wire is used."

Since I've never heard of anyone doing this, or seen any hams trying it,
I'd like to hear from those who've done it, and find out if the gain is
as predicted.

73,

Bill W1AC, who is rushing to get a good sky-hook up before the winter

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

953. Re: Use of ground wires underneath dipoles

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-01 00:03:08 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <b3c5e4t22u9ql42lgtvv53hqb0cel4ka40@4ax.com>
Source record: 2424

On Tue, 30 Sep 2008 18:39:02 EDT, Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:

>According to Wikipedia
>(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Near_Vertical_Incidence_Skywave), a
>horizontally-polarized NVIS antenna will benefit from a ground wire
>underneath it.
>
>Here's an excerpt:
>
>"An NVIS antenna configuration is a horizontally polarized (parallel
>with the surface of the earth) radiating element that is from 1/20th
>wavelength ... to 1/8th wavelength above the ground. That proximity to
>the ground forces the majority of the radiation to go straight up.
>Overall efficiency of the antenna can be increased by placing a ground
>wire slightly longer than the antenna parallel to and directly
>underneath the antenna. While the ground wire is not necessary under
>good to excellent propagation conditions, antenna gain in the 3 dB to
>6 dB range are common when the ground wire is used."
>
>Since I've never heard of anyone doing this, or seen any hams trying it,
>I'd like to hear from those who've done it, and find out if the gain is
>as predicted.

I have a chain-link fence along my property line. Maybe I can move my antenna over to the property line and use the fence as ground wire.

>73,
>
>Bill W1AC, who is rushing to get a good sky-hook up before the winter

73, Dick, AC7EL in Southern Nevada, who is waiting for November or later to do his antenna work. It was 95 degrees Fahrenheit today, still too hot for outdoor work for this transplanted New Hampshirite. BTW, it almost never snows here.
73 de Dick, AC7EL

954. Re: Radio path prediction

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-01 01:19:41 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9B29C1B43AAADVeebleFetzer@216.250.184.7>
Source record: 2425

In news:fL-dnb5JP4uxDH_VnZ2dnUVZ_srinZ2d@speakeasy.net Bill Horne
<bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:

> I am content with ragchewing to locals on 80, but I also want to have
> a reliable path to my brother's QTH, so the question is really "How do
> I choose the best band for QSO's from Boston to Washington, D.C."?

Lots of propagation prediction programs on the net. I've played with,
but never put to practical use

http://www.voacap.com/
http://www.dxatlas.com/HamCap/
http://elbert.its.bldrdoc.gov/pc_hf/

--
Bert Hyman W0RSB St. Paul, MN bert@iphouse.com

955. Re: How to PSK? What do all those funny letters mean?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-01 04:16:01 UTC
From: Jim Haynes <haynes@localhost6.localdomain6>
Message-ID: <slrnge5r2k.ecp.haynes@localhost6.localdomain6>
Source record: 2426

On 2008-09-30, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
> Phil Kane wrote:
>> On Mon, 29 Sep 2008 15:24:19 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>>> 73's <their call> de <your call> SK.
>>
>> When I learned Morse in the Dark Ages, I learned that ending signal as
>> VA - which is exactly the same thing.
>
> I always associate SK with
>> "Silent Key" - an operator who has passed away.

Well, there is some similarity with the end of a contact and the end of
a mortal life, so perhaps that is why the double meaning of SK

But whether you spell it SK or VA, the derivation of the signal is from
American Morse, where it is "30" ...-. for 3 and a looooong dash for
zero. And "30" is the abbreviation you still see now and then in
published matter, where it means "the end"

Jim, W6JVE

956. Re: How can I measure ground conductivity?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-01 04:16:15 UTC
From: Tom Horne <hornetd@verizon.net>
Message-ID: <tzCEk.1135$Dk4.296@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2427

Bill Horne wrote:
> I'm experimenting with antennas, and I'm going to model some on my
> computer, but I need to know the ground conductivity at my QTH.
>
> How may I measure this without special-purpose instruments?
>
> TIA.
>
> 73, Bill W1AC
>
>

If you want a real value you will have to do a four pole fall of potential measurement using a Ground Resistance Tester. That is the only way to get a real value that will hold up to later scrutiny of the antennas you have modeled.
--
Tom Horne

"This alternating current stuff is just a fad. It is much too dangerous for general use." Thomas Alva Edison

957. Re: TVI from my laptop PS

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-01 13:06:52 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9B2A5282F9FA1VeebleFetzer@127.0.0.1>
Source record: 2428

bill@horneQRM.net (Bill Horne) wrote in
news:ULCdnRl3ZLpVHn_VnZ2dnUVZ_vOdnZ2d@speakeasy.net:

> I'm getting TVI when I connect my laptop to it's charger/PS.
> Strangely enough, the TVI doesn't happen when the power supply is
> plugged in but not connected to the laptop.
>
> Please pass along your experiences and solutions.

Switching power supplies are notorious RFI generators; sometimes
they'll be clean for years and then go bad, some are bad out of the
box.

They're usually designed so they shut down when there's no load
applied, which would explain why you don't experience any interference
when it's not connected to your PC.

You could try the standard trick of adding chokes to the AC and DC
lines to the supply, but when I've had a PS go bad, I've never had any
luck removing the noise.

Other than that, the only other solution I've found is replacement.

--
Bert Hyman | St. Paul, MN | bert@iphouse.com

958. When was 33cm allocated to hams?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-01 17:05:45 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <Hvqdncxqf4ZpBX7VnZ2dnUVZ_hKdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2429

I was having an eyeball qso with another ham last night, and he
mentioned using 33cm (902-928 MHz). I made the mistake of admitting that
I didn't know we had an allocation between 70 cm and 23 cm.

Since I don't like not knowing these things, I'll ask some questions:

* When was 33cm allocated to hams?
* What commercial equipment is available?
* What homebrew designs are available?
* Where is activity centered?
* What modes are most common on the band?

TIA.

Bill, W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

959. Bugcatcher antenna problem

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-01 17:05:53 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <gc05h6$1cb0$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2430

I'm reinstalling my reworked Bugcatcher on my vehicle, and the road oil and dirt, and general tarnish have made the bugcatcher coil taps a little difficult to solder to.

The main coil is 6 inches in diameter, around a foot in length, and is on a plexiglas form.

I've tried a couple things. Sandpaper was a no go, as it will wear the wires down. Steel wool works okay, but you can't get it on the inside of the form. I'd rather have a "dip n' clean" sort of thing if such exists.

I have even considered a acid bath, followed by a long rinse, but this is electronics, so all my training yells no. still......

Anyone know of a dip that will clean tarnished and dirty solder, and not be too corrosive?

- 73 d eMike N3LI -

960. Re: Use of ground wires underneath dipoles

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-01 20:11:21 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <gFOEk.44$P5.35@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2431

"Bill Horne" <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote in message
news:UPOdnVprccnVDn_VnZ2dnUVZ_i2dnZ2d@speakeasy.net...
> According to Wikipedia
> (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Near_Vertical_Incidence_Skywave), a
> horizontally-polarized NVIS antenna will benefit from a ground wire
> underneath it.
>
Ever hear of a 2 element Yagi?

961. Re: TVI from my laptop PS

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-01 20:11:42 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <xHOEk.45$P5.11@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2432

"Bill Horne" <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote in message
news:ULCdnRl3ZLpVHn_VnZ2dnUVZ_vOdnZ2d@speakeasy.net...
> I'm getting TVI when I connect my laptop to it's charger/PS. Strangely
> enough, the TVI doesn't happen when the power supply is plugged in but
> not connected to the laptop.
>
> Please pass along your experiences and solutions.
>
Is the radio connected to the laptop too?

962. Re: Use of ground wires underneath dipoles

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-01 20:12:34 UTC
From: You <you@shadow.orgs>
Message-ID: <you-9F686A.11284501102008@netnews.worldnet.att.net>
Source record: 2433

In article <UPOdnVprccnVDn_VnZ2dnUVZ_i2dnZ2d@speakeasy.net>,
Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:

> According to Wikipedia
> (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Near_Vertical_Incidence_Skywave), a
> horizontally-polarized NVIS antenna will benefit from a ground wire
> underneath it.
>
> Here's an excerpt:
>
> "An NVIS antenna configuration is a horizontally polarized (parallel
> with the surface of the earth) radiating element that is from 1/20th
> wavelength ... to 1/8th wavelength above the ground. That proximity to
> the ground forces the majority of the radiation to go straight up.
> Overall efficiency of the antenna can be increased by placing a ground
> wire slightly longer than the antenna parallel to and directly
> underneath the antenna. While the ground wire is not necessary under
> good to excellent propagation conditions, antenna gain in the 3 dB to
> 6 dB range are common when the ground wire is used."
>
> Since I've never heard of anyone doing this, or seen any hams trying it,
> I'd like to hear from those who've done it, and find out if the gain is
> as predicted.
>
> 73,
>
> Bill W1AC, who is rushing to get a good sky-hook up before the winter

We used a configuration of that principal, for years, when doing
communications for the Ididarod DogSled Races out in the bush
of Alaska. Put up a Dipole for 80 Meters, strung between the trees,
and then ran a Grounded Wire, directly under the Dipole, that was 3%
longer, electrically. Increased our ERP for Short Range Comms.
Typical Ranges were from 120-500 Miles. KL7BB can give you any details,
you could require, if you can track Crazy Bill down......

963. Re: How to PSK? What do all those funny letters mean?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-01 21:13:54 UTC
From: Hello.com
Message-ID: <jY6dnWKzmPSffn7VnZ2dnUVZ_oPinZ2d@giganews.com>
Source record: 2434

'73's <their call> de <your call> SK.' -----------NOPE!

For your LAST transmission of the QSO:

'stuff' 73 SK <their call> de <your call> [KN if your're waiting for an answer - dits if not, and you feel like a Lid - CL if you will not answer any calls after the present QSO]

For your last transmission the SK is in place of the AR as used during the QSO - you know: 'stuff' AR [BK or <their call> de <your call>] [KN or K if you do not use BK]

"Phil Kane" <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote in message news:hel2e4peufaqmgur4ktknvdp99oqrk9njo@4ax.com...
> On Mon, 29 Sep 2008 15:24:19 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>> Ending the call
>>
>>73's <their call> de <your call> SK.
>
> When I learned Morse in the Dark Ages, I learned that ending signal as
> VA - which is exactly the same thing. I always associate SK with
> "Silent Key" - an operator who has passed away. My ending macro says
> "K2ASP Clear" - remnants of my Public Safety radio dispatch days.
> --
>
> 73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
>
>>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
> Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon
>
> e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net
>

964. Re: Radio path prediction

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 01:26:38 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <7oednVxdVObevnnVnZ2dnUVZ_sudnZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2435

In addition to the propagation programs Bert recommended, there is this one that is very easy to use:

http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/

Tad Cook, author of the ARRL propagation bulletin, often cites this program in his bulletins. I have it and like it a lot.

965. Re: How to PSK? What do all those funny letters mean?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 04:17:07 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <qii8e4hae2kitoonun5mqik762cu9n9v6n@4ax.com>
Source record: 2436

On Tue, 30 Sep 2008 13:58:56 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

> Do you get on PSK much? Some times of the day there are nice paths from
>Oregon to PA on 20 meters.

On a regular basis I check into the Oregon Digital Emergency Net -
Fri. 8pm local - on 80 meters. Now and then I work PSK on 40 meters
to pile up states. Aside from that, I haven't had much occasion to
work HF lately but I'm fully ready to go 160 - 10 meters. My spare
time has been pretty spare lately.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

966. Re: Use of ground wires underneath dipoles

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 04:58:03 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <IKydnUimGI0rqHnVnZ2dnUVZ_tTinZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2437

Dick Grady AC7EL wrote:

> 73, Dick, AC7EL in Southern Nevada, who is waiting for November or later to do
> his antenna work. It was 95 degrees Fahrenheit today, still too hot for outdoor
> work for this transplanted New Hampshirite. BTW, it almost never snows here.
> 73 de Dick, AC7EL
>

et tu, Brute?

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

967. Re: Use of ground wires underneath dipoles

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 04:58:23 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <SaednVOreK61qnnVnZ2dnUVZ_sHinZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2438

You wrote:
> In article <UPOdnVprccnVDn_VnZ2dnUVZ_i2dnZ2d@speakeasy.net>,
> Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:
>
>> According to Wikipedia
>> (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Near_Vertical_Incidence_Skywave), a
>> horizontally-polarized NVIS antenna will benefit from a ground wire
>> underneath it.
[snip]
>>
>> Since I've never heard of anyone doing this, or seen any hams trying it,
>> I'd like to hear from those who've done it, and find out if the gain is
>> as predicted.

> We used a configuration of that principal, for years, when doing
> communications for the Ididarod DogSled Races out in the bush
> of Alaska. Put up a Dipole for 80 Meters, strung between the trees,
> and then ran a Grounded Wire, directly under the Dipole, that was 3%
> longer, electrically. Increased our ERP for Short Range Comms.
> Typical Ranges were from 120-500 Miles. KL7BB can give you any details,
> you could require, if you can track Crazy Bill down......
>

What puzzles me is the ground: I don't understand why such a wire would
function as anything but, well, ground. I understand that it's a
parasitic reflector if not grounded (has anyone tried this?), but I
don't get the reason for the ground.

BTW, is it grounded at both ends?

73,

Bill W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

968. Re: TVI from my laptop PS

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 04:58:40 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <SaednVKreK48qnnVnZ2dnUVZ_sHinZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2439

JB wrote:
> "Bill Horne" <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote in message
> news:ULCdnRl3ZLpVHn_VnZ2dnUVZ_vOdnZ2d@speakeasy.net...
>> I'm getting TVI when I connect my laptop to it's charger/PS. Strangely
>> enough, the TVI doesn't happen when the power supply is plugged in but
>> not connected to the laptop.
>>
>> Please pass along your experiences and solutions.
>>
> Is the radio connected to the laptop too?
>

No, it's literally Television Interference: I see banding on my analog
TV, which uses rabbit ears.

Bill, W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

969. Re: Use of ground wires underneath dipoles

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 13:29:09 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <edb2d74b-e6e5-4246-8da4-873e57c52c7a@p59g2000hsd.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2440
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On Oct 2, 12:58 am, Bill Horne wrote:

> What puzzles me is the ground: I don't understand why such a wire would
> function as anything but, well, ground. I

I think it's really about ground (dirt) conductivity. Which varies all over the place.

In some places (moist, loamy soil with lots of minerals, coastal areas where the water table is very high and salty) the dirt is a pretty good conductor, to the point where antennas "worked against ground" do pretty well with just a ground rod or two. RF just bounces off that sort of dirt.

In other places (dry, sandy, rocky soil) the dirt is a very lossy counductor, and acts more as an RF absorber.

With a low dipole, the ground is so close that it has major effects on the antenna. If it's lossy dirt, it just soaks up RF, but if it's a decent conductor, it can act as a reflector. The added wire is just a way of improving the ground conductivity in the dirt that is most involved: the dirt directly under the antenna.

73 de Jim, N2EY

970. Hard Times and Ham Radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 13:30:20 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <8a12d558-5385-4af5-a8b4-c66f67dbae74@79g2000hsk.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2441

I've been following the various political debates this election year, and the whole $700 billion bailout mess. How it happened, how to fix it, who is to blame, etc. From all that, it seems to me that we're looking at some pretty lean economic times ahead.

But this isn't really a post about politics or economics. It's about their effect on ham radio, specifically, growth in our numbers. Looking back of the history of US ham radio, it seems to me that the worst economic times were the best for US ham radio growth.

Consider that:

In the 1920s, the number of licensed US hams grew very slowly, if at all, despite the new technologies of tubes and short waves. By 1929 there were only about 18,000 licensed US amateurs, not much more than in 1920. The Roaring '20s radio boom was in broadcasting, whose development has many parallels to that of the internet in the '90s and '00s.

Then in 1929 came two major changes for US hams. First were the "1929 regulations" that greatly narrowed the US ham bands and required much cleaner signals than before. A lot of existing transmitters had to be extensively modified if not completely rebuilt to meet the new rules, and hams on bands like 40 and 20 were crowded into much less spectrum than before. (In those days the ham bands were far fewer than today, and simply getting a transmitter to work well on one band was a challenge). For example, 40 was reduced in width from 1000 kHz to 300, 20 was reduced from 2000 kHz to 400.

Later in 1929 the stock market crashed and the Great Depression began. Hard times lasted all through the 1930s. There was also the Dust Bowl that displaced large numbers of Americans from their farms. (May we never see such hard times again!)

Yet from 1929 to 1937 the number of licensed US hams almost tripled. In percentage terms it was the time of the greatest growth US amateur radio has ever seen.

As prosperity began to return in the late 1930s, the growth slowed down. WW2 shut down US amateur radio for the first half of the 1940s. When the war ended, there was rapid growth despite all the disruption of the war, plus rising prices and shortages in the postwar economy as wage and price controls were removed. Of course a big part of that growth was from people who had put off becoming hams during the war, and later from the restructuring of 1951 that created the Novice license. But in the five years from VJ Day to the beginning of 1951,

the number of US hams almost doubled, passing 100,000 in the process.

The 1960s were good economic times, yet through that decade US amateur radio growth was almost nil, similar to the 1920s. The radio boom in the 1960s was in cb, not amateur radio.

Then in 1968 the new "incentive licensing" regulations came into effect, and in the 1970s problems of inflation, high interest rates, unemployment, energy crises and lack of economic growth hit the US economy very hard. Just look at gasoline prices - less than a quarter a gallon for cheap gas in 1969, a dollar and a half ten years later. It wasn't until the mid-1980s that things really stabilized.

Yet all through the 1970s and into the 1980s the number of US hams grew steadily, from about 270,000 in 1969 to about twice that number in the mid-1980s.

Since the early 1990s until today, we've had (at best) slow growth in the number of US hams, and (at worst) a decline, even though the price of a ham rig in inflation-adjusted dollars has decreased greatly and the licenses are far easier to earn. The boom in these years has been in "wireless" (an old term reused!) rather than amateur radio.

The only exception to the pattern of hard times = ham radio growth I can find is the 1950s, which were economic good times (at least the later 1950s). In that decade the growth of the late 1940s continued steadily, so that by the early 1960s there were about 250,000 licensed US hams. Besides the then-new Novice license, the 1950s were a time when there was lots of WW2 surplus radio gear available at bargain prices. It was also the heyday of inexpensive but decent quality kit rigs from Heath, Johnson, Eico and others. The highest sunspot peak in recorded history happened in 1958, and the Cold War caused a lot of interest in civil defense communications by hams.

Perhaps the connection is that, in hard economic times, people's recreation shifts away from going out, traveling, and making big purchases, and changes to things they can do hunkered down at home for a little money and a lot of ingenuity. Certainly most of the ham stations of the 1930s fit that description. While new ham gear and a big station are expensive, a small homebrew or used-equipment station with a simple antenna can provide very good results if used with skill, patience and there are decent conditions.

What do others think? Could we be in for another time of growth for US ham radio? The Dow is down, house prices are down, credit is tight and taxes are just about guaranteed to rise. But sunspots are on the way....

73 de Jim, N2EY

971. Re: How to PSK? What do all those funny letters mean?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 16:08:36 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <gc2r4c$15m2$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2442

Hello.com wrote:
> '73's <their call> de <your call> SK.' ----------NOPE!
>
>
> For your LAST transmission of the QSO:
>
> 'stuff' 73 SK <their call> de <your call> [KN if your're waiting for an
> answer - dits if not, and you feel like a Lid - CL if you will not answer
> any calls after the present QSO]
>
> For your last transmission the SK is in place of the AR as used during the
> QSO - you know: 'stuff' AR [BK or <their call> de <your call>] [KN or K if
> you do not use BK]

I think you are talking about CW instead of PSK.

We've pared down the prosigns quite a bit for PSK mode. I think it is
mostly a legacy thing, as plain english works okay too. I don't think
I've ever seen prosigns such as BK or KN used for PSK.

Pretty much SK, K CQ (well that really isn't a prosign of course) - and
the good old 73 and 88. Some use 73's and 88's. Technically wrong, but I
don't want to lecture a person who is wishing me well.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

972. Re: TVI from my laptop PS

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 16:10:08 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <036Fk.146$yI6.30@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2443

"Bill Horne" <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote in message
news:SaednVKreK48qnnVnZ2dnUVZ_sHinZ2d@speakeasy.net...
> JB wrote:
> > "Bill Horne" <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote in message
> > news:ULCdnRl3ZLpVHn_VnZ2dnUVZ_vOdnZ2d@speakeasy.net...
> >> I'm getting TVI when I connect my laptop to it's charger/PS. Strangely
> >> enough, the TVI doesn't happen when the power supply is plugged in but
> >> not connected to the laptop.
> >>
> >> Please pass along your experiences and solutions.
> >>
> > Is the radio connected to the laptop too?
> >
>
> No, it's literally Television Interference: I see banding on my analog
> TV, which uses rabbit ears.
>
> Bill, W1AC
>
> --
> Bill Horne
>
> (Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)
>

Good excuse to get rid of the rabbit ears. Go to an outside antenna for more signal, and to get away from the various noises from appliances in the house.

It may be from the power pack, then you could substitute another and see, but most likely from the charging circuit in the computer that uses a ramp voltage and is radiated from the frame of the computer. This shows up as lines of dots. What happens if you pull the battery when using it? If it is diagonal bars, it may be from a clock in the computer. Either way you are probably screwed.

973. Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 17:46:25 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <zLudnUQmoMVAIXjVnZ2dnUVZ_rLinZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 2444

Can anyone recommend a free newsgroup server? Comcast just sent out an email that they are discontinuing newsgroup access effective October 25th.

974. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 19:49:37 UTC
From: richgr@panix.com
Message-ID: <gc38ka$436$1@reader1.panix.com>
Source record: 2445

In article <zLudnUQmoMVAlXjVnZ2dnUVZ_rLinZ2d@comcast.com>,
Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote:
>Can anyone recommend a free newsgroup server? Comcast just sent out an
>email that they are discontinuing newsgroup access effective October 25th.

Get a shell account at Panix.com. They have a very good news server.

$100. a year, includes email. www.panix.com

You can do email and news by logging into your shell account and using
unix tools or remotely with NNTP and IMAP access.

--
Rich Greenberg N Ft Myers, FL, USA richgr atsign panix.com + 1 239 543 1353
Eastern time. N6LRT I speak for myself & my dogs only. VM'er since CP-67
Canines:Val, Red, Shasta & Casey (RIP), Red & Zero, Siberians Owner:Chinook-L
Retired at the beach Asst Owner:Sibernet-L

975. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 20:21:22 UTC
From: Richard Crowley <rcrowley@xp7rt.net>
Message-ID: <6kkopqF8hv20U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2446

"Dee Flint" wrote ...
> Can anyone recommend a free newsgroup server? Comcast just sent out an
> email that they are discontinuing newsgroup access effective October 25th.

Google will give you an ample list of free news servers.

Many people in other newsgroups faced with the same
situation are going over to news.individual.net which is
actually run by the Free University in Berlin (not that the
location makes any difference on the worldwide network).

It costs 10 Euros per year which amounts to slightly more
than 1 USD per month. They run a good operation and I
have not heard any complaints about it. I have them auto
charge my plastic every year and I don't even have to
think about it. Highly recommended.

976. Re: Radio path prediction

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 20:30:50 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <gc3al4$1dvk$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2447

Bill Horne wrote:
> This is a sort of follow-up to my post on 80 meter verticals, but in
> reading AC7EL's reply, I realized I may be (excuse the expression)
> barking up the wrong tree.
>
> I am content with ragchewing to locals on 80, but I also want to have a
> reliable path to my brother's QTH, so the question is really "How do I
> choose the best band for QSO's from Boston to Washington, D.C."?
>
> Now, obviously, this is a complex topic, but I'm looking for other hams
> who've set up similar paths: about 450 miles, IIRC. It's just outside
> the range I'd expect from a "NVIS" dipole on 80, but might be short for
> 40. If you've dealt with similar path lengths, please chime in.

Hi Bill,

Keep in mind that an antenna height that is NVIS on 80 meters, won't necessarily be so on 40 meters. A backyard dipole should do nicely from Boston to Washington. I regularly have QSO's from The middle of PA to all over New England on 40 meters, and get some impressive results on both ends, So the path is there.

Now on to your band question.

One of the side benefits of doing a State QSO Party is I can see what bands tend to go where.

And this info is not cast in stone - it is just general.

80 meters is pretty local during the day. Around 200 miles is max. At night, it extends a lot further. 160 is similar, only worse for locality. And of course it's quite a job getting a good antenna up for it. 160 meters would not be a good choice for comms between you and your brother, and 80 would probably be a little marginal during the daytime

40 meters daytime is usually pretty dependable from local to 500 some miles. It does some times "go long". When that happens, fairly local signals, around a hundred miles or so away, will fade away, while several hundred out will come in great. In the evening, 40 goes worldwide. When the Broadcast stations finally get out of the Ham section of 40 meters, it will be a golden age for us. At present, you'll still be able to reach your desired distance, you'll just have to find a clear space.

40 is a pretty good choice.

20 meters tends to have an interesting skip path. From Central PA, I get out Gangbusters to Florida, and the mid and far west. Not so good a hundred miles away. Some times it stays open late in the evening, sometimes it closes early

Higher in frequency is more of the same, only exaggerated. 15 Meters tends to close earlier, etc.

If it were me, I would set up a dipole so that it would fire in the desired direction, and have the other party do the same. 40 meters would be the band.

I've purposely not gone too much into propagation models, as I think they can get a bit unwieldy.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

977. Re: How can I measure ground conductivity?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 20:44:22 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <gc3blh$1dog$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2448

Bill Horne wrote:
> I'm experimenting with antennas, and I'm going to model some on my
> computer, but I need to know the ground conductivity at my QTH.
>
> How may I measure this without special-purpose instruments?

From an ARRL Handbook

You drive 4 rods into the ground 18 inches apart in a straight line.

You have a 100 watt bulb in series with a resistor that goes to the near rod, the other side of the bulb goes to one half of a 120 volt line. The other side of the 120 volt line goes to the farthest rod.

If the bulb lights brightly, then rejoice! You have great ground.

Here is the more detailed link

http://amfone.net/ECSound/K1JJ12.htm

Needless to say, you're operating with some voltage here, so care is the watchword. Keep in mind that conductivity is constantly changing, so the best we can hope for is a rough idea anyhow.

Now a simpler way to do all this, and much less dangerous, is to use maps like the one at:

http://www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/m3/index.html

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

978. Re: How can I measure ground conductivity?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 21:14:37 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <29eae456nneikbiifpq2lr4i3mb6mhpkgp@4ax.com>
Source record: 2449

On Thu, 2 Oct 2008 16:44:22 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

>Now a simpler way to do all this, and much less dangerous, is to use
>maps like the one at:
>
>http://www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/m3/index.html
>
Ah yes, the venerable M3 map. It is only an approximation, and for
real-life stuff it isn't used any more, supplanted by real ground
conductivity measurements.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

979. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 21:18:29 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <2ieae4t4vu4i03drgo2sbb76gd1e1883n5@4ax.com>
Source record: 2450

On Thu, 2 Oct 2008 13:46:25 EDT, "Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net>
wrote:

>Can anyone recommend a free newsgroup server? Comcast just sent out an
>email that they are discontinuing newsgroup access effective October 25th.

They haven't sent one to me..... :-)
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

980. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 22:27:02 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <5-CdnRbcb8Q213jVnZ2dnUVZ_rPinZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 2351

Right now I am unemployed. I need to keep the internet for my job hunting
but $100 is not reasonable to spend at this time for newsgroups.

Dee, N8UZE

"Rich Greenberg" <richgr@panix.com> wrote in message
news:gc38ka$436$1@reader1.panix.com...
> In article <zLudnUQmoMVAlXjVnZ2dnUVZ_rLinZ2d@comcast.com>,
> Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote:
>>Can anyone recommend a free newsgroup server? Comcast just sent out an
>>email that they are discontinuing newsgroup access effective October 25th.
>
> Get a shell account at Panix.com. They have a very good news server.
>
> $100. a year, includes email. www.panix.com
>
> You can do email and news by logging into your shell account and using
> unix tools or remotely with NNTP and IMAP access.
>
> --
> Rich Greenberg N Ft Myers, FL, USA richgr atsign panix.com + 1 239 543
> 1353
> Eastern time. N6LRT I speak for myself & my dogs only. VM'er since
> CP-67
> Canines:Val, Red, Shasta & Casey (RIP), Red & Zero, Siberians
> Owner:Chinook-L
> Retired at the beach Asst
> Owner:Sibernet-L
>

981. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 22:32:44 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <B4CdnecF0Pli1njVnZ2dnUVZ_o3inZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 2352

"Phil Kane" <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote in message
news:2ieae4t4vu4i03drgo2sbb76gd1e1883n5@4ax.com...
> On Thu, 2 Oct 2008 13:46:25 EDT, "Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net>
> wrote:
>
>>Can anyone recommend a free newsgroup server? Comcast just sent out an
>>email that they are discontinuing newsgroup access effective October 25th.
>
> They haven't sent one to me..... :-)
> --
>
> 73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane
>
>>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
> Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon
>
> e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net
>

Here's the URL for the web page: http://www.comcast.net/newsgroups/

Maybe they haven't gotten to the letter K in sending out the notice or maybe
they are doing it by service areas.

Dee, N8UZE

982. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-02 22:34:26 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <QdadnROJTJXA0XjVnZ2dnUVZ_qadnZ2d@comcast.com>
Source record: 2353

"Richard Crowley" <rcrowley@xp7rt.net> wrote in message
news:6kkopqF8hv20U1@mid.individual.net...
> "Dee Flint" wrote ...
>> Can anyone recommend a free newsgroup server? Comcast just sent out an
>> email that they are discontinuing newsgroup access effective October
>> 25th.
>
> Google will give you an ample list of free news servers.
>
> Many people in other newsgroups faced with the same
> situation are going over to news.individual.net which is
> actually run by the Free University in Berlin (not that the
> location makes any difference on the worldwide network).
>
> It costs 10 Euros per year which amounts to slightly more
> than 1 USD per month. They run a good operation and I
> have not heard any complaints about it. I have them auto
> charge my plastic every year and I don't even have to
> think about it. Highly recommended.

I'll check out the one you suggest. I tried google but everything listed
seemed to have a charge attached to it.

It needs to be very cheap or free as I'm unemployed at this time.

Dee, N8UZE

983. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 00:01:33 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <9rCdnTXcN-NS_XjVnZ2dnUVZ_rTinZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2354

"Dee Flint" wrote

> I'll check out the one you suggest. I tried google but everything listed
> seemed to have a charge attached to it.
>
> It needs to be very cheap or free as I'm unemployed at this time.

Dee, how about this one for $29?

http://www.forteinc.com/agent/

984. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 00:46:35 UTC
From: Patty Winter <patty1@wintertime.com>
Message-ID: <48e5500c$0$33600$742ec2ed@news.sonic.net>
Source record: 2355

In article <2ieae4t4vu4i03drgo2sbb76gd1e1883n5@4ax.com>,
Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
>
>On Thu, 2 Oct 2008 13:46:25 EDT, "Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net>
>wrote:
>
>>Can anyone recommend a free newsgroup server? Comcast just sent out an
>>email that they are discontinuing newsgroup access effective October 25th.
>
>They haven't sent one to me..... :-)

Since you're posting through Panix, Comcast's actions won't
affect you anyway, Phil. Same with me. I don't recall whether
I got a notice from them or read about it in some of my habitual
Usenet groups a couple of weeks ago, but I knew it didn't affect
me anyway, because I only use my Comcast cable modem to access
my *real* ISP. :-)

Patty N6BIS

985. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 00:47:31 UTC
From: Pat Cook <pchamster@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <gc3pnuhri2@news2.open-news-network.org>
Source record: 2356

Hi everyone:

"Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote in message
news:zLudnUQmoMVAlXjVnZ2dnUVZ_rLinZ2d@comcast.com...
> Can anyone recommend a free newsgroup server? Comcast just sent out an
> email that they are discontinuing newsgroup access effective October 25th.

Try http://www.open-news-network.org/ You may have to run it through
Google's Translator site to get it to where you can read it properly, but
they are the only ones I know offering free USENET access.

Good Luck.

Cheers & 73 :D

Pat Cook, KB0OXD
Denver, Colorado
NEW!!Owner/Sysop - KB0OXD-L (EchoLink Node No. 39953) **NEW!!**
Website - http://www.qsl.net/kb0oxd/
EchoLink Page - http://www.qsl.net/kb0oxd/echolink/

986. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 04:14:10 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <gspfr5-q5v.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 2357

In article <gc38ka$436$1@reader1.panix.com>,
Rich Greenberg <richgr@panix.com> wrote:
>In article <zLudnUQmoMVAlXjVnZ2dnUVZ_rLinZ2d@comcast.com>,
>Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote:
>>Can anyone recommend a free newsgroup server? Comcast just sent out an
>>email that they are discontinuing newsgroup access effective October 25th.
>
>Get a shell account at Panix.com. They have a very good news server.
>
>$100. a year, includes email. www.panix.com

Or, for USENET access only, consider news.individual.net - ten euros
per year.

The site "aioe.org" has a publicly-accessible USENET server - free to
use, and posting is allowed. Unfortunately, The Tragedy of the
Commons applies here - because the server is free, open, and (by
deliberate intent) doesn't authenticate its users, it has become a
server-of-choice for abusive posters and (I think) spammers, and quite
a lot of sites and individuals are now just dropping all aioe.org
articles on the floor.

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will
boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

987. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 04:14:23 UTC
From: richgr@panix.com
Message-ID: <gc3uekebb1@reader1.panix.com>
Source record: 2358

In article <5-CdnRbcb8Q213jVnZ2dnUVZ_rPinZ2d@comcast.com>,
Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote:
>Right now I am unemployed. I need to keep the internet for my job hunting
>but $100 is not reasonable to spend at this time for newsgroups.
>
>Dee, N8UZE

Can you afford $10/month? Thats the basic rate at Panix, if you pay a
year at a time, you get a $20 discount.

>"Rich Greenberg" <richgr@panix.com> wrote in message
>news:gc38ka$436$1@reader1.panix.com...
>> In article <zLudnUQmoMVAlXjVnZ2dnUVZ_rLinZ2d@comcast.com>,
>> Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote:
>>>Can anyone recommend a free newsgroup server? Comcast just sent out an
>>>email that they are discontinuing newsgroup access effective October 25th.
>>
>> Get a shell account at Panix.com. They have a very good news server.
>>
>> $100. a year, includes email. www.panix.com
>>
>> You can do email and news by logging into your shell account and using
>> unix tools or remotely with NNTP and IMAP access.
>>
>> --
>> Rich Greenberg N Ft Myers, FL, USA richgr atsign panix.com + 1 239 543
>> 1353
>> Eastern time. N6LRT I speak for myself & my dogs only. VM'er since
>> CP-67
>> Canines:Val, Red, Shasta & Casey (RIP), Red & Zero, Siberians
>> Owner:Chinook-L
>> Retired at the beach Asst
>> Owner:Sibernet-L
>>
>
>

--
Rich Greenberg N Ft Myers, FL, USA richgr atsign panix.com + 1 239 543 1353
Eastern time. N6LRT I speak for myself & my dogs only. VM'er since CP-67
Canines:Val, Red, Shasta & Casey (RIP), Red & Zero, Siberians Owner:Chinook-L
Retired at the beach Asst Owner:Sibernet-L

988. Re: Hard Times and Ham Radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 04:16:38 UTC
From: Pat Cook <pchamster@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <gc3pnshri1@news2.open-news-network.org>
Source record: 2359

Hi everyone:

<N2EY@aol.com> wrote in message
news:8a12d558-5385-4af5-a8b4-c66f67dbae74@79g2000hsk.googlegroups.com...
> I've been following the various political debates this election year,
> and the whole $700 billion bailout mess. How it happened, how to fix
> it, who is to blame, etc. From all that, it seems to me that we're
> looking at some pretty lean economic times ahead.

[snip....]

Jim....I thought so highly of this, I posted it to my blog (Giving you the
credit of course :)). You can read it @
http://kb0oxd-soapbox.blogspot.com/2008/10/hard-times-ham-radio.html if you
wish. :)

Cheers & 73 :D

Pat Cook, KB0OXD
Denver, Colorado
NEW!!Owner/Sysop - KB0OXD-L (EchoLink Node No. 39953) **NEW!!**
Website - http://www.qsl.net/kb0oxd/
EchoLink Page - http://www.qsl.net/kb0oxd/echolink/

989. Re: Radio path prediction

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 04:16:52 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <4f4be4dovaavjsqdko0grhjk1q8j359ln4@4ax.com>
Source record: 2360

On Thu, 2 Oct 2008 16:30:50 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>Hi Bill,
>
>Keep in mind that an antenna height that is NVIS on 80 meters, won't
>necessarily be so on 40 meters.

I agree. My HF antenna is 3 dipoles, one each for 75, 40 and 20, suspended vertically with one foot spacing and fed with a common feed point. The top dipole is for 75, and the ends are about 25 feet high and the center droops to about 22 feet. Each dipole works independently (with mild interaction) because the desired dipole has a 50-ish impedance, and the other two have high impedances at the current operating frequency. I can operate on 75,40 and 20 with only my transceiver's built-in tuner (2.0 SWR max). I can also operate on 15 (third harmonic of 40) with an external tuner.

On 75, I have NVIS. On 40, I can talk a half a continent away. On 20, I can talk world-wide.
73 de Dick, AC7EL

990. Re: How can I measure ground conductivity?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 11:37:33 UTC
From: Jon Kåre Hellan <dev@null.com>
Message-ID: <1m8wt6dog1.fsf@persaunet.uninett.no>
Source record: 2361

Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> writes:

> On Thu, 2 Oct 2008 16:44:22 EDT, Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>>Now a simpler way to do all this, and much less dangerous, is to use
>>maps like the one at:
>>
>>http://www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/m3/index.html
>>
> Ah yes, the venerable M3 map. It is only an approximation, and for
> real-life stuff it isn't used any more, supplanted by real ground
> conductivity measurements.

How much would you get out of plotting how impedance changes as you
lower the antenna?

Jon LA4RT

991. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 13:34:34 UTC
From: "D. Stussy" <spam@bde-arc.ampr.org>
Message-ID: <gc48p4qha1@snarked.org>
Source record: 2362

"Howard Lester" <heylester@dakotacom.net> wrote in message
news:9rCdnTXcN-NS_XjVnZ2dnUVZ_rTinZ2d@posted.dakotacomip...
> "Dee Flint" wrote
> > I'll check out the one you suggest. I tried google but everything
listed
> > seemed to have a charge attached to it.
> >
> > It needs to be very cheap or free as I'm unemployed at this time.
>
> Dee, how about this one for $29?
>
> http://www.forteinc.com/agent/

That's a program, not a content delivery service.

992. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 13:34:55 UTC
From: "D. Stussy" <spam@bde-arc.ampr.org>
Message-ID: <gc48scqhm1@snarked.org>
Source record: 2363

"Pat Cook" <pchamster@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:gc3pnuhri2@news2.open-news-network.org...
> Hi everyone:
> "Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote in message
> news:zLudnUQmoMVAlXjVnZ2dnUVZ_rLinZ2d@comcast.com...
> > Can anyone recommend a free newsgroup server? Comcast just sent out an
> > email that they are discontinuing newsgroup access effective October
25th.
>
> Try http://www.open-news-network.org/ You may have to run it through
> Google's Translator site to get it to where you can read it properly, but
> they are the only ones I know offering free USENET access.

Or try the link at the bottom of the page that says "English"!

993. Re: Hard Times and Ham Radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 14:38:17 UTC
From: Steve Stone <spfleck@citlink.net>
Message-ID: <gc5a7erqb1@registered.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2364

N2EY@aol.com wrote:

> Consider that:

I believe that some of the cyclic activity you note is related to folks being drafted into the military and coming out with radio skills that were almost directly transferable to personal use in amateur radio.

Another item could be the availability of surplus military gear or a technology shift that made it easier for people to get into amateur radio.

I'm sure hard times also has the effect you describe.

994. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 18:42:22 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <58pce4p7iaukegko42dp312tcssqhhtqne@4ax.com>
Source record: 2365

On Fri, 3 Oct 2008 09:34:34 EDT, "D. Stussy" <spam@bde-arc.ampr.org> wrote:

>"Howard Lester" <heylester@dakotacom.net> wrote in message
>news:9rCdnTXcN-NS_XjVnZ2dnUVZ_rTinZ2d@posted.dakotacomip...
>> "Dee Flint" wrote
>> > I'll check out the one you suggest. I tried google but everything
>listed
>> > seemed to have a charge attached to it.
>> >
>> > It needs to be very cheap or free as I'm unemployed at this time.
>>
>> Dee, how about this one for $29?
>>
>> http://www.forteinc.com/agent/
>
>That's a program, not a content delivery service.
>

Forte offers Agent Premium Newsgroups (APN).
http://www.forteinc.com/apn/index.php
It's basically a front-end to Easynews.

12 GBytes $2.95 / month
25 GBytes $5.95 / month
70 GBytes $9.95 / month
Unlimited $14.95 / month

I don't download many binaries, so I'm happy with the 12 GBytes level.

73 de Dick, AC7EL

995. Re: Hard Times and Ham Radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 20:51:47 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <6JuFk.453$yl6.152@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2366

<N2EY@aol.com> wrote in message
news:8a12d558-5385-4af5-a8b4-c66f67dbae74@79g2000hsk.googlegroups.com...
> I've been following the various political debates this election year,
> and the whole $700 billion bailout mess. How it happened, how to fix
> it, who is to blame, etc. From all that, it seems to me that we're
> looking at some pretty lean economic times ahead.
>
> But this isn't really a post about politics or economics. It's about
> their effect on ham radio, specifically, growth in our numbers.
> Looking back of the history of US ham radio, it seems to me that the
> worst economic times were the best for US ham radio growth.
>
> Consider that:
>
> In the 1920s, the number of licensed US hams grew very slowly, if at
> all, despite the new technologies of tubes and short waves. By 1929
> there were only about 18,000 licensed US amateurs, not much more than
> in 1920. The Roaring '20s radio boom was in broadcasting, whose
> development has many parallels to that of the internet in the '90s and
> '00s.
>
> Then in 1929 came two major changes for US hams. First were the "1929
> regulations" that greatly narrowed the US ham bands and required much
> cleaner signals than before. A lot of existing transmitters had to be
> extensively modified if not completely rebuilt to meet the new rules,
> and hams on bands like 40 and 20 were crowded into much less spectrum
> than before. (In those days the ham bands were far fewer than today,
> and simply getting a transmitter to work well on one band was a
> challenge). For example, 40 was reduced in width from 1000 kHz to 300,
> 20 was reduced from 2000 kHz to 400.
>
> Later in 1929 the stock market crashed and the Great Depression began.
> Hard times lasted all through the 1930s. There was also the Dust Bowl
> that displaced large numbers of Americans from their farms. (May we
> never see such hard times again!)
>
> Yet from 1929 to 1937 the number of licensed US hams almost tripled.
> In percentage terms it was the time of the greatest growth US amateur
> radio has ever seen.
>
> As prosperity began to return in the late 1930s, the growth slowed
> down. WW2 shut down US amateur radio for the first half of the 1940s.
> When the war ended, there was rapid growth despite all the disruption
> of the war, plus rising prices and shortages in the postwar economy as

> wage and price controls were removed. Of course a big part of that
> growth was from people who had put off becoming hams during the war,
> and later from the restructuring of 1951 that created the Novice
> license. But in the five years from VJ Day to the beginning of 1951,
> the number of US hams almost doubled, passing 100,000 in the process.
>
> The 1960s were good economic times, yet through that decade US amateur
> radio growth was almost nil, similar to the 1920s. The radio boom in
> the 1960s was in cb, not amateur radio.
>
> Then in 1968 the new "incentive licensing" regulations came into
> effect, and in the 1970s problems of inflation, high interest rates,
> unemployment, energy crises and lack of economic growth hit the US
> economy very hard. Just look at gasoline prices - less than a quarter
> a gallon for cheap gas in 1969, a dollar and a half ten years later.
> It wasn't until the mid-1980s that things really stabilized.
>
> Yet all through the 1970s and into the 1980s the number of US hams
> grew steadily, from about 270,000 in 1969 to about twice that number
> in the mid-1980s.
>
> Since the early 1990s until today, we've had (at best) slow growth in
> the number of US hams, and (at worst) a decline, even though the price
> of a ham rig in inflation-adjusted dollars has decreased greatly and
> the licenses are far easier to earn. The boom in these years has been
> in "wireless" (an old term reused!) rather than amateur radio.
>
> The only exception to the pattern of hard times = ham radio growth I
> can find is the 1950s, which were economic good times (at least the
> later 1950s). In that decade the growth of the late 1940s continued
> steadily, so that by the early 1960s there were about 250,000 licensed
> US hams. Besides the then-new Novice license, the 1950s were a time
> when there was lots of WW2 surplus radio gear available at bargain
> prices. It was also the heyday of inexpensive but decent quality kit
> rigs from Heath, Johnson, Eico and others. The highest sunspot peak in
> recorded history happened in 1958, and the Cold War caused a lot of
> interest in civil defense communications by hams.
>
> Perhaps the connection is that, in hard economic times, people's
> recreation shifts away from going out, traveling, and making big
> purchases, and changes to things they can do hunkered down at home for
> a little money and a lot of ingenuity. Certainly most of the ham
> stations of the 1930s fit that description. While new ham gear and a
> big station are expensive, a small homebrew or used-equipment station
> with a simple antenna can provide very good results if used with
> skill, patience and there are decent conditions.
>
> What do others think? Could we be in for another time of growth for US
> ham radio? The Dow is down, house prices are down, credit is tight and
> taxes are just about guaranteed to rise. But sunspots are on the

> way....
>
> 73 de Jim, N2EY
>

I don't buy it.

1. Human beings are resourceful
2. Junk is always plentiful, as is used gear.
3. Some people don't get on the air without ready-made station solutions
3. A segment of the population is always on hard times
4. A segment of the population is always wealthy beyond their need
5. No shortage of things for people to do with their down time.

I find it hard to draw any conclusion from any publicized event without considering the many variables that have a far greater impact. It is just too hard to link such things together to establish some kind of domino effect. Certainly the loss of a house AND car AND ability to charge batteries would put a ham off the air, but short of that, would more people be on the air, or watching TV, or doing job searches, or buying surplus parts and equipment on ebay while unemployed? Certainly the market in gear is down to the point that you can get a used full-featured rig for much less than a weeks pay, so there is little reason to sell a radio to pay the rent. More likely to sell the radio to make room, or because the wife put her foot down. I would look instead to other causes and effects more closely related to why people were or were not, participating in ham radio rather than trying to draw a line from some universal situation to overall numbers. This is the stuff of conspiracy theorists.

One thing I noticed from the 70's to present, was the Exodus of Aerospace jobs from this area. When work was plentiful for those prone to be hams, and lots of surplus/cheap building materials were available, there were a whole lot of hams around because there were a whole lot of people interested and employed in electronic technology. Many were hams because they knew hams, but had a variety of other techno- hobbies as well. Hams were even preferred as employees, because it was an indication of ingenuity that would often rub off on the job. During that time, I was a ham, working for hams, and it led to an incredible advantage due to the cohesiveness of the team and from pooling of knowledge and experience. After this era, I began to find that more hams were into some specific aspect of radio operations rather than technology. I suspect the normal number of dedicated radio operators were always there, but at one point, there were also a great deal of electronics experimenters who had a greater variety of interests. These days, parts supplies have virtually dried up, and even radio shack hardly has enough stock to do more than install a car stereo. What swap meets continue have turned mostly to computer surplus.

Also, it is interesting to note that the choice of the word "Bailout" is a poor choice of words to work with. It implies throwing money on a problem by large cash giveaway. It could just as well be a hostile takeover by the government by exploitation of a perceived crisis. Since the government isn't about to go out of business, it can impart stability by assuming risks

and securing assets that will eventually recover for a great profit to the government, so this could actually offset or reduce taxes to the public over a 5 year period. There must be sufficient safeguards in place though. We really don't want to go communist, because without private sector ingenuity, risk and free competition, stagnation and shortages invariably follow.

996. Re: Hard Times and Ham Radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 20:53:20 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <d58bc58b-cfe5-48cb-b1c6-a0ec9a48e189@m73g2000hsh.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2367

On Oct 3, 10:38 am, Steve Stone <spfl...@citlink.net> wrote:
> N...@aol.com wrote:
> > Consider that:
>
> I believe that some of the cyclic activity you note is related to folks
> being drafted into the military and coming out with radio skills that
> were almost directly transferable to personal use in amateur radio.

Well, maybe, particularly after WW2.

But note that after WW1 there was no great rise in the number of US hams, yet the Depression years and the 1970s saw amateur population explosions. (Indeed, the post-WW2 times were an actual population explosion now known as the baby boom...). Veterans who learned radio in the military during WW2 or Korea may have contributed to amateur growth, of course, but the post-WW2 growth went on for many years after those conflicts ended. More importantly, a lot of it was people too young to have served in the military when first licensed as amateurs.

> Another item could be the availability of surplus military gear or a
> technology shift that made it easier for people to get into amateur ra
dio.

Certainly a factor, as mentioned in my original post. In the 1930s, there was "surplus" in the form of inventory from failed radio manufacturers, while surplus from WW2 was still inexpensive and widely available 30+ years after the war ended. But the growth of the 1970s wasn't fueled by surplus radio gear, IMHO.

It would seem that technology shifts would work against growth, because the new stuff would cost more and not be available used or surplus. It is possible that one major reason for the lack of growth in the 1960s was the popularity of SSB among hams, because SSB gear cost more and was generally more complex than AM. The 1970s-80s boom coincides with the rise of VHF-UHF FM and repeater use by hams, which started out with conversions of surplus land-mobile equipment and simple homebrew stuff.

> I'm sure hard times also has the effect you describe.

Correlation isn't necessarily causation, but where can you get more fun-per-dollar than ham radio?

73 de Jim, N2EY

997. Re: Hard Times and Ham Radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 20:54:38 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <869c0bac-1556-4898-b2da-d41ab1b5f0b1@j68g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2368

On Oct 3, 12:16 am, "Pat Cook" <pchams...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Jim....I thought so highly of this, I posted it to my blog (Giving you th
e
> credit of course :)). You can read it @http://kb0oxd-soapbox.blogspot
.com/2008/10/hard-times-ham-radio.htmlif you
> wish. :)
>
Thanks Pat!

I'm old enough to remember the 1960s (became a ham in 1967 at the age
of 13). One thing I remember clearly from those times were the
prophets of doom who said amateur radio would disappear in a few
years, because:

- cb was growing and ham radio wasn't
- ham gear of the time cost too much, was too complex, and couldn't be
worked on by hams anymore
- incentive licensing made it too hard to get a license
- the Conditional distance was upped to 175 miles
- the young people of the time were too busy being hippies to do
something as "square" as ham radio
- there were too many other distractions (TV, radio, cars, the space
program, etc.) to interest people in ham radio

Etc.

Yet none of that gloom-and-doom stuff came to pass. There are now more
than twice as many hams as there were in the early 1970s (just over
660,000 current unexpired licenses, last time I checked). Except for
the last 10 years or so, the US amateur population has grown a lot
faster than the US population as a whole.

1929 to 1969 was forty years. Both years marked the beginning of
growth times for US amateur radio. 1969 to 2009 is forty years too....

73 es TNX de Jim, N2EY

998. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 20:55:13 UTC
From: "D. Stussy" <spam@bde-arc.ampr.org>
Message-ID: <gc5t4m$vp8$1@snarked.org>
Source record: 2369

"Dick Grady AC7EL" <rng@richbonnie.com> wrote in message
news:58pce4p7iaukegko42dp312tcssqhhtqne@4ax.com...
> On Fri, 3 Oct 2008 09:34:34 EDT, "D. Stussy" <spam@bde-arc.ampr.org>
wrote:
> >"Howard Lester" <heylester@dakotacom.net> wrote in message
> >news:9rCdnTXcN-NS_XjVnZ2dnUVZ_rTinZ2d@posted.dakotacomip...
> >> "Dee Flint" wrote
> >> > I'll check out the one you suggest. I tried google but everything
> >listed
> >> > seemed to have a charge attached to it.
> >> >
> >> > It needs to be very cheap or free as I'm unemployed at this time.
> >>
> >> Dee, how about this one for $29?
> >>
> >> http://www.forteinc.com/agent/
> >>
> >That's a program, not a content delivery service.
> >
>
> Forte offers Agent Premium Newsgroups (APN).
> http://www.forteinc.com/apn/index.php
> It's basically a front-end to Easynews.
>
> 12 GBytes $2.95 / month
> 25 GBytes $5.95 / month
> 70 GBytes $9.95 / month
> Unlimited $14.95 / month
>
> I don't download many binaries, so I'm happy with the 12 GBytes level.

OK, but the URL you gave was to the program. The URL for the service is
http://www.forteinc.com/apn/index.php and does NOT appear on the program's
page.

999. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 39 (Friday, October 3, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 20:55:59 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20081003185641.9A97B30C2F@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2370
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

****
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 39
October 3, 2008
****

IN THIS EDITION:

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Army Amateur Radio Station in Iraq Seeks American Military Personnel to Lead Station

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, <k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> CANADIAN AND AMERICAN HAMS PROVIDE "TEXTBOOK EXAMPLE" OF AMATEUR RADIO'S EMCOMM ROLE

On Sunday, September 27, the VoIP Hurricane Net <http://www.voipwx.net/> formally activated at 5 PM EDT to provide surface reports as Hurricane Kyle affected portions of extreme Northeastern Maine, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Canada. The activation was in coordination with WX4NHC <http://www.wx4nhc.org/>, the Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC), to support their operations for Hurricane Kyle.

"The Canadian Maritimes rarely get hurricanes, but we received some of our highest quality reports that included measured wind data every 15-20 minutes, as well as damage reports from radio amateurs in the area. They did a fantastic job," said Director of Operations for the VoIP Hurricane Net Rob Macedo, KD1CY. "We reached out to many of the IRLP and EchoLink stations in this area and the response rate from those amateurs connecting to our Net was extremely high."

Assistant WX4NHC Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, agreed: "The Canadian amateurs provided critical surface reports to the National Hurricane Center that we wouldn't have received otherwise. I was very impressed with the level and detail of the reports we received." The National Hurricane Center in Miami works closely together with the Canadian Hurricane Centre <http://www.atl.ec.gc.ca/weather/hurricane/index_e.html> when tropical events impact this area of the world.

The storm downed trees and wires, prompting power outages over portions of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, Canada. A measured wind gust to near 95 MPH was reported in Lockeport, Nova Scotia by a ham radio operator with a weather station within a couple hundred feet of the coast of the Atlantic Ocean.

ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, acted as Net Control for most of the Net's activation; Dura also serves as Assistant Director of the VoIP Hurricane Net Operations. "I, too, was extremely impressed with the level of support from the Canadian amateurs in providing situational awareness and disaster intelligence for Hurricane Kyle," he said. "The work these hams performed was a textbook example of the role Amateur Radio plays in events like this. Many lessons were re-learned tonight, lessons that need to be re-taught in areas impacted by tropical events."

On Saturday, prior to Kyle's arrival in the Canadian Maritimes, Dura began providing information to the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) <http://www.rac.ca> through their ARES e-mail reflector. Sunday's information sharing was escalated with direct contact with RAC Vice President for Field Services Bob Cooke, VE3BDB. "This event provides an opportunity for cross border support, as it's certainly not every day that a tropical event is aimed at a Canadian Province without first hitting the States," Dura said. Cooke echoed this in his message to the RAC Section Emergency Coordinators, District Emergency Coordinators and local Emergency Coordinators, urging "every Radio Amateur to participate to the best of his or her ability."

Elsewhere in the tropics, Sub-Tropical Storm Laura has formed in the open Atlantic, but is currently only a threat to marine or shipping interests. Laura may briefly reach hurricane strength before weakening over the colder waters of the Northern Atlantic.

==> RADIO AMATEURS ASSIST WITH HURRICANE KYLE OPERATIONS

As Hurricane Kyle brushed its way across the Eastern New England region on its way to the Canadian Maritimes, hams in the area were prepared for impact. Heavy rain associated with a stalled out boundary, as well as some influence from Kyle, caused heavy rainfall and flooding in the region.

"We were lucky to have a 12-18 hour lull in rainfall between the rain on Friday and what came on Saturday," said Director of Operations for the VoIP Hurricane Net and SKYWARN <http://www.skywarn.org/> Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY. "We were also lucky that most of the direct influence from Kyle remained offshore, or this situation would've been much worse." Over the 3 day period, 3 to 6 inches of rain fell over much of Eastern New England, Connecticut and parts of Central Massachusetts and Eastern New Hampshire. Some areas, Macedo said, received more than 8 inches, resulting in pockets of flooding with a few brooks going out of their banks.

The Amateur Radio station at the National Weather Service in Taunton, Massachusetts, WX1BOX, coordinated SKYWARN operations Friday afternoon through Sunday. According to Macedo, this station covers much of Southern New England. Farther north, the National Weather Service's office in Gray, Maine's station, WX1GYX, coordinated SKYWARN efforts in that area. Macedo said that amateurs at theses stations mostly received reports of rainfall amounts and flooding.

The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) <http://www.hwn.org/> also provided reports to the National Hurricane Center (NHC) <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>. HWN Net Manager Dave Lefavour, W7GOX, said, "Propagation was tough. We think most hams in Kyle's path were making preparations for this rare Canadian hurricane, but we were able to pick up and relay some actual ground observations to the National Hurricane Center. The NHC is always looking for first-hand ground observations of weather conditions to help them understand what the storm is doing below radar and satellite visibility." The HWN relays information obtained on 14.325 MHz to hams at the National Hurricane Center operating WX4NHC.

District Emergency Coordinator for Maine District 3 Phil Roberts, K1PAR, activated ARES Nets in his region -- Knox, Waldo, Hancock and Washington Counties -- on Saturday night. All ARES members in the affected counties were on standby. In Southwestern Maine, all ARES members were also on standby for possible activation by their respective served agencies.

Maine Section Emergency Coordinator, Bryce Rumery, K1GAX, provided reports all day Sunday to ARRL Headquarters. On Sunday evening, Rumery advised all District Emergency Coordinators and local Emergency Coordinators to "stand down their ARES members no later than 0500 Monday morning or earlier if possible at the discretion of the DEC or EC."

According to e-mail reports, New Hampshire hams were also on alert throughout the day, Macedo said.

==> ANOTHER WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP MEDAL FOR ARDF TEAM USA

Ten years ago, only a few hams in North America knew that on-foot hidden transmitter hunting is an international sport with many names such as foxtailing, foxhunting, radio-orienteering and Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) <http://www.homingin.com/index.html>. Few were aware that Eastern European countries had begun playing with ARDF decades ago; the first World Championships were in 1980. In 1988, stateside ARDF active hams in Portland, Oregon and Southern California were learning the ARDF ropes by holding on-foot foxhunting events using international rules.

In the past 10 years, more hams in more places have discovered that this form of radiosport is great exercise for the body and the brain. According to ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, as the USA catches up with the rest of the world, the US's ARDF "big guns" continue to improve.

Earlier this month, the Korean Amateur Radio League <http://www.karl.or.kr/> hosted the ARDF World Championships <http://www.2008ardf.org/>, and for the sixth time, Team USA made the trip. Members of the American team ranged in age from 23 to 66, representing seven states. Team members earned their positions at the 2007 USA Championships near South Lake Tahoe, California as well as the 2008 USA Championships near Bastrop, Texas.

"Overall, this was Team USA's best performance ever," Moell said. "We had four Top 10 finishes in the two days of fox-finding competition, first with 2 meter AM signals, and then with 80 meter CW signals. ARRL's team faced more than 300 of the planet's best foxtailers that represented 24 other national Amateur Radio societies. "

George Neal, KF6YKN, of Maspeth, New York, led Team USA, capturing a bronze medal in the category for men between ages 50 and 59 in the 2 meter foxhunt. He found all four required transmitters and got to the finish line in 1:23:42, less than six minutes behind gold medalist Igor Kekin of Russia. The other Top 10 finishers -- all in the 80 meter event -- were Vadim Afonkin of Boston, who was 5th in M40 category; Bob Cooley KF6VSE, of Pleasanton, California, who was 7th in M60, and Nadia Scharlau of Cary, North Carolina, who was 9th in W35.

"This was an excellent World Championships," Neal said. "The courses were very hard, almost brutal!" Radio-orienteers are used to running among trees in forested land, using an orienteering map as a guide, but this year's 2 meter event on September 4 was quite different. According to Jay Hennigan, WB6RDV, of Goleta, California, the terrain of the 2400 acre site was unlike any he had ever experienced.

"The course was long and narrow, about three times as long as it was wide," Hennigan explained. "The start was in the north and the finish was in the south. On the map, it was about three-fifths woods, but that was all marked dark green, which meant you couldn't get through it unless you could find a pathway. Fortunately, there were a few trails in there to make it doable. The rest was marked yellow, which turned out to be cultivated fields and drained rice paddies. There were roads on either side, so it became a matter of running down the road until you

thought you were perpendicular to a transmitter, slogging to it through the mud, punching in and then running to one of the side roads, depending on where the next fox appeared to be. It wasn't just rice, there were other crops including some kind of cabbage. We couldn't avoid trampling the plants, but the farmers weren't yelling or coming after us."

The 80 meter event on September 6 was mostly in more familiar forested terrain. It was a bigger site and a 10 percent longer course. Competitors said that they felt like mountain goats because it seemed as if each fox was on top of a different hill.

Excellent radio-orienteers abound in Europe and Asia. Fourteen of the 25 nations at this year's World Championships took home one or more medals, but only five countries brought home gold. Three of them -- Russia, Ukraine and the Czech Republic -- dominated the medal count, capturing 71 percent of all medals and 92 percent of the golds. In these countries, ARDF is an important Amateur Radio activity in nearly every city and town. With so many hams doing radio-orienteering, these countries can fill complete team rosters with the maximum allowable three persons in each age category for males and females.

Having a large team does not provide a cooperative advantage. Each competitor must work independently on championship courses. Any collusion or collaboration among team members is strictly forbidden; team scores are based only on the sum of individual performances.

Long-time map-and-compass orienteer Bob Cooley, KF6VSE, of Pleasanton, California, explained, that "It is important to make a lot of mistakes while practicing and to learn from them so that you don't make them in the future. I got the opportunity to get fooled in a variety of ways."

For more information on ARDF, including international rules, suggestions for equipment and ideas for local events, go to Moell's Web site <http://www.homingin.com/index.html>. "I welcome your local event stories and photos for future ARDF Updates," he said.

==> ARRL/TAPR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE: "PRETTY INTERESTING!"

Almost 150 aficionados of digital communications came to Chicago for the 27th annual ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC) the weekend of September 26-28 <http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>. This conference is an international forum for radio amateurs to meet, publish their work and present new ideas and techniques. Presenters and attendees had the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental results, and practical applications. Not only was the conference technically stimulating, it was a weekend of fun for all who have more than a casual interest in any aspect of amateur digital electronics and communications; introductory sessions were scheduled throughout the conference to introduce new technical topics for both beginners and experts.

One of the attendees was QEX Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, representing the ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/qex>. He gave a talk "Writing for Publication - It's Not Rocket Science (Even if You Are Writing About Rocket Science!)." Retired ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, also represented the League, speaking on "SDR Outlook." Central Division Vice Director Howard Huntington, K9KM, was present, as was ARRL Contributing Editor H. Ward Silver, N0AX.

Wolfgang, who gave his presentation on Friday morning, spoke with many participants throughout the conference who told him that they were enthused about writing something for QEX. "It also seemed like almost everyone there was making a point to stop me in the hallways or at mealtimes to tell me how much they are enjoying QEX, and to thank me for the effort I putting into the magazine," he said.

Friday was a full day of technical presentations, including "A Protocol for Multicast Weather Data Distribution over AX25," by Nick Luther, K9NL; "SuitSat-2 Update," by Steve Bible, N7HPR; "EcomScs and GateWayScs AX25 Packet Radio E-Mail," by John Blowsky, KB2SCS, and "Frequency and Other New Initiatives in APRS," by Bob Bruninga, WB4APR. The last presentation of the afternoon was "D-STAR Uncovered," by Peter Loveall, AE5PL.

The DCC provided a separate demonstration room for participants to show off their latest projects. Wolfgang said he had some "play time" in this room after all the presentations on Friday. After dinner that evening, he said there was "a string of D-STAR presentations starting at 7 PM and lasting until after 10 PM. These were all very interesting presentations, including the D-RATS messaging software by Dan Smith, KK7DS. Peter Loveall, AE5PL, presented 'D-PRS Update' about ways the D-STAR data links can be used to send and plot APRS position maps or interface to the APRS system. Robin Cutshaw, AA4RC, gave a presentation about DV-Dongle, a PC add-on that allows connection to D-STAR repeaters around the world through an Internet connection. Pretty interesting!"

In addition to the main technical presentations on Saturday, there was also a full day of introductory sessions, mostly about digital voice and D-STAR.

Also on Saturday, Matt Etttus, N2MJI, gave a report on the Ettus Research USRP2. Tom Clark, K3IO, gave an "AMSAT Update." Paul Wiedemeier, KE5LKY, presented his paper on "Using UDPcast to IP Multicast Data over Packet Radio." Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, gave his "SDR Outlook" that covered the international regulatory front and presented some of the concerns that some world governments have with regard to the flexibility of SDR. Scott Cowling, WA2DFI, gave an "HPSDR (High Performance Software Defined Radio) Update" during which he described the various circuit boards that make up the HPSDR project. He also demonstrated a complete working radio in the demo room. Jerry Shirar, N9XR, presented a paper called "Clocking the Data," concerning the use of an inverter and a crystal to form a Colpitts oscillator.

Victor Poor, W5SMM, gave an update on Winlink 2000. "He reported that the network presently consists of one Web site, five Common Message Server sites around the world, 150 Radio Message Service Pactor Gateway sites, 800 RMS Packet Gateway sites and over 13,000 registered users," Wolfgang said. "He also mentioned that inactive users are purged from the system from time to time."

Rick Muething, KN6KB, described his "WINMOR Soundcard ARQ Mode for Winlink HF Digital Messaging." Wolfgang said that this was a much anticipated presentation: "Rick reported that WINMOR is 3 to 4 months from beta testing. His preliminary comparisons to Pactor 1, 2 and 3 are based on simulator tests. He indicates that WINMOR will have better throughput than Pactor 1 and comparable to, or perhaps a bit better than Pactor 2, but not quite as good as Pactor 3. He indicated that the efficiency is within about 70 percent of Pactor ARQ."

The TAPR Annual Meeting was held after all the presentations on Saturday. During the meeting, the Board of Directors discussed the idea of coming back to the same hotel for next year's DCC. "The local group that supported DCC this year, including Mark Thompson, KA9MDJ, and Kermit Carlson, W9XA, did a great job of providing AV support," Wolfgang said. "Ron Steinberg, K9IKZ, who owns a local audio/visual company, provided two large projection screens and projectors, so every presentation was shown on both sides of the room, as well as on a widescreen TV outside the room. The audio was very easy to hear, even if you were in the hall outside the room or in the demonstration room; the set-up was left there from the W9DXCC Convention the previous weekend. They offered to provide the same support for next year, if the DCC returned. So, the decision was made to break with tradition, and return to Chicago next year, September 25-27."

Phil Harman, VK6APH, presented the Sunday morning seminar, "Software Defined Radio through the Looking Glass." Wolfgang said he found Harman's presentation to be understandable "at my level of knowledge, and he gave a lot of good insight into many of the design decisions that went into the High Performance Software Defined Radio Project. I found his descriptions of how the hardware and software work to be very interesting. The four hours went by quickly."

For more information on the 2008 Digital Communications Conference, please visit TAPR's DCC Web page <http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>.

==> 2009 ARRL HANDBOOK (EIGHTY-SIXTH EDITION) NOW AVAILABLE

"The 2009 ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications" uniquely serves both amateur experimenters and industry practitioners, emphasizing connections between basic theory and application. "The ARRL Handbook" is simply the standard in applied electronics and communications. This 86th edition is both a useful introduction to radio communication and features the most current material on electronics and Amateur Radio.

Topics in the 2009 edition include:
* Principles of Electronics -- including basic theory, components,

analog and digital circuit construction.
* Radio Communications Fundamentals and Design -- including modes and systems, filters, EMI, digital signal processing and software radio design, and RF power amplifiers.
* Real-World Applications and Operating -- including practical projects, station setup, antennas, transmission lines, and methods for testing and troubleshooting.
* References -- filled with hundreds of detailed tables, illustrations and photos.
* And much more!

The "Handbook" is filled with valuable references, practical examples and projects. The CD-ROM at the back of the book includes all of the fully searchable text and illustrations in the printed book, as well as companion software, PC board templates and other support files.

Revisions to the 2009 "Handbook" include updated material on amateur satellites, including details for today's fleet of operational satellites, as well as updated versions of accessory software on the CD-ROM included with the book.

New projects in the 86th edition include:
* RockMite QRP CW transceiver -- now expanded to cover 80, 40, 30 or 20 meters.
* Audio Interface for Field Day or Contesting -- audio and mic connections for two operators sharing a radio.
* Remote Power Controller -- turn high current devices off and on.
* Audible Antenna Bridge -- tune for the lowest SWR by ear.

The softcover edition of the "Handbook" sells for $44.95; the hardcover sells for $59.95 <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=no-hb2009>. Both editions are available now.

==> IARU-ENDORSED BOOKLET PROMOTING ETHICS, OPERATING ISSUES, NOW AVAILABLE

A 67-page booklet, "Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur" by John Devoldere, ON4UN, and Mark Demeuleneere, ON4WW, is available for free download from the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/Eth-operating-ENarrl-SITE-1jul2008.pdf> . This is an "Americanized" version of the booklet the authors wrote for an international audience. An international version is also available <http://www.iaru.org/Eth-operating-EN-iaru-SITE-1july2008.pdf>.

At its June 2008 meeting, the IARU Administrative Council endorsed and recommended the principles set out in the booklet as a means of encouraging all radio amateurs "to operate to the highest levels of proficiency, with proper consideration for others using the amateur radio bands" and as a tool "to teach newcomers and others correct operating behavior." The booklet mainly addresses HF operating issues, but the principles are also applicable to VHF and higher bands.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer and IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed appreciation for Devoldere's and Demeuleneere's efforts: "The authors are well known, experienced HF operators who are concerned about on-the-air operating standards and who decided that 'It's better to light a candle than curse the darkness.' Anyone who reads their booklet will learn something, no matter how experienced they may be."

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "When all the birds are faint with the hot Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: The sunspot appearance reported last week seems to follow the pattern emerging for most of 2008. A spot will appear for one or two days and then suddenly it is gone. Last week's report mentioned the solar wind being at an all time low. This week, NASA announced that so far, 2008 is the "blankest year of the space age," with more than 200 spotless days <http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/30sep_blankyear.htm>. The minimum following Solar Cycle 18 in 1954 had 241 days without sunspots, and it preceded the solar max in 1959 for Solar Cycle 19 that had the highest sunspot numbers on record. Sunspot numbers for September 25-October 1 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.2, 67.7, 67.3, 67, 66.8, 66.2 and 65.8 with a mean of 67. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 2, 3, 2, 4 and 6 with a mean of 3.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 1, 2, 1, 2, 2, 3 and 7 with a mean of 2.6. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' "On the Grasshopper and the Cricket" <http://www.sonnets.org/keats.htm#150>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week is the YLRL Anniversary Party (CW) is October 3-5. The EU Autumn Sprint (SSB), the TARA PSK Rumble Contest and the NCCC Sprint are October 4. The Oceania DX Contest (Phone), the International HELL-Contest and the California QSO Party are October 4-5. The UBA ON Contest (6 meters) is October 5, the 432 MHz Fall Sprint is October 8 (local time) and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Sprint (CW) is October 9. Next week, the 10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint and the NCCC Sprint are October 10. The YLRL Anniversary Party (SSB) is October 10-12. On October 11, be on the lookout for the FISTS Fall Sprint and the EU Autumn Sprint (CW). The Makrothen RTTY Contest, the Oceania DX Contest (CW) and the Pennsylvania QSO Party are October 11-12. The North American Sprint (RTTY), the SKCC Weekend Sprintathon and the UBA ON Contest (SSB) are October 12. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is October 15. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more

info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration remains open through Sunday, October 26, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, November 7, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001), Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006), Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009), Technician License Course (EC-010); Analog Electronics (EC-012), and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Jim Weit, KI8BV, Wins September QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for September is Jim Weit, KI8BV, for his article "An All Band HF Dipole Antenna." Congratulations, Jim! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the October issue by Friday, October 31.

* West Gulf Vice Director Appointed to Texas State Agency: Texas Governor Rick Perry has appointed ARRL West Gulf Vice Director Dr David Woolweaver, K5RAV, to the Council of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), formally known as the Texas Department of Health. The nine member council makes recommendations regarding management, operation, policies and rules for public health, mental health and substance abuse.

* Army Amateur Radio Station in Iraq Seeks American Military Personnel to Lead Station: Army Captain Jeff Hammer,YI9IC/N9NIC, the custodian of the Baghdad Amateur Radio Society (BARS) <http://www.usaars.com/bars.htm>, is due to come home after a nine month tour of duty with the Indiana National Guard. "I need someone I can turn the BARS station over to," he said. "Please assist me in finding other Amateur Radio operators in or coming to Iraq." The Baghdad station boasts the following equipment: an ICOM IC-7000 transceiver, an LDG Z-100 autotuner, a Kantronics KAM XL wireless modem, a RIGblaster Pro, an MFJ 25 A power supply, plus a Cushcraft MA5B 3-element beam and a

Trans World TW2010 vertical dipole. The club library is valued at $400. All items in the station have been donated by various Amateur Radio vendors. Hammer, a military intelligence officer who previously served in Afghanistan, took over the club leadership last spring from Army Major Scott Hedberg, AD7MI, when Hedberg returned to the US. Since his arrival in April 2008, Hammer has mentored half a dozen service members for their licenses and led the station's first ARRL Field Day operation. "We enjoy learning about radio and talking with unique people in unique places," he said. "We've been excited to talk to many stations back in the U.S." Hammer said it can get busy, too, handling MARSgrams between soldiers and their families during holidays. BARS members operate under the Army call sign AEN5NAA relaying soldier messages through MARS WinLink stations in Kuwait or Germany <http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/marsgrams.aspx>. Keeping the club active is a challenge in the face of constant troop rotation, Hammer said. "Operating Amateur Radio in camp is fairly easy, as long as you ask your commander and don't cause interference," he said. "If you know of any hams deploying to Iraq, contact me as soon as possible to coordinate the transfer of equipment and discuss licensing procedures." Hammer can be reached via e-mail <jeffrey.hammer@iraq.centcom.mil>.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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1000. Re: Do you use a vertical on 80?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 21:24:31 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <2e03daa9-03eb-45df-9bfa-8b09acf97312@k37g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2371
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On Sep 29, 8:31 pm, Bill Horne wrote:
> I've been using an inverted vee for 80 meters, with mediocre results.

What sort of inverted V and what sort of results? (Coax fed, how high are the center and the ends, what's the angle of the V?)

> 1. Performance?
> 2. Is noise worse/better/the same?
> 3. Is a quarter-wave radiator essential, or can it be shorter?
> 4. Loading/tuning?

I don't have much experience with 80 meter verticals but I do know these basics:

1) A full-size one is 60-65 feet tall, and needs a ground system to match. Shortening sacrifices bandwidth and radiation efficiency. Yes, a lot can be done with a small antenna but you're looking for something better than the inverted V.

2) Verticals tend to be noisier, particularly on the lower bands. This is why you will see 160 and 80 meter DXers and contesters using verticals for transmitting and Beverages or other low-noise antennas for receiving.

3) A vertical will give you low-angle radiation, which is great for DX when the band is open, and good for local (few dozen miles) anytime, but for the typical ragchew 50 to 1000 miles or so it can be disappointing.

4) A decent inverted V can do a good job as an all-around antenna. I've used a homebrew 80/40 coax fed trap inverted V with 100 watts for years, and had many excellent QSOs with it on 80. Center at about 40 feet, ends about 15 feet, transcontinental and transatlantic QSOs common if I stay up late enough. Many, many contest QSOs too. Not a worldbeater but not a problem either.

73 de Jim, N2EY

1001. Re: How do I check if old coax is still usable?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 21:25:49 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <741f8568-9786-4114-b358-2ab5fab244d1@c65g2000hsa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2372
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On Sep 29, 5:11 pm, Bill Horne wrote:
> I have a run of RG-8 coax inside a conduit, and I'd like to keep it in
> service if possible. How can I test it before I risk my finals trying to
> put power into it?

The simplest way I know is to use a QRP wattmeter and a dummy load.

First, set up a rig to feed the dummy load directly, through the dummy load. Use the highest practical band (meaning what you have gear for). Set your rig to deliver a few watts and record the exact reading, forward and reflected. (By running low power you don't risk your rig, and you test that the dummy and wattmeter work).

Then connect the rig and wattmeter to one end of the cable to be tested, and the dummy load to the other end. Recheck the forward and reflected power readings - they shouldn't be much different if the cable is any good at all. (If you have any significant reflected power when feeding the dummy load, it's clear the cable has water, an open or a short someplace).

Finally move the wattmeter to the far end of the coax to be tested, and put it just before the dummy load. Get one more set of forward and reflected power readings. Compare with the readings when the wattmeter is at the rig end of the cable. Compute the loss, convert it to dB, and see how it compares to the expected value for the cable.

For example, suppose the cable is 50 feet of RG-8U and I do the test on 40 meters. Suppose the wattmeter says 20 watts goes in but only 10 watts comes out, and almost no reflected power. That's half the power (3 dB) lost in a cable that's supposed to be well under 1 dB per 100 feet at 7 MHz. Something's wrong.

73 de Jim, N2EY

1002. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1625 - October 3, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 22:02:03 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20081003023427.0184b560@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2373
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1625 - October 3, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1625 with a release date of Friday, October 3rd, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, says he plans to talk to kids from space. Also, DX has to wait as the sun remains silent, Afghanistan coming on the air soon, A-P-R-S can now help you locate ham radio newscasts and simplex may be better than repeaters. All this and a warning about a new e-mail scam aimed at the ham community on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1625 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: W5KWQ PLANS STUDENT SCHOOL CONTACTS

When Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, becomes the next civilian to fly into space later this month, he plans to talk to students live using amateur radio. Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, is here with the details:

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The ham radio educational events with Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, on board the International Space Station are currently scheduled for Thursday, October 16th and Friday, October 17th. This, with middle school students from Challenger Learning Centers across the country.

First up will be students from Howard B. Owens Science Center's Challenger Center in Lanham, Maryland, Challenger Learning Center of Columbia in South Carolina, Verizon Challenger Learning Center in Tampa, Florida and the Brownsburg Challenger Learning Center in Indiana. They plan to ask Garriott questions about living and working in space of on October 16th.

Students from the Indianapolis Challenger Learning Center in Indiana, Challenger Learning Center at Paducah in Kentucky and Challenger Learning Center-St. Louis in Missouri will talk to W5KWQ on Friday, October 17th.

These events will be broadcast live on the national website. Also at that site are lesson plans in support of Richard Garriott's on orbit activities, archived webcasts, podcasts, and student's predictions of what will happen in the weightless environment of space. All are available on Challenger Center's national website at www.challenger.org

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I', Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, in Los Angeles.

--

Richard Garriortt, W5KWQ, is the son of NASA's Skylab Astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL. Owen Garriott was also the first ham radio operator to ever come on the air from space. (ARISS, SAREX, ANS)

**

RADIO SCIENCE: NASA SCIENTISTS CALL 2008 BLANKEST SUNSPOT YEAR OF THE SPACE AGE

The wait for better D-X conditions continues but it could be a longer wait than originally projected. Astronomers who count sunspots have announced that 2008 is now the "blankest year" of the Space Age. NASA Science News says that as of September 27, the sun had no visible sunspots on 200 days of this year.

To find a year with more blank suns, you have to go back to 1954. That's
,
three years before the launch of Sputnik. Its also the year that the sun's disk was devoid of sunspots 241 days.

And right now the prognosis for increased solar activity seems dim. David Hathaway is a Solar Physicist at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center. He says that sunspot counts are at a 50-year low and that we are experiencing a deep minimum of the solar cycle. You can read more at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2008/30sep_blankyear.htm?list6529 (NASA
)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: AFGHANISTAN COMING ON THE AIR

Speaking of D-X, even as the war to rid Afghanistan of Taliban insurgents continues, ham radio is again taking to the air in that nation. And from October 5th to the 31st, KE6GFF will be operating from the capital city of Kabul as T6EE

Listen out for T6EE only on 14 dot 200 MHz +/- QRM as other frequencies are not permitted with his license. He does plan to take part in the upcoming CQ WWDX Contest in SSB on Oct 25th and 26th. QSLs via KE6GFI.

We will have more DX news at the end of this weeks report. (DXNS)

**

RADIO LAW: WISCONSIN CLUB WINS CONTESTED CALL

A Wisconsin radio club has been ruled as the new legal holder of a contested vanity call sign. This as the FCC issues an order on September 24th that rules the Falls Amateur Radio Club to be the rightful recipient of call sign W9CQ. Only one problem. It can't get the call. At least not yet. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, reports:

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The Falls Amateur Radio Club and the QRQ CW and Contest Group had both claimed they were entitled to use the W9CQ call. This, after it was voluntarily surrendered by Robert C. Moldenhauer who had received the call after claiming to be a relative of the deceased previous holder. When he realized that he was not, he offered the call back to the FCC for it to reassign.

This past January 2nd, the Falls Amateur Radio Club filed an application requesting the W9CQ call. The FCC dismissed the application on the grounds that the call sign was not available, because it was less than two years since it had been surrendered by Moldenhauer. But wait a minute. Didn't Moldenhauer admit that he should not have gotten W9CQ the first place?

That's what the Falls club believed and filed a Petition for Reconsideration on January 23rd. In it, the club claimed that the call sign should have been made available to the vanity call sign system on January 2nd because Moldenhauer was not eligible for the call sign prior to the expiration of the two-year waiting period. It also claimed to be the only one who filed for that call on the January 2nd date.

But on May 23rd the QRQ CW and Contest Group submitted an application for the W9CQ call. The application stated that QRQ was acting with the written consent of a nephew of Paul Kent. The QRQ application was granted on June 10th.

But what about the petition for reconsideration filed by the Falls Amateur Radio Club? When it finally got around to making a decision, the FCC stated that they agreed with Falls Amateur Radio Club that call sign W9CQ should have been made available to the vanity call sign system on January 2nd because Robert C. Moldenhauer was not eligible for it in the first place. And it agreed that the Falls Amateur Radio Club was the only applicant for that call sign on January 2, 2008, and that the call should have been assigned to Falls Amateur Radio Club station.

Confused? Well it gets even better.

One would think that the FCC would simply yank the W9CQ call from the Q-R-Q club and give it to the Falls group since the FCC itself said that Falls should have gotten it in the first place. But that going with the simple and obvious is never the way of the Washington bureaucracy.

Instead of switching the call to the club that the FCC itself says deserves to have it, the agency said that it does not see how, at this time, it could set aside QRQ's application for W9CQ. This is because that grant is a final action.

Then it say wait a minute, there is a bureaucratic loophole. Its called Section 316(a)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934, and it permits the Commission to modify a station license if the action will promote the public interest, convenience, and necessity. And using it the FCC proposed to modify QRQ's Amateur Radio station license back to its old KC9MWH. This is the call sign it held prior to the grant of its application for W9CQ. The FCC stated that upon the modification of QRQ's license back to

KC9MWH, they would then be able to assign call sign W9CQ to Falls Amateur Radio Club.

And so it is that the FCC has ordered that the petition filed by Falls Amateur Radio Club be granted to the
extent indicated" in the Order and their application is returned to pending status. I t was further ordered that it is proposed that the license of QRQ be modified" by returning the previous call sign of KC9MWH.

But here's the bureaucratic Catch 22. The FCC says that it will not issue a modification order until QRQ CW and Contest Group has received notice of the proposed action and has had an opportunity to file a protest to the modification. Such a protest has to be filed within thirty days of the release date of the 'Order on Reconsideration and Order Proposing Modification,' and has to contain sufficient evidence to show that the modification would not be in the public interest. The FCC further stated that if no protest is filed, that QRQ will have waived its right to protest the modification and will be deemed to have consented to the modification.

Confusing? Very much so, to which Ill add to please not ask me to explain any of this. I am not a communications lawyer nor do I play one on T.V. In fact I'm just Don Csrlson, KQ6FM, in Reno, reporting the facts for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Obviously we won't know if QRQ files a protest until the FCC says its received one or QRQ offers a public statement. And if they do protest, it could also mean that this matter could drag on for months or years to come. And as of this writing, the FCC database shows that the W9CQ call is still in the hands of the QRQ CW And Contest Group of Vincennes, Indiana. (FCC, ARRL, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: CANADIAN HAMS TRACK HURRICANE KYLE

Hams in Eastern Canada were activated as the latest tropical event of the season made it was North before making landfall in New Brunswick Nova Scotia on Sunday, September 28th. Canadian amateur radio operators provided information on Hurricane Kyle to the both the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami as well as having it passed to the Canadian Hurricane Center in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Kyle's impact on Nova Scotia was blunted by the cold waters of the north Atlantic Ocean. None the less wind gusts of 124 kilometers per hour were recorded at Baccaro Point in Nova Scotia's Shelburne County. A Canadian coast guard ship reported wind gusts up to 154 kilometres per hour off the Shelburne coast. The winds knocked down a construction site in Shelburne and caused thousands to lose power. Nova Scotia Power said that at Kyle's height, winds knocked out power to more than 40,000 customers across the province, mostly in the southwestern part.

Most of the ham radio hurricane tracking reports were made through the Voice Over Internet Protocol Hurricane Net network which uses interlinked IRLP and Echolink nodes. These are connected to WX4NHC, which is the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. In addition, there were Amateur radio stations from Australia and Germany assisting in net activities. (RAC)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W9BBK repeater serving Bolingbrook, Illinois.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HURRICANE KYLE BRUSHES US COASTLINE

Before hitting the Nova Scotia coastline, Hurricane Kyle brushed its way across Eastern New England region. Heavy rain associated with the storm caused some flooding in the region.

According to the ARRL, the amateur radio station at the National Weather Service in Taunton, Massachusetts was activated for the weather event. Its call is WX1BOX, and it coordinated SKYWARN operations Friday afternoon through Sunday.

The ARRL District Emergency Coordinator for Maine District 3 is Phil Roberts, K1PAR. He activated several nets in his on Saturday night with all ARES members in the affected counties were on standby. In Southwestern Maine, ARES members were also on standby for possible activation by their respective served agencies. Maine Section Emergency Coordinator, Bryce Rumery, K1GAX, provided reports all day Sunday to ARRL Headquarters before the nets were advised to stand down. (ARRL)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: THE 2008 USFAR MARATHON AND HAM RADIO

Ham radio was a part of the action at a recent Ohio marathon. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is here with the details:

--

A team of 35 radio amateur operators from organizations from around the Dayton, Ohio area provided critical communications for the recent running of the United States Air Force Marathon. Hams operating under the direction of Greene County Amateur Radio Emergency Service provided an information channel between the hydration stations, medical stations, and the United States Air Force Marathon staff.

For the twelfth year, this marathon was held at Wright Patterson Air force Base . Most of the radio systems were deployed late on Friday, September

19th or very early on event day of September the 20th. The primary repeater normally used for the event is owned by the Upper Valley Amateur Radio Club of Fairborn Ohio. Due to the remnants of Hurricane Ike, it did not did not have commercial power and battery backup ran out on earlier in the week. To make it available for the marathon, the Fairborn group was able to obtain a generator to keep the machine in operation for the day. Over 500 routine and emergency messages were passed during the event.

For the amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the studio in Los Angeles.

--

This years United States Air Force Marathon supported over 7500 military and civilian runners from around the world. Over 1500 volunteers including 35 hams assisted with the event. (KF4KWW, WS8B)

**

RADIO SCAM ALEET: E-MAIL FROM AMEX TO HAMS A PURPORTED PHONY

A possible new fraud scheme targeting radio amateurs over the Internet This, according to Robert Greenstein, AA6A, who reports via QRZ.com that the scam has apparently been directed to ham radio callsign sign e-mail addresses.

Greenstein says that the electronic solicitation purportedly looks like an e-mail from American Express. Specifically from "AMEX SERVICES" with a Subject Line: reading: "AMEX UPDATE". The messages seeks to have the recipient respond by sending back a font and rear copy of both their driver's license and American Express card.

Greenstein's post indicates that the message originates from the aaron@digital-glass.com and has an I P address of 82.165.179.193.

More savvy e-mail users will readily see that the message is a bogus attempt to obtain personal and account information.

The bottom line to this. If you get any e-mail asking for your personal information -- no matter whom its from -- do not ever respond. Delete it and in doing so you protect your identity and your life savings. (AA6A via QRZ.com)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FOLLOW-UP ON ALLEGED UNLICENSED STATION OPERATOR INCARCERATED IN FLORIDA

A follow-up to last weeks story about the arrest of an alleged unlicensed radio station in Florida. You may remember that authorities in Wilton Manors, Florida announced the arrest 23-year-old Constantinos Rigalos. This, for apparently operating an illegal FM radio station which is a third-degree felony in Florida. But now we learn that's not where the

story ends.

In addition to local law enforcement action, word that the FCC appears to have been involved in the bust. In a September 10th letter to Rigalos, the regulatory agency says that its Miami Office received information that an unlicensed broadcast radio station on 103.9 MHz. One that was allegedly operating in the Wilton Manors area. Also, that's its agents traced the signal to Rigalos residence in Wilton Manors.

The FCC also says that it has information that indicates Rigalos was one of the operators of this station. Its letter warns him that his operation is illegal and must cease at once. If not, on a federal level the penalties he could face include seizure of the radio station equipment, monetary fines, and criminal sanctions including imprisonment. This is in addition to the Florida state prosecution that is already underway. (CGC, FCC)

**

RADIO LAW: THE FCC SAYS THAT TWO ARE REALLY ONE

Ten applications for noncom educational FMs in various states have been dismissed by the FCC. This, in a case involving two separate but related organizations in Ohio.

Spirit Communications and The Helpline each filed 10 applications in last fall's noncom filing window. The FCC then received an anonymous petition alleging that Helpline had been created by Spirit to deliberately circumvent a cap of 10 applications.

Helpline told the FCC that the two organizations do not have common directors and in fact the groups have had separate boards and officers since just prior to their application filings. But the FCC found that Spirit's de facto control of Helpline continued, so the organizations could
not apply for 10 each.

Among other things the FCC found that the new Helpline board consists of two Spirit employees and their spouses, and that Helpline has no employees of its own. Rather, it relies on Spirit employees to "volunteer" to perform basic functions. Based on this, the FCC's Audio Division of the Media Bureau now has ruled that Helpline's applications should still be attributed to Spirit and the maximum of 10 applications does prevail. (RW)

**

RADIO LAW: TEXTING OUT AND GPS IN UNDER CA LAWS

California Governor Schwarzenegger has signed two bills into law that affect the installation or operation of electronic communications devices in vehicles. The first one signed on September 25th makes California the latest state that bans drivers from text messaging while behind the wheel.

The ban on texting while driving, backed by fines starting at $20 per offense, will come into force on January 1st 2009. It closes a loophole in

a law that requires the use of hands-free devices while driving and talking on a cellular phone. That law that took effect this past July but failed to include text messaging.

Meantime, the California Governor has now signed into law a bill that was put forth earlier this year that will again legalize windshield mounting of GPS devices. Also beginning January 1, 2009, California drivers will be able to suction cup their GPS units but there are some restrictions. The only places legal will be in the lower 7-inch corner farthest away from the driver or in the lower 5-inch corner closest to the driver. The use of suction cup on-glass mounting had earlier been banned due to safety concerns but a loud out cry from the public seems to have brought them back. (K6LCS and other published reports)

**

ON THE NET: COMCAST TO LIMIT RESIDENTIAL INTERNET BANDWIDTH

Internet provider Comcast has announced that it plans to place limits on the amount of broadband usage it will allow its residential customers. Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF reports:

--

Comcast say that the 250 gigabytes is about 100 times the typical home usage. It claims that the average residential customer uses only two to three gigabytes a month. It also says that under one percent of customers exceed the 250 gigabyte level in a given 30 day period, but that small number can slow the system down as they download a large number of huge media files.

Under the Comcast plan, residential subscribers who exceed the 250 gigabyte limit would risk having their service terminated for up to a year. Users who exceed that amount will not have their access switched off immediately, nor will they be charged for excessive use. Instead, they would likely be contacted by Comcast and officially notified of the cap. If they exceed the limit a second time or simply refuse to comply, then service termination could result.

In recent months a number of Internet Service Providers have considered clamping down on their most active subscribers. Mainly those involved in peer to peer media file exchange services. The ISP's say that the limits are needed to insure fair access to the network for who need to reach the Internet.

--

Reports are that several bloggers who seem to indicate that they are involved in file sharing may challenge Comcast on the data transfer in court. (Published reports)

**

HAM RADIO BUSINESS: EMCOMM OPS FROM CREATIVE SERVICES SOFTWARE

Creative Services Software has announced the release of EmComm Ops, which the company describes as a new software solution for packet radio operations.

Creative says that the software is designed primarily for emergency radio communications. It says that it assists amateur, commercial and MARS radio operators to connect to, access, integrate and operate packet radio stations with a Windows PC or laptop from a fixed station or in the field.

EmComm Ops is the first addition to Creative Services Software recently rebranded Radio Operations Center product line. A free, 30-day trial of EmComm Ops is available now on the CSS Website. That U-R-L in cyberspace at www.cssincorp,com (Crerative Services release)

**

HAM RADIO BUSINESS: DX ENGINEERING ACQUIRES COMTEL SYSTEMS

Consolidation in the ham radio industry. This with word that Ohio-based DX Engineering has acquired of Comtek Systems.

James R. Miller, K4SQR, principal of Comtek Systems explained that DX Engineering and Comtek have complementary product lines and the ability to union created by combining the two companies will bring many benefits to the Amateur Radio fraternity.

The acquisition will take place immediately, with the transfer of Comtek's manufacturing and customer service operations to DX Engineering's Akron, Ohio facility. For more information about DX Engineering and Comtek Systems, please visit www.dxengineering.com and ww.comteksystems.com, on the World Wide Web. (DX Engineering release)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

WITH NEWSLINE: SOME WORDS OF THANKS

Ladies and gentlemen, with some thank-you's to those who support these newscasts, here's Amateur Radio Newsline's Support Fund Administrator, Andy Jarema, N6TCQ

--

Continuing with our thank-yous, last year in the months of June through September we heard from John Hays, N6JWH of Oak Hills, CA with a contribution in memory of Frank Spencer, KA6BUY.

The Muncie, IN Area ARC, WB9HXG who sent their contribution as a result of the sale of donated gear from the family of Silent Key David Doirion, WA1MKE/9 their long-time club secretary.

Lou Dartanner, N6ZKJ of Santa Barbara and the Southern Orange Amateur Radio Association of Mission Viejo.

Via PayPal we had contributors from IL including Joan Friedman, KC9HXY in Urbana; Marilyn Gardner in Evanston; Gary Friendlander, WD9HDM in Buffalo Grove; One "quote unit of love and respect" from Edmund Burckart, N9VTU in Glenview; Mark Burlingame, KB9TVD in Northlake and David Hewitt In Lake Forest .

Elsewhere James Drenthe, KC8SSK of Galesburg, MI; Scott Saunders in Salt Lake City, Utah; Bryan Charles Bailey in Fort Worth, Texas and Mark Moore in Sunland, CA.

Please do your part to help keep these weekly newscasts stay on the air. We've made it easy for you through PayPal on our website, arnewsline.org, or at the address you'll hear at the end of this broadcast.

Till next time, I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

--

Andy will be back with us in the near future with more than-yous to those who have contributed to the support fund. (Newsline Support Fund)

**

HAM RADIO ON THE WEB: QST BACK ISSUES ON-LINE FOR ARRL MEMBERS

Back issues of QST Magazine from December 1915 to December 2004 are now available online as a free download for ARRL members. This new benefit is provided by the ARRL Technical Information Service and provides copies of each magazine in Adobe Portable Document File format.

ARRL members can now access the online QST magazine archive by logging into their account and then going to www.arrl.org/members-only/qqnsearch.html. If you are not an ARRL member you can find out how to join at t www.arrl.org/join ((ARRL)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: W0ODY TO RECEIVE UNIVERSITY AWARD

A ham radio operator is among two members of the Evangel University staff honored October 10th during Evangel University's homecoming celebration. Librarian Woodvall Moore, W0ODY and Marilyn Campbell who is an administrative assistant in the Business and Economics Department, will both receive a Distinguished Service Award.

Known as "Woodie" to friends, Moore has been a fixture in Evangel's library
since 1976. He earned a bachelor of science from Southern Bible College and a master of library science from the University of Kentucky. Starting

as reference librarian, he was promoted to director within one year. His current title, director of library and media services, reflects the changes in his role that have taken place over the years. He is also a past president of the Association of Christian Librarians.

Evangel University is a private Christian university associated with the Assemblies of God church. (Press release)

**

RADIO TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT: THE NEWS AND APRS

Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, reports that he has created a new APRS information website. One that provides a look at who is transmitting ham radio newscasts like this one.

The new web page is designed to help those Newsline, RAIN and ARRL audio volunteers to get their APRS objects on the air. The concept requires the cooperation and support of listeners to these reports.

According to Bob, while a report like this one is on the air, an APRS operator in that area should be putting out on an approved APRS frequency as a live object at the time of the event. That object would shows up on the front panel of every APRS mobile displaying the frequency to listen to, the direction and distance to the repeater and the topic being transmitted.

Bobs new APRS news and information web page includes Amateur Radio Newsline, the Rain Report and the ARRL Audio News. You can find it on line at www.aprs.org/On-Air-Beacons.html. (WB4APR)

**

WORLDBEAT - RUSSIA: VOA MAKES MAJOR CHANGES TO RUSSIAN PROGRAM DELIVERY

The Voice of America announced that it has eliminated radio broadcasts in Hindi, Bosnian, Serbian, and Macedonian as of September 30th. The broadcaster has also discontinued its 30-minute Russian weekly television program and will deliver text, audio, and video content to Russia's fast-growing Internet market.

The Voice of America says that it will accessible through digital devices. These include mobile Internet devices, cell phones that receive text and multi-media messages, and MP3 players.

According to a report from the British Broadcasting Company, the change in the Voice of America's Russian's program delivery reflects the crackdown on independent media and freedom of speech in Russia. The V-O-A's Russian radio broadcasts ended in July 2008. The BCC notes that Russian shortwave radio listenership also has continued to decline with fewer than two per cent of Russians using this medium to receive broadcasts. (BBC)

**

DX

In D-X, Word that DJ1OJ, will spend the winter on Teneriffa, in the Canary Islands until the end of March 2009. He will be active as EA8OM mainly using CW and RTTY. QSL via bureau to his home call or via Logbook to the World.

And F4EGS, is operating portable EY8 in the Tajikistan capital city of Dushanbe. He will be there through November 26th and is on the air using SSB, C-W, RTTY and PSK on 40 through 10 meters. QSL direct or via bureau to his home call.

S79TF will be the callsign of DJ6TF, who is going to spend his vacation time through October 14th on La Digue Island. His main emphasis is the 30 meter band and RTTY operation. That said, you can also find him working the other modes mostly at the lower band edges with his FT-890 and a vertical antenna. QSLs via DJ6TF either direct or via bureau.

Lastly, F5TLN will be in the Lebanon until February of 2009. He will work mostly in SSB but also some CW on all High Frequency bands. He says that he will confirm the QSL cards after his return home and points out that bureau QSL's will take some time. The bottom line on this one is to please be patient on this one.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: THINK SIMPLEX

And finally this week, a rhetoric question. Can a ham have more fun on FM if he doesn't use a repeater? Jim Linton, VK3PC, of the WIA News thinks that you can:

--

The use of simplex operation is not new and in fact it was a way of life before voice repeaters arrived many decades ago.

If you find yourself on the shores of Australia's large inland sea, Lake Eyre, or someone else remote, a call on simplex FM can surprisingly achieve results. In fact a number of travelling radio amateurs do sit on the national calling frequency of and that should be encouraged. Simplex also takes away some of the hassles with repeater operation such as what repeater to use and those CTCSS access tones.

The Simplex Preservation Society is a club in the United States that is an alternative to what it calls the traditional repeater-centric amateur radio groups. It's not suggesting anyone gives up repeater use, but its members do monitor
simplex, make regular contacts that way and maintain a capability to be able to operate independently of repeaters. SPS members maintain, or improve, their VHF stations to ensure they can effectively communicate within their city limits.

Do you regularly evaluate your simplex capabilities or perhaps have an over-reliance on repeaters? There are plenty of regular repeater nets but

not as many simplex nets. As a suggestion a net controller could put everyone to the test by QSY'ing to simplex to see just how many can still maintain contact.

The Simplex Preservation Society believes that being simplex-capable will also be vital in times of natural disasters or other emergencies.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton VK3PC

--

More about the Simplex Preservation Society is on-line at www.73sps.com (WIA News)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, in Mississippi saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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1003. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 23:23:11 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <gc69gj02m9@news1.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2374

Basic usenet news service from http://www.newsguy.com/overview.htm
is $7.95 per month. It's $39.95 per year if you pay up front.

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

1004. Re: Tristao towers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-03 23:31:25 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <gc6a0003e8@news1.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2375

Phil Kane wrote:
> You are getting a building permit (not to be confused with a
> use or zoning permit), right?

Well, not to fall into the "I don't need one" category, but this tower is akin to putting an extension ladder along side the house.

Two sections, not self-supporting. Once the base section is in place, you can raise the second section. Total height is 38 feet.

But I will check the local building codes to see what they have to say about things. I believe (may be urban legend) that certain "structures" (both masts and towers) may have a "not needed below a certain height" condition.

Were this a self standing 85 foot Rohn beast and I were planning on doing more than maybe a simple tri-bander, I wouldn't hesitate to have it engineered first then pull a permit.

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

1005. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-04 03:02:54 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <jNqdnTdfT9dJQXvVnZ2dnUVZ_qDinZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2376

Rich Greenberg wrote:
> In article <5-CdnRbcb8Q213jVnZ2dnUVZ_rPinZ2d@comcast.com>,
> Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote:
>> Right now I am unemployed. I need to keep the internet for my job hunting
>> but $100 is not reasonable to spend at this time for newsgroups.
>>
>> Dee, N8UZE
>
> Can you afford $10/month? Thats the basic rate at Panix, if you pay a
> year at a time, you get a $20 discount.

Panix is a fine service, but it's a full-service Internet facility.
Service for newsgroups only is available for much less cost, and that's
all that Comcast is dropping so why pay for more?

My preference, as others have put forward, is individual.net. I don't
like the free services for the reasons already mentioned. I find
individual.net a reasonable compromise between the free services that
are worth what you pay and the more expensive products that provide
additional function beyond what I need. If you're just looking for a
good provider for Usenet access, it fits the bill nicely.

Another alternative that I don't think anyone has mentioned is access to
newsgroups via the Google interface. Being able to use a real news
reader is well worth 10 Euros per year to me.

73, Steve KB9X

1006. Re: Do you use a vertical on 80?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-04 05:52:49 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <vt0ee4lfbi8cke953htb5mplehqvjlsgd1@4ax.com>
Source record: 2377

On Fri, 3 Oct 2008 17:24:31 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:

>1) A full-size one is 60-65 feet tall, and needs a ground system to
>match. Shortening sacrifices bandwidth and radiation efficiency. Yes,
>a lot can be done with a small antenna but you're looking for
>something better than the inverted V.
>
Just this very evening I tried using my Cushcraft R-8 vertical - which
is not supposed to tune 80 meters - on 80, It performed much better
than my horizontal "all band" dipole when it came to weak signals in
"NVIS" territory. The KAT100 tuner said 1:1.

Guess which one I'll be using from now on?
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

1007. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-04 06:13:19 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <cq1ee4tprmi16tnm6htcbttakd35ncc4a5@4ax.com>
Source record: 2378

On Thu, 2 Oct 2008 20:01:33 EDT, "Howard Lester"
<heylester@dakotacom.net> wrote:

>> I'll check out the one you suggest. I tried google but everything listed
>> seemed to have a charge attached to it.
>>
>> It needs to be very cheap or free as I'm unemployed at this time.
>
>Dee, how about this one for $29?
>
>http://www.forteinc.com/agent/

I have been using Forte Agent for quite a while. It is only a
newsreader and requires an external news service. Their "in house"
service, APM, runs about $15 per month.

For what I pay Comcast for internet access, an extra $15 a month is
not that expensive. My e-mail service costs about that much, if not
more.

It's just the principle of the thing, an "entitlement" so to speak.

Relevance to ham radio: it's how I keep in contact with r.r.a.m news,
and other hams on the two other groups, one hobby, one professional.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

1008. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-04 06:24:50 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <3f2ee4pu3jcholh7ctjeciirrnhugu4d0r@4ax.com>
Source record: 2379

On Thu, 2 Oct 2008 20:46:35 EDT, Patty Winter <patty1@wintertime.com>
wrote:

>Since you're posting through Panix, Comcast's actions won't
>affect you anyway, Phil. Same with me. I don't recall whether
>I got a notice from them or read about it in some of my habitual
>Usenet groups a couple of weeks ago, but I knew it didn't affect
>me anyway, because I only use my Comcast cable modem to access
>my *real* ISP. :-)

The group is hosted on panix. My domain and mail server is on NetSol,
but my news server = the one I connect to - is newsgroups.comcast.net.
If this affects me - I will check with Comcast next week - I will have
to find another news service - perhaps NetSol has one or use the one
that Forte Agent works with.

Perhaps, to paraphrase the unforgettable Dr. C.T. Yang of MIT some 55
years ago - "THIS Comcast not the same as THAT Comcast....I only did
that to con-fuse you..."
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

1009. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-04 06:29:14 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <q63ee41mu55oek6m1vqqfbdsrdosh249e4@4ax.com>
Source record: 2380

On Fri, 3 Oct 2008 16:55:13 EDT, "D. Stussy" <spam@bde-arc.ampr.org>
wrote:

>OK, but the URL you gave was to the program. The URL for the service is
>http://www.forteinc.com/apn/index.php and does NOT appear on the program's
>page.

Hmmmm...I got to the APN site through a link on the Forte Agent site.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

1010. Re: Tristao towers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-04 06:38:16 UTC
From: Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop>
Message-ID: <4g3ee4l9d67dvn0mnjcrh6edlnbianvosv@4ax.com>
Source record: 2381

On Fri, 3 Oct 2008 19:31:25 EDT, Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
wrote:

>Phil Kane wrote:
>> You are getting a building permit (not to be confused with a
>> use or zoning permit), right?
>
>Well, not to fall into the "I don't need one" category, but this
>tower is akin to putting an extension ladder along side the house.

The main reason that I recommend it is your insurance may be
invalidated if one is necessary and you don't have the permit and
inspection.

>But I will check the local building codes to see what they have
>to say about things. I believe (may be urban legend) that certain
>"structures" (both masts and towers) may have a "not needed below
>a certain height" condition.

No urban legend - the Uniform Building Code (now called something
else) exempts roof-mounted masts up to 12 feet in length. This covers
most residential TV antenna installations.
>
>Were this a self standing 85 foot Rohn beast and I were planning
>on doing more than maybe a simple tri-bander, I wouldn't hesitate
>to have it engineered first then pull a permit.

Smart move!
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

1011. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-04 10:08:45 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <gqqdnVvDwMYA3XrVnZ2dnUVZ_rvinZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2382

Phil Kane wrote:

> It's just the principle of the thing, an "entitlement" so to speak.

I have read that at least one Comcast customer called the company and told them that Usenet access represented a $5 per month value, and they (Comcast) reduced his monthly charge by $5. That may be totally false, it may depend on the specific customer-service person that was involved, or it might be a company policy ("if the customer complains, credit them with $5 per month"). I suppose it can't hurt to ask.

The bottom line is that ISPs have noticed that only a small percentage of their customers access Usenet these days. Many of them decided that outsourcing to companies like Giganews was more cost effective than running their own in-house servers; I think Comcast did that some time ago. Now they're concluding that they won't lose customers by simply dropping the service altogether, which is even cheaper than outsourcing it. The recent flap about kiddie porn in Usenet gave some of them a convenient excuse.

It's really not a big deal to find a low-cost provider and switch over to them. Individual.net makes it very easy to sign up, and the configuration in the news reader is straightforward. But yeah, the principle of the thing does grate a bit.

Times change.

PS: In the spirit of "you're a lawyer, so I'm going to pick nits,"

Phil Kane wrote:

> The group is hosted on panix.

The group is _moderated_ on Panix. It's not _hosted_ anywhere in particular; from the point of view of each user it's hosted on whatever news server they're using. Articles are injected at Panix, which is why the path: line indicates that that's where they're coming from.

73, Steve KB9X

1012. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-04 15:07:11 UTC
From: helmsman@noneofyourbusiness.net
Message-ID: <8ejee4puc8eo14joj7ql9t6n7ke8k170m9@4ax.com>
Source record: 2383

On Sat, 4 Oct 2008 02:29:14 EDT, Phil Kane
<Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:

>On Fri, 3 Oct 2008 16:55:13 EDT, "D. Stussy" <spam@bde-arc.ampr.org>
>wrote:
>
>>OK, but the URL you gave was to the program. The URL for the service is
>>http://www.forteinc.com/apn/index.php and does NOT appear on the program's
>>page.
>
>Hmmmm...I got to the APN site through a link on the Forte Agent site.

Thats what I use.

1013. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-04 15:11:25 UTC
From: Patty Winter <patty1@wintertime.com>
Message-ID: <48e78795$0$33555$742ec2ed@news.sonic.net>
Source record: 2384

In article <3f2ee4pu3jcholh7ctjeciirrnhugu4d0r@4ax.com>,
Phil Kane <Phil.Kane@nov.shmovz.ka.pop> wrote:
>On Thu, 2 Oct 2008 20:46:35 EDT, Patty Winter <patty1@wintertime.com>
>wrote:
>
>>Since you're posting through Panix, Comcast's actions won't
>>affect you anyway, Phil. Same with me.
>
>The group is hosted on panix. My domain and mail server is on NetSol,
>but my news server = the one I connect to - is newsgroups.comcast.net.

Sorry, Phil, I forgot that this was a moderated group and thus
all postings appear to come from Panix. In that case, you will
need to find yourself a new Usenet provider.

Patty

1014. Re: Need advice on HDTV antenna

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-04 17:02:21 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <8ctEk.948$kl6.42@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2385

Fix up your analog signal now and lock it in. If the HD station is up to par with their analog, you are ready to go. Have you picked up a box yet?

If your current system is more than 5 years old you might have to replace it all anyway due to deterioration. Use the good coax too. Pay attention to the db loss fugures at 900 Mhz. Lower is better.

1015. Re: Do you use a vertical on 80?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-04 19:39:25 UTC
From: "R.A Abrahams" <r.aabrahams@wanadoo.nl>
Message-ID: <48e7c54b$0$24247$dbd49001@news.wanadoo.nl>
Source record: 2386

O.M.'s
when i started the radiohobbythe first trx was a WO II .set A kind of
superreg with amplifier double use of the tubes rx superreg and tx
superreg tube used as a vfo and the lf tube was the tx final
the antenna was simple a length of wire tuned by a bicyclelamp.tuning a knob
and the lamp glowed.the knob simply moved a piece of pulverized iron in a
coil
some years later i used a fishing rod i wound a length of wire around it one
end to ground and feeded by an alligatorclamb.I hope youm understand that at
the ground end there was a coil so the antenna was a kind of baseloaded
with the fishingrod antenna you got a cheap and simple experimental antenna
type
i used tapped coil +length of wire taped coil and a coil in the centre
and taped coil length of wire and an coil at the top with some radials
I discovered that a grounding sistem is important However 60 feet of tuned
wire is not easy and a cupperpipe stroked in the ground to the waterlevel
is
expensive
An antenne is simplifyed a inductance and a capacity coil and condensator
that will resonate on the working frequency for matching the trx you may
divide the coil or condensor
a cooking recept for an antenna can not be given because the circumstances
are not the same and unpredictable only a few directions
now to days fishing rods are made from grafite so conductive when obtainable
use glasfibre rods
you also find a lot of information at the foxhunting groups at larry's site
sm0 vpo his balcony antenna

a lot of succes when experimenting
73 de Ruud PA 0 RAB (rare antenna builder)

"Bill Horne" <bill@horneQRM.net> schreef in bericht
news:qvidnX-LD7rK23zVnZ2dnUVZ_qfinZ2d@speakeasy.net...
> I've been using an inverted vee for 80 meters, with mediocre results. I'm
> willing to experiment with other designs and I like the simplicity of
> verticals, but I've got to get something up before the weather turns, so
> if you've used a vertical on 80 meters, please answer these questions for
> me.
>
> 1. Performance?
> 2. Is noise worse/better/the same?
> 3. Is a quarter-wave radiator essential, or can it be shorter?
> 4. Loading/tuning?
>
> 73,

>
> Bill W1AC
>
>
> --
> Bill Horne
>
> (Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)
>

1016. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-04 23:47:17 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <6kpvbtF95akrU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2387

In news:jNqdnTdfT9dJQXvVnZ2dnUVZ_qDinZ2d@deskmedia.com,
Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> typed, for some strange, unexplained reason:

[snip]

: Another alternative that I don't think anyone has mentioned is access
: to newsgroups via the Google interface. Being able to use a real news
: reader is well worth 10 Euros per year to me.
:
: 73, Steve KB9X

Hmm. Personally, I wouldn't recommend Google for newsgroup access. It's clunky to use and seems (from the posts of those I've seen in other groups) to encourage top posting and not snipping repeated text, both of which are personal dislikes of mine.

I also use individual.net and it fits the bill nicely for me.

73 Ivor G6URP

1017. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-05 09:54:21 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <kcGdnZBH2qMjE3XVnZ2dnUVZ_hednZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2388

Ivor Jones wrote:

> Hmm. Personally, I wouldn't recommend Google for newsgroup access. It's
> clunky to use and seems (from the posts of those I've seen in other
> groups) to encourage top posting and not snipping repeated text, both of
> which are personal dislikes of mine.

King of like Outlook, eh? <grin>

Seriously, it's a matter of personal taste. Most people who have used a real news reader hold Google in contempt as a way to access Usenet, but some folks like the interface . . . just like some folks love to work contests and other folks think they're a plague.

1018. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-05 13:22:56 UTC
From: Pat Cook <pchamster@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <gc9hhc$975$1@news2.open-news-network.org>
Source record: 2389

"Pat Cook" <pchamster@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:gc3pnuhri2@news2.open-news-network.org...
> Hi everyone:
>
> "Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote in message
> news:zLudnUQmoMVAlXjVnZ2dnUVZ_rLinZ2d@comcast.com...
>> Can anyone recommend a free newsgroup server? Comcast just sent out an
>> email that they are discontinuing newsgroup access effective October
>> 25th.
>
> Try http://www.open-news-network.org/ You may have to run it through
> Google's Translator site to get it to where you can read it properly, but
> they are the only ones I know offering free USENET access.

Another one that's being talked about on the alt.online-service.comcast
newsgroup is Motzarella. The website to this service is @
http://www.motzarella.org/

> Good Luck.
>
> Cheers & 73 :D
>
> Pat Cook, KB0OXD
> Denver, Colorado
> **NEW!!**Owner/Sysop - KB0OXD-L (EchoLink Node No. 39953) **NEW!!**
> Website - http://www.qsl.net/kb0oxd/
> EchoLink Page - http://www.qsl.net/kb0oxd/echolink/

1019. Re: Newsgroup servers?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-05 20:37:28 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <gcb2ae$d6f$1@registered.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2390

```
"Pat Cook" <pchamster@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:gc9hhc$975$1@news2.open-news-network.org...
> "Pat Cook" <pchamster@gmail.com> wrote in message
> news:gc3pnu$hri$2@news2.open-news-network.org...
>> Hi everyone:
>>
>> "Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote in message
>> news:zLudnUQmoMVAlXjVnZ2dnUVZ_rLinZ2d@comcast.com...
>>> Can anyone recommend a free newsgroup server? Comcast just sent out an
>>> email that they are discontinuing newsgroup access effective October
>>> 25th.
>>
>> Try http://www.open-news-network.org/ You may have to run it through
>> Google's Translator site to get it to where you can read it properly, but
>> they are the only ones I know offering free USENET access.
>
> Another one that's being talked about on the alt.online-service.comcast
> newsgroup is Motzarella. The website to this service is @
> http://www.motzarella.org/
>

Okay I will see how this one works out. I just hope Comcast reduces their
cost but I doubt that they will. I'll certainly make a fuss about it if
they don't.

Dee, N8UZE
```

1020. Re: How do I check if old coax is still usable?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-05 20:59:01 UTC
From: "R.A Abrahams" <r.aabrahams@wanadoo.nl>
Message-ID: <48e904d2$0$91167$dbd43001@news.wanadoo.nl>
Source record: 2391
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

O.M's
Bill simply try it satisfied use it disappointed use it as grounding wire
in all the replies of this subject is usefull stuff to experimentals
in practical sense chemical chances of the dielectrical between inner and
outer is telling
after 10 - 15 years depending the manifactor
In coastal envoriments the salt in the air reduce this
moisture between inner and outer is a silent dange rust reduce the
conductivity and moisture the impendance
Jim told you a way to measure some qualities I do the same when i got
unknown cable for JOTA use
A practcal tip old coaxcable is excelent to use as a dummyload
so again a lot of things to experiment
55 + 73 de PA0RAB ruud
schreef in bericht
news:741f8568-9786-4114-b358-2ab5fab244d1@c65g2000hsa.googlegroups.com...
On Sep 29, 5:11 pm, Bill Horne wrote:
> I have a run of RG-8 coax inside a conduit, and I'd like to keep it in
> service if possible. How can I test it before I risk my finals trying to
> put power into it?

The simplest way I know is to use a QRP wattmeter and a dummy load.

First, set up a rig to feed the dummy load directly, through the dummy
load. Use the highest practical band (meaning what you have gear for).
Set your rig to deliver a few watts and record the exact reading,
forward and reflected. (By running low power you don't risk your rig,
and you test that the dummy and wattmeter work).

Then connect the rig and wattmeter to one end of the cable to be
tested, and the dummy load to the other end. Recheck the forward and
reflected power readings - they shouldn't be much different if the
cable is any good at all. (If you have any significant reflected power
when feeding the dummy load, it's clear the cable has water, an open
or a short someplace).

Finally move the wattmeter to the far end of the coax to be tested,
and put it just before the dummy load. Get one more set of forward and
reflected power readings. Compare with the readings when the wattmeter
is at the rig end of the cable. Compute the loss, convert it to dB,
and see how it compares to the expected value for the cable.

For example, suppose the cable is 50 feet of RG-8U and I do the test
on 40 meters. Suppose the wattmeter says 20 watts goes in but only 10
watts comes out, and almost no reflected power. That's half the power

(3 dB) lost in a cable that's supposed to be well under 1 dB per 100 feet at 7 MHz. Something's wrong.

73 de Jim, N2EY

1021. Re: Use of ground wires underneath dipoles

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-06 11:25:25 UTC
From: "R.A Abrahams" <r.aabrahams@wanadoo.nl>
Message-ID: <48e9efcb$0$42326$dbd41001@news.wanadoo.nl>
Source record: 2392
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

Hi O,m's
interresting things around here about groundwires at a dipole
in my reply of the 3.5mc vertical i told that an antenna can bee seen as a
coil and a condensor
tuned at working frequencie
a run of wire has an inductance remind the stripline tuned circuit at vhf
if we have a normal tuned circuit coil and capacitance it is understandable
we see the parts
if the coil is a length of wire a litle less but if we remind uhf circuits
if we move the condensorplates to the top and bottom of the coil we can see
still the tuned circuit
and we have a new experimental antenna type google H antenna for more
details also commercial available
even precooked building instructions very interresting to understand the
basics of antennatheory
if we strech the coil we got the wireantenna where is the condensator hi
the wiresurface to earth
now we can understand that the dipole is a serial combination of two coils
and 2 condensators and a thirdth to earth
notice that there are 2 radiation paterns a magnetic from the coil and a
statthic from the condensator
so it is to understand that a groundwire under the dipole has an influance
at the capacity of the antenna and also at its radiation
the groundconditions of our garden chances rain moisture sun etc
the condition of the diged wire will not chance and the results of the
antenne too.
i hope i cleared a little
73 de ruud PA0RAB

schreef in bericht
news:edb2d74b-e6e5-4246-8da4-873e57c52c7a@p59g2000hsd.googlegroups.com...
On Oct 2, 12:58 am, Bill Horne wrote:

> What puzzles me is the ground: I don't understand why such a wire would
> function as anything but, well, ground. I

I think it's really about ground (dirt) conductivity. Which varies all
over the place.

In some places (moist, loamy soil with lots of minerals, coastal areas
where the water table is very high and salty) the dirt is a pretty
good conductor, to the point where antennas "worked against ground" do
pretty well with just a ground rod or two. RF just bounces off that
sort of dirt.

In other places (dry, sandy, rocky soil) the dirt is a very lossy counductor, and acts more as an RF absorber.

With a low dipole, the ground is so close that it has major effects on the antenna. If it's lossy dirt, it just soaks up RF, but if it's a decent conductor, it can act as a reflector. The added wire is just a way of improving the ground conductivity in the dirt that is most involved: the dirt directly under the antenna.

73 de Jim, N2EY

1022. Re: Do you use a vertical on 80?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-06 15:47:35 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <gcdbho$sm8$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2393

Phil Kane wrote:
> On Fri, 3 Oct 2008 17:24:31 EDT, N2EY@aol.com wrote:
>
>> 1) A full-size one is 60-65 feet tall, and needs a ground system to
>> match. Shortening sacrifices bandwidth and radiation efficiency. Yes,
>> a lot can be done with a small antenna but you're looking for
>> something better than the inverted V.
>>
> Just this very evening I tried using my Cushcraft R-8 vertical - which
> is not supposed to tune 80 meters - on 80, It performed much better
> than my horizontal "all band" dipole when it came to weak signals in
> "NVIS" territory. The KAT100 tuner said 1:1.
>
> Guess which one I'll be using from now on?

Hi Phil,

I wouldn't abandon the doipole just yet.

At the urging of Roy Lewallen some years ago, I tried an experiment regarding the perennial "Which is better, a dipole or a vertical?" question.

I have a general purpose dipole, and a Butternut HF6V vertical. The vertical is setting on radials - around 20 at last count. So it performs pretty well.

I used an attenuating pad between the tuner and the antenna. The dipole comes in on ladder line, and the vertical on coax, so i switched the antennas at the tuner. Then I would switch attenuation in or out to match up the signals. What was "best" was the antenna with the highest received signal

The results were very interesting.

Some were like what we've been told to expect. The horizontal tended to perform better at relatively local distances for 80 meters and the vertical past 500 miles or so was usually better.

At higher frequencies this was not as marked, since the "take-off-angle" was not as different between vertical and horizontal antennas.

The Vertical was a little louder overall than the horizontal, also a bit noisier. I don't think that it actually heard better - in that regard.

But notice I said words like "tended" and "usually".

There were times that the horizontal antenna worked better on DX, and the vertical worked better on locals.

Then just to confound the matter, which antenna worked best could change in the middle of a QSO. I found that I had to be quick on the switches to make my measurements.

But the differences were significant enough that I immediately saw the value of having both antennas Sometimes several S-units on a given signal.

Other things I found were:

S-Meters are not linear within themselves.

Don't even think of transmitting with the attenuator in the antenna path. They don't handle much power at all.

But I did find out which antenna is better.

Yes.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

1023. Re: Hard Times and Ham Radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-06 15:49:26 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <gcd9fr$1cb4$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2394

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Oct 3, 12:16 am, "Pat Cook" <pchams...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
>> Jim....I thought so highly of this, I posted it to my blog (Giving you th
> e
>> credit of course :)). You can read it @http://kb0oxd-soapbox.blogspot
> .com/2008/10/hard-times-ham-radio.htmlif you
>> wish. :)
>>
> Thanks Pat!
>
> I'm old enough to remember the 1960s (became a ham in 1967 at the age
> of 13). One thing I remember clearly from those times were the
> prophets of doom who said amateur radio would disappear in a few
> years, because:
>
> - cb was growing and ham radio wasn't
> - ham gear of the time cost too much, was too complex, and couldn't be
> worked on by hams anymore
> - incentive licensing made it too hard to get a license
> - the Conditional distance was upped to 175 miles
> - the young people of the time were too busy being hippies to do
> something as "square" as ham radio
> - there were too many other distractions (TV, radio, cars, the space
> program, etc.) to interest people in ham radio
>
> Etc.
>
> Yet none of that gloom-and-doom stuff came to pass. There are now more
> than twice as many hams as there were in the early 1970s (just over
> 660,000 current unexpired licenses, last time I checked). Except for
> the last 10 years or so, the US amateur population has grown a lot
> faster than the US population as a whole.
>
> 1929 to 1969 was forty years. Both years marked the beginning of
> growth times for US amateur radio. 1969 to 2009 is forty years too....

While there are many possibilities as to the attraction of Ham radio
during economic downturns, some of them being plausible, and some not
so much, The topic does bring to light that Ham radio is an excellent
hobby/avocation to enjoy during such times.

We have had many years during which for most people, a hobby involved
laying out cash as the major part of the hobby. While many people could
become knowledgeable about something, say computers, a large part of the

hobby was that recent "dual processor motherboard and the killer video card to play the awesome game. Not to pick on computers - just an example. Even Amateur radio joined in the fray, with some mighty pricey rigs at the top end.

Fast forward to the near future. We've embarked on a new journey, because the bailout is just running the printing presses overtime, and even if it works out, that extra money equates out to inflation. So we're going to have some lean years coming. But that isn't so much a problem for Ham radio.

The great thing about our hobby is that we can do it on a shoestring. Even during the recent years, my first system, put together in 2001, only put me back a little over 400 dollars for the whole system.

$250.00 for an Icom IC-745
130.00 for an MFJ-949 tuner
Some ladder line, and some wire.

I've spent a lot more in recent years, especially in going mobile, but I can still be plenty cheap.

A dedicated scrounger could do much better yet, if there isn't a whole lot of discretionary money setting around the house. I bought some fully functional Heathkit single band SSB rigs for 25 dollars each, and a power supply to run then both for 40 dollars.

Even things like the "tuna tin" radios are not so bad during bad economies.

So all in all, I would say that your thoughts on the matter are pretty plausible.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

1024. Re: Do you use a vertical on 80?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-06 17:17:34 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <-MOdnQNACeWG1XfVnZ2dnUVZ_jOdnZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2395

"Michael Coslo" wrote

> But I did find out which antenna is better.
>
> Yes.

Agreed. Put some wire or tubing up in the air and have fun. Not good enough?
Raise it up some more. ;-)

Howard

1025. Re: Hard Times and Ham Radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-06 21:38:53 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <270bfea3-d498-4dab-af42-80b4a48d4b25@u28g2000hsc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2396

On Oct 5, 4:59 pm, Larry Weil <kc...@mac.com> wrote:
>
> One thing that certainly effects us is the value of the US dollar.
> Considering that much of our equipment is made outside the US, if the val
ue
> of the dollar goes down then equipment prices are going to rise.

I hadn't thought of that but your absolutely right - for *new*
equipment not Made In USA.

But unlike a lot of other "consumer" electronics, ham gear tends to
have a very long useful life. A 10-year-old computer is almost useless
but a 10 year old ham rig still has lots of QSOs in it. In fact a 10-
year-old mid-top line rig can be a better performer than a new bottom-
of-the-line rig. (Try to buy a Kenwood TS-870S, and see what they cost
if you can find one that the owner will part with....)

On top of that, once you have a station set up, the cost of operation
can be minimal. Unless you run superpower the effect on the electric
meter is very slight; no monthly connection fees and except for those
with big antenna farms there's not a lot of maintenance.

73 de Jim, N2EY

1026. Re: Hard Times and Ham Radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-07 16:59:16 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <gcfpv6$6fo$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2397

N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> On Oct 5, 4:59 pm, Larry Weil <kc...@mac.com> wrote:
>> One thing that certainly effects us is the value of the US dollar.
>> Considering that much of our equipment is made outside the US, if the val
> ue
>> of the dollar goes down then equipment prices are going to rise.
>
> I hadn't thought of that but your absolutely right - for *new*
> equipment not Made In USA.
>
> But unlike a lot of other "consumer" electronics, ham gear tends to
> have a very long useful life. A 10-year-old computer is almost useless
> but a 10 year old ham rig still has lots of QSOs in it. In fact a 10-
> year-old mid-top line rig can be a better performer than a new bottom-
> of-the-line rig. (Try to buy a Kenwood TS-870S, and see what they cost
> *if* you can find one that the owner will part with....)

The TS-830 is another one on my gotta have list. Checked one out for a friend a while back, and what a nice radio. Looks and sounds good, TX reports were great, and had that tube ambience going on.

My IC-761 is a late 80's early 90's rig that is still going strong. The pc I was using at that time was a Commodore C-64. Old "Big Knob" is still sitting on my desk, while that computer is probably in a landfill somewhere. Aww, I kind of miss that computer....

> On top of that, once you have a station set up, the cost of operation
> can be minimal. Unless you run superpower the effect on the electric
> meter is very slight; no monthly connection fees and except for those
> with big antenna farms there's not a lot of maintenance.

You're really using just about as much power as if you were watching TV in the living room. I suppose I'm pulling a bit more, since I have the HF radio, the VHF radio, two computers - one for rig control, and one to email/surf/work, and a television on mute when I'm operating.

Hmm, sounds like I need to cut down on the multitasking a bit here.. ;^)

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

1027. Re: Need advice on HDTV antenna

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-07 23:06:01 UTC
From: kzerohb@gmail.com
Message-ID: <6d7a096d-f5d1-4493-84c2-5a332dc304b7@c60g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2398

I'm using an old Radio Shack UHF/VHF medium sized antenna that's been on the roof for 20 years, along with the coax.

Through a cheap splitter I'm feeding two receievers, a new Sony Bravia LCD and an old analog through a converter box. Both work just fine.

There's an online calculator which you can use as a guide to determine how "good" an antenna you need. Plug in your ZIP code at http://www.antennaweb.org/aw/Address.aspx and it will evaluate your situation. (You just need to enter your ZIP, ignore the other information requested.)

73, de Hans, K0HB

1028. Re: Hard Times and Ham Radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-07 23:06:08 UTC
From: kzerohb@gmail.com
Message-ID: <5acf1688-34b3-410a-9370-ecd8295ca9b3@v16g2000prc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2399

I think any linkage between economic downturn and ham radio upturn is
pure coincidence.

73, de Hans, K0HB

1029. Re: Need advice on HDTV antenna

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-08 03:52:32 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <gcgtmq01i11@news4.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2400

kzerohb@gmail.com wrote:
> There's an online calculator

It says I'm 26.5 miles away (I'll assume Mt Wilson)on all
stations for HDTV. We'll see just exactly how well their
"best guess" works.

THankies for the link Hans

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

1030. Re: Need advice on HDTV antenna

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-08 04:01:26 UTC
From: kzerohb@gmail.com
Message-ID: <91bc7694-57d9-4f99-bb18-83bf2537a4b1@p49g2000hsd.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2301

On Oct 8, 3:52 am, Jeffrey D Angus <jan...@socal.rr.com> wrote:

> It says I'm 26.5 miles away (I'll assume Mt Wilson)on all
> stations for HDTV. We'll see just exactly how well their
> "best guess" works.

You should be in good shape then, Jeff. The nearest transmitter to me is several miles further than that, and over flat terrain. I receive all channels nicely, with only occasional pixelation during rain/snow on one site which about 40 miles away and "off the side of the beam".

73, de Hans, K0HB

1031. Re: Need advice on HDTV antenna

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-08 15:14:00 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <gcii2n$1j76$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2302

Is HDTV going to be a non-starter for antenna based reception? I think that many digital signals have a tendency to be just that, they are great, or they aren't going to be usable.

I've seen a lot of slightly noisy analog TV signals off the air that are viewable. Will a digital signal decode these?

The closest analogy I can think of is digital SSTV, in which the signal is sent out in batches, and if the receiving station does not copy that batch correctly, it asks for a resend - obviously not available on HDTV - and the sending station keeps sending it until the receiving station says "got it". But they are having troubles because some times the picture never finishes , it's stuck somewhere. Many people who are into Digital SSTV suggest running amps, and the higher power the better.

Just seems like a lot of people are going to find their setup that is adequate for analog, is marginal or unacceptable for digital.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

1032. Re: Hard Times and Ham Radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-08 15:14:56 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <314Hk.1496$yl6.430@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2303

"Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
news:gcfpv6$6fo$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu...
> N2EY@aol.com wrote:
> > On Oct 5, 4:59 pm, Larry Weil <kc...@mac.com> wrote:
> >> One thing that certainly effects us is the value of the US dollar.
> >> Considering that much of our equipment is made outside the US, if the
val
> > ue
> >> of the dollar goes down then equipment prices are going to rise.
> >
> > I hadn't thought of that but your absolutely right - for *new*
> > equipment not Made In USA.
> >
> > But unlike a lot of other "consumer" electronics, ham gear tends to
> > have a very long useful life. A 10-year-old computer is almost useless
> > but a 10 year old ham rig still has lots of QSOs in it. In fact a 10-
> > year-old mid-top line rig can be a better performer than a new bottom-
> > of-the-line rig. (Try to buy a Kenwood TS-870S, and see what they cost
> > *if* you can find one that the owner will part with....)
>
> The TS-830 is another one on my gotta have list. Checked one out for a
> friend a while back, and what a nice radio. Looks and sounds good, TX
> reports were great, and had that tube ambience going on.
>
> My IC-761 is a late 80's early 90's rig that is still going strong. The
> pc I was using at that time was a Commodore C-64. Old "Big Knob" is
> still sitting on my desk, while that computer is probably in a landfill
> somewhere. Aww, I kind of miss that computer....
>
>
> > On top of that, once you have a station set up, the cost of operation
> > can be minimal. Unless you run superpower the effect on the electric
> > meter is very slight; no monthly connection fees and except for those
> > with big antenna farms there's not a lot of maintenance.
>
> You're really using just about as much power as if you were watching TV
> in the living room. I suppose I'm pulling a bit more, since I have the
> HF radio, the VHF radio, two computers - one for rig control, and one to
> email/surf/work, and a television on mute when I'm operating.
>
> Hmm, sounds like I need to cut down on the multitasking a bit here.. ;^)
>
> - 73 de Mike N3LI -
>

I would still have my TS-830 sitting next to my TS-2000 if I hadn't got into a panic one time that I would be moving into my travel trailer. BTW the TS2000 draws 2.4 Amps in receive. The TS-830 can be powered in RX only with the filaments off from an external 12v 800ma source. I loved that radio, cleanest, best sounding TX/RX I ever owned. It's only drawback is ham band only coverage. I like to SWL also.

About 80 watts of solar panels would take care of your radio power problem. Also, the power isn't wasted in the winter as it is all alternative heating. My biggest utility bill is Sewer service. The biggest chunk of electricity goes to Refrigeration and A/C. If not for that I could go full solar 8 months out of the year.

1033. Re: Need advice on HDTV antenna

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-08 18:08:20 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <m48vr5-csn.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 2304

In article <gcii2n$1j76$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>,
Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:

>Is HDTV going to be a non-starter for antenna based reception? I think
>that many digital signals have a tendency to be just that, they are
>great, or they aren't going to be usable.

One set of early-transition results were published recently - see
http://www.broadcastingcable.com/article/CA6596515.html for a summary.

The FCC is saying that they believe that around 15% of the TV stations
which switch over to ATSC digital transmission will end up losing a
significant amount of signal coverage.

>I've seen a lot of slightly noisy analog TV signals off the air that are
>viewable. Will a digital signal decode these?

I believe it depends a lot on the specific impairments in the signal.

My impression is that the digital decoding system is reasonably
resistant to moderate amounts of impulse noise. If by "slightly
noisy" you're referring to seeing some amount of static, on an
otherwise fairly clear signal, then the odds are that these channels
will decode OK.

If the signal is relatively weak (a substantial amount of "snow" on
the analog signal) but ghost-free... well, I think it'll depend on the
amount of signal strength. Down to some level it should work OK, and
below that level you'll lose the station.

I believe that one of the hardest things for ATSC decoders to handle
is multipath - in particular, multipath which changes fairly rapidly
over time. On an analog signal, multipath tends to cause ghosting of
the image. If your analog signal has one or more significant "ghost"
images (typically shifted to the right of the main image) then
successful ATSC decoding may depend on the sophistication of the
decoder... I understand that the better ones will "learn" the
multipath delay characteristics of the signal and can cancel it out
internally.

Multipath reflections which change rapidly with time are a harder
problem. These can be caused by nearby trees blowing around in the
wind, by airplanes flying by, and (according to one report I read)
large boats in a river or large container trucks on a road which is
near the line-of-sight between transmitter and receiver. If your
analog signal has "ghosts" which flutter around, appearing and
disappearing from one moment to the next, then it may be difficult for

a decoder to achieve and maintain a good lock on the bitstream.

>Just seems like a lot of people are going to find their setup that is
>adequate for analog, is marginal or unacceptable for digital.

I suspect that you're right. People in medium-to-deep-fringe suburban
and rural areas may be the worst affected. Even people in mid-city,
who have been using a simple rabbit-ears setup, may have difficulty
getting some channels as well.

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will
boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

1034. Re: Need advice on HDTV antenna

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-08 18:09:32 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <9I2dnTU1IY2LT3HVnZ2dnUVZ_umdnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2305

Michael Coslo wrote:

> Just seems like a lot of people are going to find their setup that is
> adequate for analog, is marginal or unacceptable for digital.

It depends on your definition of "adequate for analog". The folks who are putting up with a very marginal analog picture are not going to get anything with the switch to digital. Anyone who has higher standards than watching a picture that's mostly snow and ghosts is going to be fine.

I'm using the same antenna that I've been using for years in the pre-digital world, and am having no problems with digital. Most of the transmitting locations are 40+ miles away, and even the channel where I was not getting a 100% clear analog picture looks fine in the digital version. I'm using native digital equipment, but was pleased with the performance of the converter box that I installed at my in-law's house.

It's the folks with the decades-old rabbit ears that are going to be affected. I'd like to think that this is a small minority, but I may be wrong.

73, Steve KB9X

1035. Re: Need advice on HDTV antenna

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-08 18:09:44 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <lY4Hk.1601$P5.1087@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2306

"Michael Coslo" <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote in message
news:gcii2n$1j76$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu...
> Is HDTV going to be a non-starter for antenna based reception? I think
> that many digital signals have a tendency to be just that, they are
> great, or they aren't going to be usable.
>
> I've seen a lot of slightly noisy analog TV signals off the air that are
> viewable. Will a digital signal decode these?
>
> The closest analogy I can think of is digital SSTV, in which the signal
> is sent out in batches, and if the receiving station does not copy that
> batch correctly, it asks for a resend - obviously not available on HDTV
> - and the sending station keeps sending it until the receiving station
> says "got it". But they are having troubles because some times the
> picture never finishes , it's stuck somewhere. Many people who are into
> Digital SSTV suggest running amps, and the higher power the better.
>
> Just seems like a lot of people are going to find their setup that is
> adequate for analog, is marginal or unacceptable for digital.
>
> - 73 de Mike N3LI -
Negative. Your worries are well founded, but the experience is that ATSC
will decode a signal that is not so good. It really depends on how much
fade margin is lost when any given station moves to a different frequency,
transmitter and antenna system. Coverage is more likely to be compromised
by the move rather than the different mode.

What happens to customer service when a company is bought out and everyone
is laid off? The biggest difference is that now there is a great big excuse
for failure. I'm sure the media will straighten it out fast or lose
customers. After all, it's their job to overthrow the government and they
take that very seriously.

1036. Re: Need advice on HDTV antenna

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-08 21:09:12 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <kj3qe4l23vb2qi3i3145qomtq7bm612gmm@4ax.com>
Source record: 2307

On Wed, 8 Oct 2008 14:08:20 EDT, dplatt@radagast.org (Dave Platt) wrote:

>In article <gcii2n$1j76$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>,
>Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu> wrote:
>
>>Is HDTV going to be a non-starter for antenna based reception? I think
>>that many digital signals have a tendency to be just that, they are
>>great, or they aren't going to be usable.
>
> [snip]
>
>>I've seen a lot of slightly noisy analog TV signals off the air that are
>>viewable. Will a digital signal decode these?
>
>I believe it depends a lot on the specific impairments in the signal.
>
>My impression is that the digital decoding system is reasonably
>resistant to moderate amounts of impulse noise. If by "slightly
>noisy" you're referring to seeing some amount of static, on an
>otherwise fairly clear signal, then the odds are that these channels
>will decode OK.

On the ARRL web site is an article about HDTV coding:
http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2008/10/03/10374/?nc=1

The article references another article "What Exactly Is 8-Vsb Anyway?"
http://www.broadcast.net/~sbe1/8vsb/8vsb.htm
which goes into lots of detail about the coding of HDTV. The process is quite involved, and includes MPEG-II coding, forward error correction, trellis coding and a data interleaver. Quoting from this article:

The data interleaver scrambles the sequential order of the data
stream and disperses the MPEG-II packet data throughout time
(over a range of about 4.5 msec through the use of memory buffers)
in order to minimize the transmitted signal's sensitivity to burst
type interference.

All of these steps minimize the effects of noise and bursty interference.
73 de Dick, AC7EL

1037. Hands-free Earphone and Microphone

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-08 23:54:06 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <iofqe49cjhdatd8ek433rp5f9qoo5mujt5@4ax.com>
Source record: 2308

I am looking for recommendations for an earphone, microphone and push-to-talk (PTT) for use with my handheld transceiver. My favorite handheld is a Kenwood TH-F6. I bought Kenwood's earphone/mike accessory, which consists of an ear bud and a mike/PTT on the cord. The mike has a clip to attach it clothing. I clipped it to the neck of my T-shirt. but I found it hard to use. It would not pick up my voice adequately unless I unclipped the mike and held it to my mouth.

Are there any earphone/microphone setups where I do not have to hold the mike in my hand.

Also, it would be nice not to need one hand to key the mike. I don't want to use VOX, because it will key on ambient noise, for example: a band during a parade.

Dick, AC7EL

1038. Re: Hands-free Earphone and Microphone

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-09 00:06:39 UTC
From: Richard Crowley <rcrowley@xp7rt.net>
Message-ID: <6l5086Fakrs5U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2309

"Dick Grady AC7EL" wrote ...
>I am looking for recommendations for an earphone, microphone and
>push-to-talk
> (PTT) for use with my handheld transceiver. My favorite handheld is a
> Kenwood
> TH-F6. I bought Kenwood's earphone/mike accessory, which consists of an
> ear bud
> and a mike/PTT on the cord. The mike has a clip to attach it clothing. I
> clipped it to the neck of my T-shirt. but I found it hard to use. It
> would not
> pick up my voice adequately unless I unclipped the mike and held it to my
> mouth.
>
> Are there any earphone/microphone setups where I do not have to hold the
> mike in
> my hand.
>
> Also, it would be nice not to need one hand to key the mike. I don't want
> to
> use VOX, because it will key on ambient noise, for example: a band during
> a
> parade.

One of these days somebody will offer a little BlueTooth dongle
the size of a 9V battery that plugs into your transciever/HT and
allows you to use a generic BlueTooth wireless ear-piece such
as most cell phones have built-in functionality for. I've thought
of making such a gadget myself, but entry into the BlueTooth
club doesn't come inexpensively.

1039. Re: Hands-free Earphone and Microphone

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-09 00:09:44 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <6l4vvvFamkpvU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2310

In news:iofqe49cjhdatd8ek433rp5f9qoo5mujt5@4ax.com,
Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com> typed, for some strange, unexplained
reason:
: I am looking for recommendations for an earphone, microphone and
: push-to-talk (PTT) for use with my handheld transceiver. My favorite
: handheld is a Kenwood TH-F6. I bought Kenwood's earphone/mike
: accessory, which consists of an ear bud and a mike/PTT on the cord.
: The mike has a clip to attach it clothing. I clipped it to the neck
: of my T-shirt. but I found it hard to use. It would not pick up my
: voice adequately unless I unclipped the mike and held it to my mouth.
:
: Are there any earphone/microphone setups where I do not have to hold
: the mike in my hand.
:
: Also, it would be nice not to need one hand to key the mike. I don't
: want to use VOX, because it will key on ambient noise, for example: a
: band during a parade.
:
: Dick, AC7EL

Is this for in-car use or hand-portable..? If for mobile use I'd recommend
something permanently mounted in the vehicle; I use a hands-free kit I got
from Waters & Stanton which isn't cheap but works very well, it's based on
the units the police here in the UK use. There's a box into which you plug
a PTT switch, the microphone (which usually fits somewhere over the sun
visor) and the cable to the radio, which is customised for whichever radio
you want. There's also a power connector in case the radio can't supply
power (which for most mobile rigs it can, although probably not for a hand
portable).

Details here http://www.wsplc.com/acatalog/Mobile_Mics.html scroll down
for "SAFE-2-WAY Watson Mobile Mic. System"

73 Ivor G6URP

1040. Re: Need advice on HDTV antenna

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-09 00:44:11 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <rrmdnRCmc7dQznDVnZ2dnUVZ_v3inZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2311

Show of hands, please: how many of you have erected a ham antenna that "just couldn't possibly work?" I sure have.
You just don't know until you try it.

I bought an HDTV, which decodes digital signals. What we should be talking about is Digital Television, not necessarily "high definition." Whether or not reception at any given residence will succeed, especially come February 17 (or is it 19?) remains to be, um, seen. Being the antenna experimenter that I am, and knowing that most digital signals are currently UHF, I hooked up an old Radio Shack 2-bay bowtie tabletop UHF antenna, sometimes in conjunction with my rooftop VHF/UHF antenna.

1) The "local" FOX station, which I could never before get at my house, comes through beautifully on its digital channel. Why? Different transmitter and possibly a different antenna location. (I don't know the details.) Their analog main transmitter is located far to my south and I never got any signal. Its translator, at 10 miles and should be visible to me, gives me a visible but lousy signal. So some or all tv stations are or will be doing things differently (power, frequency, location) from their previous analog transmissions.

2) Another station, whose transmitter is located even farther from me than the FOX station, and definitely not line of sight, comes through clearly on its digital station as long as I have the bowties pointed just right... and at a window facing that direction.

Yes, digital television reception is all-or-nothing, but you may be surprised if you find you can get a clear signal that was unattainable before. And yes, the reverse may turn out to be true. It's a situation by situation basis. A blanket statement can't be made.

Howard N7SO

1041. Re: Hands-free Earphone and Microphone

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-09 07:50:02 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <g1dre41ofpu6dilmb1mulg8cs8np5jag8s@4ax.com>
Source record: 2312

On Wed, 8 Oct 2008 20:09:44 EDT, "Ivor Jones" <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
wrote:

>In news:iofqe49cjhdatd8ek433rp5f9qoo5mujt5@4ax.com,
>Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com> typed, for some strange, unexplained
>reason:
>: I am looking for recommendations for an earphone, microphone and
>: push-to-talk (PTT) for use with my handheld transceiver. My favorite
>: handheld is a Kenwood TH-F6. I bought Kenwood's earphone/mike
>: accessory, which consists of an ear bud and a mike/PTT on the cord.
>: The mike has a clip to attach it clothing. I clipped it to the neck
>: of my T-shirt. but I found it hard to use. It would not pick up my
>: voice adequately unless I unclipped the mike and held it to my mouth.
>:
>: Are there any earphone/microphone setups where I do not have to hold
>: the mike in my hand.
>:
>: Also, it would be nice not to need one hand to key the mike. I don't
>: want to use VOX, because it will key on ambient noise, for example: a
>: band during a parade.
>:
>: Dick, AC7EL
>
>Is this for in-car use or hand-portable..?

I want it for portable handheld use.

>If for mobile use I'd recommend
>something permanently mounted in the vehicle; I use a hands-free kit I got
>from Waters & Stanton which isn't cheap but works very well, it's based on
>the units the police here in the UK use. There's a box into which you plug
>a PTT switch, the microphone (which usually fits somewhere over the sun
>visor) and the cable to the radio, which is customised for whichever radio
>you want. There's also a power connector in case the radio can't supply
>power (which for most mobile rigs it can, although probably not for a hand
>portable).
>
>Details here http://www.wsplc.com/acatalog/Mobile_Mics.html scroll down
>for "SAFE-2-WAY Watson Mobile Mic. System"
>
>
>73 Ivor G6URP

Hey, that's a neat product. I'll search the Internet to see if they have
distributors in the USA.

Dick, AC7EL
73 de Dick, AC7EL

1042. question for the moderators.

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-09 14:21:38 UTC
From: richgr@panix.com
Message-ID: <gcl417cct1@panix5.panix.com>
Source record: 2313

Question for the moderators:

Is it OK to post to rram an announcement for my local radioclub's
hamfest next January? It will also be the ARRL South Florida Section
Convention.

If OK, would monthly until Dec and then weekly be too much?

In any case, can you suggest other appropriate newsgroups?

--
Rich Greenberg N Ft Myers, FL, USA richgr atsign panix.com + 1 239 543 1353
Eastern time. N6LRT I speak for myself & my dogs only. VM'er since CP-67
Canines:Val, Red, Shasta & Casey (RIP), Red & Zero, Siberians Owner:Chinook-L
Retired at the beach Asst Owner:Sibernet-L

1043. Re: Need advice on HDTV antenna

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-09 14:35:23 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <gcl3rh$1dp2$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2314

Dick Grady AC7EL wrote:
> On Wed, 8 Oct 2008 14:08:20 EDT, dplatt@radagast.org (Dave Platt) wrote:

>> My impression is that the digital decoding system is reasonably
>> resistant to moderate amounts of impulse noise. If by "slightly
>> noisy" you're referring to seeing some amount of static, on an
>> otherwise fairly clear signal, then the odds are that these channels
>> will decode OK.
>
> On the ARRL web site is an article about HDTV coding:
> http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2008/10/03/10374/?nc=1
>
> The article references another article "What Exactly Is 8-Vsb Anyway?"
> http://www.broadcast.net/~sbe1/8vsb/8vsb.htm
> which goes into lots of detail about the coding of HDTV. The process is quite
> involved, and includes MPEG-II coding, forward error correction, trellis coding
> and a data interleaver. Quoting from this article:

Thanks Dick, that is exactly what I have been looking for. It is a
involved system, and I see that the Trellis encoder will attempt to
compensate for some of the data loss. That will help keep some signal on
the screen when there is noise or other interruption. The Trellis
encoder itself reminds me a bit of a Photoshop algorithim I use to do
something similar.

The data interleaver is quite a clever adaptation, splitting,
scrambling and reconstructing of the data stream.

It still relies on a good signal, but should work out well within it's
limits - which appear to be larger than I was originally thinking.

Now on a more Hamish note, is there anywhere on the web that has a
similar description of the D-Star system?

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

1044. Re: Use of ground wires underneath dipoles

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-09 17:42:06 UTC
From: Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
Message-ID: <fast-75EF14.08460409102008@netnews.worldnet.att.net>
Source record: 2315

In article <SaednVOreK61qnnVnZ2dnUVZ_sHinZ2d@speakeasy.net>,
Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:

> What puzzles me is the ground: I don't understand why such a wire would
> function as anything but, well, ground. I understand that it's a
> parasitic reflector if not grounded (has anyone tried this?), but I
> don't get the reason for the ground.
>
> BTW, is it grounded at both ends?
>
> 73,
>
> Bill W1AC

The reason is that "Ground is NOT Ground, the World Around"..... Old
Radioman addage..... Up here in Alaska we rarely have enough Mineralite
in our soils, to produce the conductivity, that makes a reasonable RF
Ground. It is like trying to build an RF Ground when sitting on a piece
of Glass. Most of our acceptable RF Ground Systems are built with
Radials, or Steel Roofs, and the like. Nothing like a nice Tin Roof for
an acceptable RF Ground for a vertical Marconi antenna.

--
Bruce in alaska
add <path> after <fast> to reply

1045. Re: Use of ground wires underneath dipoles

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-09 18:35:57 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <hbise4ljvhmjcqvaqilfoev0s1vivbmgb6@4ax.com>
Source record: 2316

On Thu, 9 Oct 2008 13:42:06 EDT, Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net> wrote:

>In article <SaednVOreK61qnnVnZ2dnUVZ_sHinZ2d@speakeasy.net>,
> Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:
>
>> What puzzles me is the ground: I don't understand why such a wire would
>> function as anything but, well, ground. I understand that it's a
>> parasitic reflector if not grounded (has anyone tried this?), but I
>> don't get the reason for the ground.
>>
>> BTW, is it grounded at both ends?
>>
>> 73,
>>
>> Bill W1AC
>
>The reason is that "Ground is NOT Ground, the World Around"..... Old
>Radioman addage..... Up here in Alaska we rarely have enough Mineralite
>in our soils, to produce the conductivity, that makes a reasonable RF
>Ground. It is like trying to build an RF Ground when sitting on a piece
>of Glass. Most of our acceptable RF Ground Systems are built with
>Radials, or Steel Roofs, and the like. Nothing like a nice Tin Roof for
>an acceptable RF Ground for a vertical Marconi antenna.

In another thread I posted:
>You can get estimated ground conductivity at
>http://www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/m3/index.html
It shows that a large part of the US has poor ground conductivity.

I live in the desert at NV/CA border, half way between Las Vegas and Death Valley. Very Dry. The soil is a dry lake bed, and ancient sea bed (there was ocean water here at one time; we can find sea shells in the soil), with dried caked silt for hundreds of feet until bedrock. About 2 inches of rain per year, and it just runs off, not sinking in. Thus poor conductivity. The only verticals I use are for VHF and UHF. I use dipoles for HF; no ground plane needed.

73 de Dick, AC7EL

1046. file Suchindra Bali

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-10 08:54:05 UTC
From: Rickie.Hammerle@aol.com
Message-ID: <uobajauoer87pjjhn2uvaz24ohpzpm1@4ax.com>
Source record: 2317

Woodrow wrote on 10 Oct 2008 08:54:05 GMT:
>
> Who can impose another industrial assignment?
>

http://tour.dostii.net

--
One more relevant removals sort of the brown senate were shining away from the exotic chamber.

1047. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1626 - October 10, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-10 14:23:47 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20081010032643.01684038@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2318
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1626 - October 10, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1626 with a release date of Friday, October 10th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Scouting hams prepare for an out of this world experience, China prepares to launch its first ham radio satellite, a DXpedition to Afghanistan is put on hold and a strange twist in the California trial of a man accused of killing two ham radio operators at sea. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1626 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM RADIO SCOUTING: JOTA PREPARES FOR OUT OF THIS WORLD CONTACTS

The 2008 Scouting Jamboree on the Air is getting prepared for a vicarious ride into space. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has the details:

--

As we told you here on Newsline a few weeks ago, Richard Garriott, W5KWQ - the son of retired astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL - is scheduled to ride into space as a tourist aboard a Soyuz craft set for an Oct. 12 blastoff.

He's set to dock with the International Space Station on Oct. 14 and expected to get pretty radio-active right away.

We told you of plans to hook up with schools through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program.

Now, we have confirmation that the younger Garriott plans to work stations operating on the Jamboree on the Air the third weekend of October.

Wil Marchant, KC6ROL, is one of the volunteers with the ARISS team and helping to coordinate activity.

"Richard is planning on during some of his free time, his limited free time, to try to get around and call CQ to JOTA stations on the normal ISS frequencies, the regional frequencies," Marchant says. "So, that's 145.80 MHz downlink worldwide and then there are a couple different uplinks depending on which region you're in."

Marchant says if you'd like to work Garriott, there is a protocol that has to be followed to make it work.

"You need to wait and not transmit until you hear Richard or one of the other astronauts or cosmonauts call 'C-Q,' " And, when they start talking to somebody else, that means that there's somebody else on the ground that they're trying to listen to.

"And if everybody is yelling, trying to call the space station at that point, it will interfere with that station on the ground and their attempts to finish the QSO. So that the cosmonaut or astronaut can call 'C-Q' again."

Marchant says there's a reason for the protocol.

"One of the things that's very important for people to remember is that the space station is like a repeater that essentially has a large footprint on the ground. So, the space station can hear everybody from a radius of I don't know, probably 500 to 1,000 miles."

Marchant says there's a website you can visit where the ARISS frequencies and lots of other good information can be found.

"I would recommend that people go to ARISS-dot-o-r-g, which is maintained by the Radio Amateurs of Canada in English and there are other ARISS web pages linked from there in other languages," Marchant says. "And, if you go there is information about frequencies and also operational practices."

Marchant says Garriott also is planning extensive use of Slow-Scan TV.

"He's talking about trying to get the Slow-Scan Television system up and running basically very shortly after he opens the hatch," Marchant says. "And he would like to try and leave that running as much as possible when he or one of the other crew members can't be at the microphone. So, hopefully, we'll have lots of Slow-Scan Television activity."

Marchant says there is a place you can go - if you don't have an SSTV set-up to see what's happening.

"We are encouraging amateur radio operators around the world to be prepared to capture Slow-Scan Television images from Richard," Marchant says. "And then we'd like people to submit those to this website so we can collect a gallery of images from around the world during Richard's flight."

The web address is available in the script version of this story on our website. (It's www.amsat.com/ARISS_SSTV)

So, once again, all of you JOTA stations operating the weekend of Oct. 18 and 19, here's a chance to really light up the experience with a contact from space or even hearing Richard in a QSO from space.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.
--

If everything goes as now planned, and all the on-orbit scouting contacts are made with W5KWQ, this will truly be a Jamboree on the Air that will be considered by many to have been out of this world. (NT3V, ARNewsline(tm))

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CHINA TO LAUNCH HAMSAT

China is planning to launch its first-ever ham radio satellite. Michael Chen, BD5RV portable 4 reports that he recently received an update from BA1DU, on the progress of the ham radio bird.

First off, this satellite was originally named CAS-1 but its is now known as XW-1. And XW-1 will carry a beacon and three cross band transponders into space. One is for FM, another is linear, and the last is designed for digital operation.

Plans call for it to be launched into a sun synchronous orbit in June 2009. This, by a CZ-2C rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China..

More on this upcoming hamsat launch as information becomes available. (ANS)

**

RADIO LAW: NEIGHBORS AGAIN APPEAL PA TOWER PERMIT

Back on Earth, a Pennsylvania ham's effort to erect a 53-foot tower at his home is facing another challenge from neighbors. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, has the details.

--

Chuck Mills, W3YNI, lives in Irvin, Pennsylvania. And, as previously reported, Mills had faced opposition from nearby residents over his tower that held a properly issued permit.

Some neighbors appealed the issuance of a permit in March, claiming the tower was not properly screened. That appeal was upheld when the zoning hearing board ruled the first permit invalid. But it was re-issued in September. This, after Mills attorney argued his case successfully before the township planning council.

Now, another appeal has been filed in an effort to get the planning council to again reverse itself and take away Mills permit for the tower. A neighbor identified in the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review as John Ducar, told the newspaper and we quote:

"We filed an appeal because we feel the township has not performed its duty in protecting the local community."

Attorney Mike Lazaroff, K3AIR, represents Mills. He calls the latest appeal frivolous. He told the newspaper that it is unfortunate the neighbors have chosen to pursue this issue in what Lazaroff calls an unreasonable manner.

Lazaroff noted that his client has addressed all the concerns raised by the zoning hearing board and that Mills has complied fully with all ordinances. He also notes that Federal preemption order PRB-1 requires that local governments must reasonably accommodate the needs of amateur radio operators for antennas.

But Lazaroff also sounded an ominous note telling the newspaper that it is unfortunate that the neighbors have chosen to embroil the township in a legal battle. One that he says is going to cost the township a lot of money.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM.

--

According to the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review this latest appeal could end up on the agenda when the Penn Township zoning board meets on November 11th. (Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, W3WN, QRZ.COM)

**

RADIO LAW: PA GETS PRB-1 LIKE LAW (UPDATED FROM VERSION ON AUDIO NEWSCAST)

In a related story word that Pennsylvania now has its own PRB - 1 like law pf its own. On Tuesday October 7th, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed a measure designed to assure hams in the Keystone state that they will be reasonably accommodated in their quest to install towers and antennas, The measure known as SB 884 garnered 196 yes votes and only one no. With the Pennsylvania Senate having previously passed the bill the completed measure was sent to Governor Edward G. Rendell who signed it into law on Wednesday, October 8th. How this might affect the W3YNI tower case just reported is to early to know. (W3WN, QRZ.COM)

**

THE BPL WAR: RSGB VS. UK TELECOM REGULATOR OFCOM

The Radio Society of Great Britain seems more than a little upset with U-K telecommunications Ofcom, and the reason can be summed up in three letters. B-P-L.

After waiting for nearly two years for a response from Ofcom over the introduction of possibly non compliant power line adapters the RSGB was extremely disappointed to hear the regulatory agency's response. In a nutshell, Ofcom said that it does not intend to do anything about it.

Now, RSGB President Colin Thomas, G3PSM, has written to Ofcom. In it, Thomas states the RSGB's concerns that Ofcom is failing to deliver on its statutory duty of ensuring the optimal use of the electromagnetic spectrum especially in the High Frequency bands.

The RSGB has also told its members that it will continue to pursue Ofcom on this matter. (GB2RS)

**

THE BPL WAR: THE SAGA CONTINUES IN SOUTH AFRICA

Two South African ham radio political leaders have testified in opposition to the introduction of Broadband over Powerline or BPL Internet access in that nation. ZS6AKV, and ZS6BUU, made presentations at the South African telecommunications regulator BPL Hearing held last week. ZS6AKV presented

the South African Radio League's objection to the current draft regulations and ZS6BUU showed how BPL could potentially interfere with the nations emergency communication.

Telecommunications regulator ICASA said that by law it is tasked to protect licensed radio services against interference. It also admitted that it is BPL operators that cause interference. A final decision on the South African BPL rules is due out in a few months. (SARL)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WA4WPD repeater serving Rocky Mount North Carolina.

(5 sec pause here)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: AFGHANASTAN DXPEDITION ON HOLD

Some breaking news in the world of DX. Word that the 2008 Kabul Afghanistan DX operation we reported on last week has been postponed. John Kountz, KE6GFF, tells Newsline that unexpected circumstances preclude the use of T6EE's QTH as a center from which to operate. John says that he feels bad about this disappointment but does look forward to working all of you in the near future from Kabul. (W2VU, KG6GFF)

**

RADIO LAW: DEFENSE ADMITS SKYLAR DELEON KILLED KD7VWJ AND KD7VWK

A strange twist in the trial of the man accused of killing an Arizona ham radio couple to steal their boat. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW has more:

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On Tuesday, October 7th the attorney for Skylar Deleon said that his client is guilty of those two murders and a third, but shouldn't be put to death. Defense attorney Gary Pohlson said in his opening statement on that his only goal is to save Deleon's life.

Skylar Deleon is accused of the 2004 murders of Thomas and Jackie Hawks, KD7VWJ and KD7VWK, in order to steal their yacht. He is also accused of the 2003 killing John Jarvi from whom he stole thousands of dollars. Deleon has pleaded not guilty to murder and murder for financial gain.

Under California criminal law, having attorney Pohlson admit that his client is guilty of all three murders is not the same as entering a guilty plea. Pohlson said he will dispute some details of the prosecution case. He will likely argue that Deleon should not face the death penalty because others involved will have different outcomes of their cases. He

will instead urge that Deleon be sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole instead.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for Deleon. They say that he was the mastermind that came up with the plan to kill the Hawks after learning they were preparing to sell their 55 foot yacht. They say Deleon pretended to be interested in buying the nearly half-million-dollar vessel. He then enlisted the help of two men to overpower the Hawks on a demonstration cruise. Deleon then forced the couple to sign over paperwork for the yacht before killing them at sea.

Attorney Pohlson said outside court that he admitted Deleon's guilt to the jury to maintain credibility. This, when he argues that they should spare his client's life. Prosecutors say that they were not surprised by the defense's strategy in the case.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline. I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, following this court case in Los Angeles.

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Deleon's former wife Jennifer was convicted and sentenced to a pair of life sentences without the possibility of parole. She was found guilty on two counts of first degree murder on November 17, 2006. (Various published news reports)

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RESCUE RADIO: FOUR CALIFORNIA CITIES TO GO INTEROPERABLE

Palm Springs, California, says that it plans to join with neighboring Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs and Indio in establishing a new interoperable radio communications system. One that will enable police and fire agencies to stay in contact and work together.

The Palm Springs City Council recently voted to update the city's radio dispatch system and also to form a Joint Powers Agreement with the three other cities to create the Eastern Riverside County Interoperable Communications Authority. An August 2009 target date has been set for the system nicknamed ERICA to be fully operable. (Press release)

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RESCUE RADIO: FCC TO HOST SPEAKERS SERIES FOR NATION'S FIRST RESPONDERS

The Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security
Bureau will begin hosting a new speakers series this month. This, to help provide our nation's first responders with the latest news and developments
on public safety communications and related-initiatives. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF has more:

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The first in a series of these sessions will be hosted by Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. It takes place on Wednesday, October 22, 2008, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The location is Commission Meeting Room TW-C305 at the agency's Washington D.C. headquarters.

Laurie Flaherty, a Program Analyst for the Office of Emergency Medical Services at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, will be the first expert speaker. Flaherty will discuss the U.S. Department of Transportation's role in 911 issues. Her presentation will specifically focus on the work of the Research and Innovative Technologies Administration and recent developments in Next Generation of 911.

The Speakers Series will be open to the public but admittance will be limited to the seating available. For those who want to tune in from home, both audio and video coverage of the meeting will be broadcast live with open captioning over the Internet from the FCC's web page at www.fcc.gov/realaudio.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the newsroom in Los Angeles.

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The FCC's web cast is free to the public and does not require pre-registration. (FCC)

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RADIO STATISTICS: MORE FOLKS ON LINE THAN ARE LISTENING IN

There are some new and very interesting statistics as to how much time people like you and I are spending on line, versus listening to radio and watching T-V. Jim Davis, W2JKD, reports:

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Adults are now are spending more time with the Internet than listening to broadcast radio in the United States. This, according to The Media Audit which reviewed findings of a recent report.

According to the survey, the average adult spends 2 hours and 40 minutes a day listening to radio. This is unchanged from the previous year. It also said about 14% of adults visit a radio Web site in a typical 30-day period many of whom are likely streaming radio content.

But the report also found that adults in the United States spend an average of 3 hours 17 minutes per day online. This, compared to 2 hours 2 minutes per day a year ago. That says the report is a 62% increase and meaning that the Internet represents 29% of the typical media consumption every day for U.S. adults.

But even the Internet is no match for the communications mode that brings you everything from the local news to American Idol. The report ways that adults continue to spend the most amount of time watching television. In fact, United States adults spend an average of 3 hours 42 minutes a day in

front to a television set.

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The bottom line. Even after all these years and the advent of the low cost personal computer, the American public still prefers that one eyed monster called television over anything else. (RW)

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HAM RADIO BUSINESS: SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS CELEBRATE QTC MAGAZINE

Three consecutive special event stations are active to celebrate the 200th edition of Poland's QTC Magazine. HF200Q was operational through October 10th. Currently on the bands is HF200T. It goes away on October 20th to be replaced by HF200C which will be handing out contacts through the 31st. The QSL manager for all three stations is SP4KDX. SP2FAP is the publisher of QTC. (DXNS)

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HAM RADIO BUSINESS: FRANCES MEGAHERTS MAGAZINE GOES QRT

Meantime, another well known ham European ham radio magazine has shut its doors. Jim Linton, VK3PC, has the details:

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After nearly 26 years Megahertz Magazine of France has closed due to increasing production and distribution costs, and market factors. An editorial by co-founder Sylvio Faurez Feem says internet globalization also dealt a fatal blow by its facilitation of direct equipment imports bypassing and weakening local dealers, that reduced their ability to advertise.

The ham magazine also suffered from pirating, says the editorial, in the form of multiple photocopies of the whole magazine distributed at clubs, readily available scans of coveted articles and duplication of its annual compact disc.

Megahertz was one of France's oldest printed magazines and well respected as a specialist publication by francophone's inside and outside that country.

The editorial also refers to the size of the domestic market with France only having 16,000 radio amateurs out of a population of 65 million.

The demise of the magazine comes after years of rigid financial control but with accumulated losses and ever increasing costs its closure was a fait au compli.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton VK3PC

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Frances' Megahertz is not the only amateur radio magazine to fold its tent and disappear in the night. It was preceded back in the 1980's by the United States based Ham Radio Magazine and later on by Australia's Amateur Radio Action. More recently in October 2003 73 Magazine closed its doors here after 43 years and over 500 editorials by the magazines founder Wayne Green, W2NSD. (WIA News)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO EDUCATION: A NEW MORSE TRAINER FOR PC BY ZL1AN

If you are a no-code ham or an SWL and want to learn C-W, have we found a neat way to assist you. It's a new Morse teacher program from ZL1AN, that can be can be downloaded from the New Zealand Amateur Radio Transmitters ham radio society website. Its really neat. Take a listen as we play with its speed control from about 20 down to 5 words per minute:

In playback mode you can vary the speed from 3 to 30 words per minute. You can also set the output frequency of the audio the from 500 to 1000 hertz and the Farnsworth character separation speed from 12 to 35.

The program runs in Windows and has already received rave reviews. Many are saying that it is the best "teach-yourself-Morse" program yet developed or that they have ever seen. You will find it in cyberspace at: http://www.nzart.org.nz/nzart/exam/morse.html) (NZART)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: PEHA NAMED CHIEF TECHNOLOGIST AT THE FCC

Jon M. Peha, Ph.D., has been named Chief Technologist of the Federal Communications Commission.

Peha is currently serving as a professor in the Departments of Engineering and Public Policy, and Electrical & Computer Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. He also serves as the associate director of the Center for Wireless and Broadband Networking at C-M-U. Prior to joining Carnegie Mellon, Peha served as the Chief Technology Officer of three high-tech start-ups, He has also been a member of the technical staff at Stanford Research Institute International, AT&T Bell Laboratories and Microsoft.

Peha will serve as a senior advisor on communications technology in the FCC's Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis. His research interests include technical and policy issues related to computer and telecommunications networks. (FCC, RW)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: IZ7KHR ANED 2008 YOUNG HAM CONTEST WINNER

And 20 year old Francesco Cozzi. IZ7KHR, of Bari, Italy, has been chosen as the winner of the Young Ham Contest Program for 2008. As his prize, IZ7KHR gets to take part in the CQWW SSB contest from the famed Jamacian 6Y1V contest super-station with all expenses paid.

Cozzi is a member of the Italian RadioHams Association and the World Wide Young Contesters group. He is described as a student and is active in many areas of amateur radio, including contesting, DX'ing and volunteer emergency services.

According to David Kopacz, who is the owner if 6Y1V, Cozzi speaks English quite well. He also loves to cook and believes it is every hams social responsibility to spread international good will.

The 6Y1V contest super station is owned by K1LZ and KY1V and is located at the home of at the home of George Campbell, 6Y5GC, in Hopewell Jamaica. David Kopacz says that he and his contest group are proud to have been granted the opportunity to make Francesco's dream come true. (Various DX sources)

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WORLDBEAT - SOUTH AFRICA: SARL CANCELS TAKE AMATEUR RADIO TO SCHOOL PROGRAM

Some sad news from South Africa. That's where the recently proposed 'Take Amateur Radio to School' children's educational curriculum has been cancelled.

The South African Radio League announced its decision to abandon the program on October 8th . This after it was found that there was due to the lack of interest in setting up amateur radio stations in that nations schools .

The South African Radio League says that its essay competition in which a student can win an Acer laptop will continue. It's also announced a new closing date of November 15th for this years competition to end. (SARL)

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WORLDBEAT UK: NEW D-STAR REPEATER IN THE UK

Another D-Star repeater has taken to the air in the United Kingdom. GB7ZP is a new D-Star repeater in Essex. The input frequency is 430.4875MHz and output frequency is 439.4875MHz. Initial operation is local RF only, with the internet Gateway facility to be added at a later date. (RSGB)

**

ON THE ROCKS: 2008 ORIONIDS SHOWER EXPECTED TO BE BIG

If you are a ham who chases rocks flaring across the sky, there's some good news. After the successful 2006 and 2007 outbursts, predictions say that

this years Orionids Meteor activity will again be much higher than normal.

According to the Make More Miles on VHF newsletter, while the "traditional
"
peak for this shower is expected on October 21st. However, another maximum, related to the encounter with an ancient dust trail rich in bright meteors is expected to occur on October 19th, between 02:13 and 08:08 UTC.

For those not aware, hams involved in Meteor Scatter communications make contacts by bouncing their signals off the ionized trails of meteors as the burn up in the Earth's atmosphere. (VHF Reflector)

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DX

In DX, word that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has selected a group of United States lead hams to lead a DXpedition to Desecheo Island in early 2009. Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list. The group is headed up by DXpedition veterans Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ.

Also, news that F5TLN, will be portable Oh-D-5 in the Lebanon until February of 2009. He will work mostly in SSB but also some CW on all HF bands. The operator is Sylvain who says that he will confirm the QSL cards after his return home and points out that bureau QSLs will take some time.

And word that a YL-only DXpedition will take place from the Falkland Islands between January 17th and the 31st of 2009. The team will be using 80 through 10 meters and the ladies will have individual callsigns in the range of VP8YLA through VP8YLZ. Thevexact calls will depend on the number of operators who sign on for the operation. Originally 14 hams had signed up to go but a few have pulled out for various reasons. More is on-line at www.radioclubs.net/aa_vp8yl_/

And news that DJ1OJ will spend the winter on Teneriffa in the Canary Islands. He was slated to arrive in early October and remain there until the end of March 2009. While there, he will be active as EA8OM mainly in CW and RTTY. QSL to the bureau, to his home call or electronically via Logbook to the World.

A0VDV is reported on from Curacao in the Netherlands Antillies. He's scheduled to be there until October 29th operating C-W only. If you make contact, QSL direct or via the bureau.

Lastly, K5LBU, is planning a DXpedition to Lesotho for July or August of 2009 and is still looking for some participants. If you are interested to join the team please contact Frosty via e-mail to frosty1(at) pdq (dot) net.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE END OFF A HAM BROADCAST ERA

And finally this week, the Radio Society of Great Britain says 73 to a ham who has been reading their GB2RS newscasts for over a half a century. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, has a bit of history and some words of praise for a truly dedicated UK ham:

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GB2RS News was first broadcast on Sunday 25 September 1955 from the station of Frank Hicks-Arnold G6MB on 3600kHz using voice amplitude modulation. What is less well-known is that the RSGB had been in discussions with the UK regulator, then the General Post Office, for some time about the feasibility of such a news service for UK radio amateurs.

As part of its practicability evidence for the GPO, some experimental broadcasts were arranged by the RSGB on 40 metros. These test transmissions took place from the station of Jimmy Porter GI3GGY, in Londonderry during 1954 using his own callsign.

The GPO then agreed initially to the news taking place in the 80 meter band on Sundays using the callsign GB2RS. A year later they permitted these bulletins to be broadcast on 40 meters as well and these were put out by GI3GGY using the GB2RS callsign. GI3GGY has been involved ever since, and he has thus been a GB2RS news reader for more than 50 years - longer than anyone else.

Earlier this year Jimmy's massive HF type LPH9 16-element log periodic antenna was severely damaged by gales. The antenna tower was some 90 feet high. Jimmy has been unable to get the structure repaired and has therefore, reluctantly, stated that he wishes to stand down as an HF news reader.

The RSGB wishes to pay tribute to Jimmy's dedication as a news reader over more than 50 years, and also thank his assistant reader June, GI4MJD, for acting as back up. They will continue to read the local news on 2 meters FM for the Londonderry area.

Im Jeremy Boot, G4NJH, and you are listening to the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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To which we want to add our congratulations to Jimmy Porter, GI3GGY, on a job truly well done. (GB2RS)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,

Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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1048. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 40 (Friday, October 10, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-10 18:25:30 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20081010182228.E04BF31881@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2319
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 40
October 10, 2008
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* + Garriott Gears for Space Journey
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ Book on Amateur Radio's "Golden Age" Now Available from ARRL
+ ARRL Book Released in China
ARRL Invites Nominations for 2008 International Humanitarian Award

Singapore to Make Temporary Licenses Available for Visiting Hams

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========

==> ARRL AUCTION: GETTING DOWN TO THE WIRE

Excitement continues to build as the ARRL gets ready to preview items for the Third Annual On-Line Auction on Thursday, October 16 <http://www.arrl.org/auction>. With almost 140 items up for bid -- with more being added every day -- this event promises to have something for just about everyone. The auction kicks off October 23 and runs until October 31 on the ARRL Web site.

This year's auction will again include many transceivers and other items that have appeared in the QST Product Review column and have thus been thoroughly tested by the ARRL Lab. ICOM has generously donated an

IC-7000 HF/VHF/UHF mobile transceiver; this rig was reviewed in the May 2006 issue of QST <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/prodrev/pdf/pr0605.pdf>.

A new donor to the ARRL On-Line Auction is R4 Systems <http://www.r4systems.com/> -- developers of the Proteus Design Suite, a suite of tools for professional printed circuit board design -- has donated a Proteus Suite software package.

According to ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, "Last year's online auction -- our second -- proved to be a successful and enjoyable event for both hams and ARRL staff members alike. When the bidding ended, we realized that we had sold 162 items and sold just more than $50,000 worth of merchandise." Proceeds from the auction benefit ARRL education programs including activities to license new hams, strengthen Amateur Radio's emergency service training, offer continuing technical and operating education, as well as create instructional materials.

Many vintage items will also be offered. Returning by popular demand are four ARRL Lab unique "junque" boxes. With a starting bid of $50, these boxes are filled with components, parts and electronic do-dads. No one -- except the ARRL Lab staff -- knows what exactly is inside each box, but each is guaranteed to be full of things that the Lab staff considers valuable (but keep in mind that they collect just about anything).

All product review items in the On-Line Auction will include a link to a PDF file of the actual Product Review, as well as a reference to the QST issue that the review appeared in.

ARRL Business Services Manager Deb Jahnke, K1DAJ, said that there are "loads of neat stuff" available in the Auction, including a set of Dayton Hamvention pins going back to 1995, gift certificates for ARRL merchandise and publications, radios, books and much more. "We'll be adding items throughout the preview period, so keep checking back to find things you might have missed," she said. "This event would not be possible without the generosity of our many corporate donors. Our sincere thanks go to all who donated items for this year's auction."

Jahnke also advised auction users to look through the "Help" and "About Us" sections, where you'll find useful information about bidding, FAQs and a host of other facts. "To ensure an enjoyable experience, please be sure to read all policies in the 'About Us' section," she said.

==> SPECTRUM DEFENSE: "MORE WORK TO DO"

Defending and enhancing access to the Amateur Radio spectrum is the primary mission of the ARRL. According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, the League has not only protected the bands, but has also added several new ones, despite exponential growth in the variety and number of radio frequency devices in the hands of consumers and businesses. "Even our most disappointing defeat -- the loss of the bottom 40 percent of the 220 MHz band some two decades ago -- gave us

upgraded status, from shared to exclusive, in the remaining 60 percent of the band," he said.

Sumner said that amateurs will soon have cause to celebrate: March 29, 2009 marks the date that high-powered international broadcasting stations will be removed from the heart of the 40 meter band. "We are working with the broadcasters to make sure the change takes place as agreed at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC)," Sumner said. "While it's probably too much to expect 100 percent instant compliance, we know that the responsible broadcasters are preparing to move out of the 7100-7200 kHz segment -- doubling the size of the worldwide 40 meter band and making this popular band more useful than it's been in 70 years."

At the WRC in 2007, the Amateur Radio Service earned its first low-frequency (LF) allocation, 135.7-137.8 kHz; however, here in the United States, amateurs will not gain access to this new band automatically when the Final Acts of the conference take effect on January 1, 2009. "We must petition the FCC to implement the allocation, and we know the petition will not be granted without an argument -- because we've been down this road before," Sumner explained. "Twice in the past, the ARRL has sought an LF allocation. Both times our request was opposed by the Utilities Telecom Council (UTC) -- the same organization that has opposed our efforts to protect radio services from Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/> interference."

Sumner recounted that the ARRL's fight against BPL interference has been going on for six years. "Last year, in the wake of Federal Communications Commission decisions that did not adequately protect licensed radiocommunication services from interference from BPL systems, the ARRL even went to court to challenge the FCC and won!" he said <http://pacer.cadc.uscourts.gov/common/opinions/200804/06-1343-1112979.pdf>. "On April 25, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit confirmed what the ARRL has been saying for years about how the FCC was handling the BPL interference issue: FCC prejudice tainted the rulemaking process."

On July 9, the Court went one step further, ordering the FCC to pay the ARRL more than $6000 toward the League's costs in pursuing the appeal. "While this is a tiny fraction of our total investment," Sumner said, "the award affirmed that -- contrary to the 'spin' the FCC had been trying to give to the Court's decision -- the ARRL substantially prevailed in its appeal."

Calling the Court's decision "a tremendous victory for radio amateurs and other licensed users of the radio spectrum -- indeed, for anyone who cares about the federal administrative process," Sumner said that the remand does not guarantee that the FCC will correct its errors. "We face another round of technical arguments," he said. "No doubt the FCC's technical staff, many of whom want to do the right thing, will remain under heavy pressure to ignore the laws of physics and give preference

to wishful thinking once again. When the FCC reopens the BPL proceeding as the Court has ordered, we must leave no room for these technical issues to be settled on anything other than technical grounds. There's more work to do. It is only through the support of thousands of ARRL members and friends that we have managed to come this far. But it took great effort, including our frontal assault on the flawed FCC proceedings, to get their attention. Together we can celebrate all that we have accomplished on the BPL front over the past six years!"

BPL is not the only challenge facing the League, Sumner said, pointing out that preparations for the upcoming WRC in 2011 are already underway. The key WRC-11 issues for Amateur Radio are:
* A possible allocation near 500 kHz. This would provide amateur's first access to the lower part of the medium frequency (MF) band. Sumner said a "600 meter" band offers exciting possibilities for reliable groundwave communication through the application of digital signal processing techniques to a portion of the spectrum that is as old as radio itself.
* Defense against a push to allocate spectrum between 3 and 50 MHz for oceanographic radar applications.
* Support of an initiative to provide better protection for radio services against interference from short-range radio devices.
* Consideration of regulatory measures for software-defined radio and cognitive radio systems, which offer both opportunities and threats to existing radio services.
* Selection of agenda items for the WRC to follow (tentatively planned for 2015).

"ARRL staff and volunteers are hard at work on your behalf, teaming up with International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) volunteers from around the globe to build the strongest possible case for Amateur Radio at WRC-11," he said, calling on all amateurs to help protect Amateur Radio's precious spectrum. "Once again, your financial commitment to spectrum defense is vital to our ability to protect your access to radio spectrum. Your contribution to the 2009 Spectrum Defense Fund will provide the financial resources required for us to represent you at WRC-11, and to respond when the FCC reacts to the BPL remand decision."

To help in the ARRL's ongoing mission to protect our valuable spectrum, please visit the ARRL Office of Development's Web page. You can also reach ARRL Chief Development Office Mary Hobart, K1MMH at 860-594-0397 or via e-mail <k1mmh@arrl.org>. New special gifts are being offered for contributions, including a new 2009 mug and pin. More details on thank you gifts can be found on the donation form for the Spectrum Defense Fund.

==> LOOK FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF QST IN YOUR MAILBOX

The November issue of QST is jam-packed with all sorts of news and information today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments to public service, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

Earl Schlenk, W0ES, dissects "The Anatomy of a Homebrew Project." In this article, Schlenk offers that you don't have to have a degree in engineering to build your own gear, just a little patience and a desire to have some fun. Steve Gradijan, WB5KIA, gives readers a look at "Greening Up Your Station" with tips to make your shack more energy efficient as well as environmentally friendly -- save a bit of green by going green!

Are you just itching to put up that antenna support structure, but aren't too sure how to go about it? Find out how Stephen Rudin, W1WSN, and Kris Merschrod, KA2OIG, used education and cooperation to secure permission to build their structures in "Overcoming Antenna Restrictions." Journey to Italy with Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, Assistant Manager for the ARRL's Membership and Volunteer Programs Department, in his article "Pizza, Macaroni, Contest."

ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, in his column "This Month in Contesting," points out that Contesting and Emergency Communications have more in common that you might think. And now that the 2008-2009 Contest season is in full swing, catch up on all the upcoming contest activity with this month's "Contest Corral."

If you're looking for a way to regulate your battery voltage while in the field, be sure to check out October's Product Review: QST Contributing Author Phil Salas, AD5X, gives his take on battery boost regulators from TG Electronics and MFJ Enterprises. In his review, Salas says "Either of these battery boost regulators will help you get more operating time from your mobile or portable transceiver as battery voltage sags. There are some differences between the units, so take a close look when deciding which is right for your application."

This issue also boasts the results of the ARRL's Third Annual Photo Contest. With more than 60 submissions (our most ever!), the judges had a difficult choice in selecting the best ones. November's cover features three winners, with the other winners inside.

Of course, the November issue includes the variety of columns you know and love: "Hints & Kinks," "The Doctor Is IN," "How's DX," "Eclectic Technology," "Technical Correspondence," "World Above 50 MHz," "Hamspeak" and more. Look for your November issue to arrive soon. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please visit the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> PENNSYLVANIA BECOMES 27TH STATE WITH PRB-1 LAW ON BOOKS

On Wednesday, October 8, Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell (D) signed into law a bill that guarantees radio amateurs the right to erect antenna support structures up to 65 feet without the need for a Special Use Permit. The bill passed in the House with a vote of 196-1; it passed in the Senate with a vote of 49-1. The new law is scheduled to go into effect December 8, 60 days after signing.

Senate Bill 884 (now Act 88), "An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Restricting Municipalities from Regulating Amateur Radio Service Communications," was first introduced on June 1, 2007 by Pennsylvania Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf (R) who represents portions of Bucks and Montgomery Counties. The bill requires local municipalities to "reasonably accommodate amateur radio service communications, and [to] impose only the minimum regulations necessary to accomplish the legitimate purpose of the municipality" and says that "[n]o ordinance, regulation, plan or any other action shall restrict amateur radio antenna height to less than 65 feet above ground level, [but a] municipality may impose necessary regulations to ensure the safety of amateur radio antenna structures, but must reasonably accommodate amateur service communications." The text of the bill may be found here <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2007&sessInd=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billNbr=0884&pn=2433>.

The driving force behind the bill's passage was George Brechmann, N3HBT, of Warminster. "We didn't have a PRB-1 law and I just got tired of people telling me it couldn't be done," he told the ARRL. "So I called up my senator's local office and told them what I wanted. They referred it to his Harrisburg office and a while later, I got a call from Senator Geeenleaf's executive assistant Eric Pauley wanting more information."

Brechmann said the bill was stuck in committee "for the longest time, with lots of back-and-forth. Fortunately, they were able to reach a compromise with the help of the League and its General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. This act even encompasses the urban areas of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh." Brechmann, who has a 60 foot crank-up tower in his backyard, says he has no plans to get a taller antenna support structure.

Brechmann said he found out about the bill's passing in the most appropriate of ways -- on the radio. "I'm the trustee at the club station, K3DN, at our senior center; we have about 130 members there. I went over on Tuesday evening to unlock the doors and get the rigs going, when my wife Elaine, N3TMP, called me on the radio to tell me the bill had passed the House. Five minutes later, she called me again on the radio to tell me it had passed the Senate! And now the governor signed it as soon as it reached his desk."

Saying that getting this bill passed is his "little contribution to posterity," Brechmann said he is glad to be able to do something good for the amateur community "because they have been so very good to me. I'm blind, and Amateur Radio has been a very large part of my life." Brechmann stays active ragchewing on 15 meters "and 10 when it's open," as well as serving as Net Control and coordinating his township's public service events.

ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager Eric Olena, WB3FPL, said he was "thrilled" with the bill's passage: "The Pennsylvania Legislature showed overwhelming support of Amateur Radio [by passing this bill]. This legislation was started by George and coordinated with Senator

Greenleaf and Representative Kathy Watson (R). Pennsylvania hams made an outstanding effort contacting their senators and representatives [in support of the bill]. By seeking their support, they really helped with the success of this legislation. The effort by all hams throughout the country to foster Amateur Radio as an effective communications method in emergencies did much to highlight a valued reputation for Amateur Radio, and without a doubt, had an effect on these proceedings."

==> AMERICAN HAMS TO LEAD 2009 DXPEDITION TO DESECHEO ISLAND

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has selected a group of hams led by veteran DXpeditioners Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, to lead a DXpedition to Desecheo Island, KP5 (IOTA NA-095), in early 2009 <http://www.fws.gov/caribbean/Refuges/Desecheo/default.htm>. Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list <http://hamgallery.com/countries/>.

Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the western coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the FWS's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR) <http://www.fws.gov/caribbean/>.

Johnson told the ARRL that about eight years ago, a group of DXers wanting to activate Navassa and Desecheo Islands formed an organization, the KP1-5 Project <http://www.kp1-5.com/>. According to its Web site, "The purpose of the KP1-5 Project is to work toward a solution to the closure of Desecheo and Navassa Islands to Amateur Radio operators by achieving lawful, periodic access to these islands pursuant to US Fish and Wildlife Service authorization. While operating from these islands is a worthwhile goal, the KP1-5 Project is dedicated to a long term partnership that jointly benefits the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Amateur Radio operators worldwide."

In 2005, H.R. 1183 was introduced in the US House of Representatives <http://bulk.resource.org/gpo.gov/bills/109/h1183rh.txt.pdf>. This bill, while not specifically mentioning Amateur Radio operations, would require "limited public access to the Desecheo and Navassa national wildlife refuges." While this bill did not become law, the KP1-5 Project continued to negotiate with the FWS, seeking permission to mount a DXpedition and activate Desecheo Island. Through these negotiations, the FWS, by way of the CNWR, invited written proposals from groups interested in activating the island.

In June 2008, CNWR invited written proposals from hams who had previously made inquiries about an Amateur Radio operation from Desecheo; CNWR indicated that they would allow one group to activate the island. After reviewing the proposals, CNWR would then select a group and prepare to issue a Special Permit to the successful party, limiting the group to no more than 15 people staying no longer than 14 days. Applicants had 45 days to prepare and submit their proposals. According to Allphin, seven groups submitted proposals.

The CNWR also stated certain conditions that would have to met to be considered for selection, such as completing unexploded ordnance awareness training (Desecheo has been used in the past by the US Air Force as a bombing range and for survival training), prior experience conducting a DXpedition from a natural resource area and other sites, removing all refuse from the island and locating all transmission equipment and camping facilities within 200 feet of the cement helipad on the island. According to the solicitation letter, CNWR personnel will make periodic compliance checks during the stay.

"A panel of three Fish and Wildlife Service employees, from areas within the Service outside of the Caribbean refuge, spent September 24 & 25 reviewing and evaluating the [seven] proposals," Allphin said. "The selection criteria used were those outlined in the proposal invitation letter. Points were awarded for how well criteria were addressed for thoroughness and documentation. USFWS has not announced the actual dates of the operation yet, but the DXpedition is expected to take place between January 15 and March 30, 2009. A Special Use Permit will be issued as per USFWS regulations." Allphin said he expects that the DXpedition team and DXers worldwide will have a minimum of 30 days' notice prior to the start of the trip to Desecheo.

"It was truly an honor to have our proposal and team selected from the stiff competition," Johnson told the ARRL. "This has been a true team effort on our part from the start. We look forward to activating an entity in the Top 10 Most Wanted that is located in our own back yard!"

According to ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager and experienced DXpeditioner Dave Patton, NN1N, both Desecheo and Navassa Islands (currently third on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list) saw frequent operations in the late 1970s through late '80s, but operations from the islands have been very limited since then. With the islands under the control of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, combined with decaying "infrastructure" on Navassa, there are more issues that must be dealt with than there were 25 years ago.

"A well-organized and lengthy operation from Desecheo will be a nice treat for the world's DXers," Patton said. "With W0GJ and K4UEE leading the operation, I think we can all count on a first class effort that will give maximum exposure to Asia/Oceania and Europe where KP5 is most needed. I also think that Glenn and Bob can demonstrate to the Fish and Wildlife Service that a DXpedition can take place and not damage the environment or cause big problems amongst other hams or for other agencies. I hope hams will be invited back to Desecheo more frequently in the future and expand the places where hams may operate."

Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV (ex-KZ5M), fondly recalled his part in the Texas DX Society's 1985 DXpedition to Desecheo, telling the ARRL what made his time there so special: "KP5 -- what incredible memories for me. It was my first 'classic' DXpedition; meaning putting a tiny island on the air after landing on the beach in a small boat and hauling all the gear up the rocks. This one took 24 hours of manual labor to get everything from the small beach, over the rocks, and to the operating

area -- quite a task for a bunch of guys that spent more time behind a desk than they did at the gym! To this day, I have never had the pleasure and excitement of working down huge pileups like we experienced on KP5 -- I can still hear them in my ears. I know that Bob, Glenn and their crew will do a fantastic job lowering this Top 10 rare one down the needed list. I am so happy for each and every operator going in 2009. I know in my heart this will be a trip that even the most well-traveled of them will remember for the rest of their lives.

In 1979, upon the recommendation of the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC), Desecheo Island was added to the DXCC list for contacts made after March 1 of that year. KP4AM/D -- with operators N4EA, KP4Q, N4ZC, KP4DSD, KV4KV (now KP2A), KP4AM (now W4DN) -- made the first DXpedition Desecheo in March 1979. Various groups have made their way to Desecheo since the first trip, but other than a brief operation in December 2005, there has been no activity from the island since 1994.

According to DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the lack of activity is due to the FWS not issuing the needed Special Use permits. "The FWS has always claimed safety concerns as a reason to not issue the permits," he said. "Since the island was used as a bombing range, there is the possibility that unexploded, live munitions are still on the island. It is always a good thing when an entity that had activation difficulties in the past gets on the air again."

==> GARRIOTT GEARS FOR SPACE JOURNEY

On Sunday, October 12, Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, is scheduled to begin his journey to the International Space Station (ISS) as he blasts off into space via a Russian Soyuz and docks with the ISS two days later; he is due to return to Earth on Thursday, October 23. Richard, the sixth private citizen to be accepted by the Russian Federal Space Agency (RKA) for a short-term mission on the ISS, is the son of Owen Garriott, W5LFL. In 1983, Owen was the first ham to make QSOs from space. Richard said he plans to build on his father's legacy by also making QSOs from the ISS: He plans to perform several school contacts and downlink slow scan television images during his flight, as well as contact the general ham community in his free time and perform random scout contacts during Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) <http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota/>.

According to ARRL Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Program <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm> Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, excitement is building for this launch. "Richard and Owen have been working as a team to plan how to cram in all of the objectives Richard hopes to achieve in space, including scientific experiments.

Through White, Richard and Owen sent this message for all hams: "We are both very pleased and appreciative of the ARISS and ARRL support in making the voice and SSTV ham operations more fun, interesting to the public, and valuable for research on Richard's flight this October. One of the most exciting aspects of living and working in space is the chance to look back at the Earth. Owen had one of the first

opportunities to do this 35 years ago on Skylab. He also had the first opportunity to talk with the ham community from space 25 years ago aboard [NASA shuttle mission] STS-9. Richard now has the opportunity to connect with the ham community almost exactly 25 years after his father's shuttle flight and 35 years after Skylab. One of Richard's primary objectives with his flight is to photograph the Earth 35 years after the first orbital laboratory and look for changes on the Earth in the intervening time."

"While Richard is at the ISS window, he will be operating the amateur SSTV equipment and sending its images down to hams around the world. These downlinks can then be sent to an ARISS central repository for delayed and wider use. We further expect to be able to compare many of the images with near simultaneous, handheld, high resolution digital photo images.

"We are very excited to share this experience with the Amateur Radio community, and thank our fellow hams for their support of this project."

According to AMSAT Vice President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, AO-51 will be operated in a special mode this weekend in preparation for Richard's Slow Scan Television (SSTV) operations. "Since Richard wants to experiment with the SSTV equipment on the ISS, a test will take place with AO-51 configured with dual repeaters. This will be during October 11 and 12," he said.

"The primary repeater on AO-51 will be configured with an uplink on 1268.700 FM and downlink of 435.300 FM, and will be designated for this period as an SSTV repeater," Glasbrenner reported. "Users are encouraged to exchange SSTV images in ROBOT 36 mode, as an opportunity for others to practice receiving SSTV images from space before the ARISS activity."

The ARISS Team requests that the images hams transmit be related to space and to the ROBOT 36 mode. As always, Glasbrenner said, "good Amateur Radio practice -- including cooperation in sharing the uplink -- is crucial to the success of this test mode." Glasbrenner said that there will be a QRP voice repeater running concurrently on 145.880 FM uplink and 435.150 FM downlink. Users are asked to use 10 W or less, and omnidirectional or handheld antennas only.

As Richard gets ready for his voyage, he only had kind words to say about the amateur community: "I am very impressed with the ham community and ARISS and how well it puts together such complicated activities! I am very excited about my ham radio part -- I hope to perform well."

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "When clear October suns unfold" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: A familiar sight appeared this week, as a sunspot emerged for one day, then was gone. Based on its magnetic polarity and high position in our Sun's southern hemisphere, sunspot 1003 was a new Solar Cycle 24 sunspot; like all the other recent sunspots, it was short lived. For October 10-17, the US Air Force Space Weather Operation predicts the

planetary A index at 5, 5, 15, 10, 5, 5, 5 and 5. Over the same period, Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions today, October 10, unsettled October 11-12, quiet to unsettled October 13 and quiet again October 14 to 16. Sunspot numbers for October 2-8 were 0, 0, 12, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 1.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 66.3, 67.2, 66.6, 67.4, 67.2, 66.7 and 67.7 with a mean of 67. The Estimated planetary A indices were 12, 13, 11, 4, 4, 3 and 2 with a mean of 7. The Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 11, 10, 8, 3, 3, 1 and 2 with a mean of 5.4. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Flexmore Hudson's "Mallee in October."

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This week, the 10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint and the NCCC Sprint are October 10. The YLRL Anniversary Party (SSB) is October 10-12. On October 11, be on the lookout for the FISTS Fall Sprint and the EU Autumn Sprint (CW). The Makrothen RTTY Contest, the Oceania DX Contest (CW) and the Pennsylvania QSO Party are October 11-12. The North American Sprint (RTTY), the SKCC Weekend Sprintathon and the UBA ON Contest (SSB) are October 12. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is October 15. Next week is the ARRL EME International Competition on October 18-19 and the ARRL School Club Roundup from October 20-24. The NCCC Sprint is October 17 and the Feld Hell Sprint is October 18. Look for the JARTS WW RTTY Contest, the ARCI Fall QSO Party, the Worked All Germany Contest, the Stew Perry Topband Challenge, the W/VE Islands QSO Party, the PODXS 070 Club 160 Meter Great Pumpkin Sprint and the 50 MHz Fall Sprint to be on the air October 18-19. The Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint (CW) and the UBA ON Contest (2 Meters) are October 19. The Illinois QSO Party is October 19-20 and the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is October 20. The SKCC Sprint and the RSGB 80 Meters Club Sprint (SSB) are October 22. The NCCC Sprint is October 24. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration remains open through Sunday, October 26, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, November 7, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001), Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006), Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009), Technician License Course (EC-010); Analog Electronics (EC-012), and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives,

informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Book on Amateur Radio's "Golden Age" Now Available from ARRL: Many consider 1930 to 1980 as the "golden age" of American radio technology. A time of extraordinary innovation driven by pioneering engineers and entrepreneurs, this 50 year span saw the introduction of rigs that would become famous throughout the world. The newest addition to the ARRL Library, "50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation -- Transceivers, Receivers and Transmitters: 1930-1980," highlights these treasured favorites in a way that has never been seen before. This book takes you on a guided tour of more than 400 of these legendary radios, lovingly restored by their owners and gorgeously photographed by Joe Veras, K9OCO, a professional photographer and Amateur Extra class ham. The images presented in the book represent more than 200 photo sessions and nearly 500,000 miles of travel. "You find yourself leafing through the pages and blurting out, 'I owned one of those!' at regular intervals. I had to laugh out loud when I saw the photo of the Gonset Communicator II transceiver, complete with its cyclops 'eye tube.' That was my first 2 meter rig," said ARRL Publications Manager and QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY. Whether you've been licensed for many years or are just starting out in Amateur Radio, "50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation" offers a fascinating visual travelogue of Amateur Radio technology. Each photo includes a brief description of the radio, model number, manufacturer, as well as the year it was introduced and its selling price at the time. "50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation -- Transceivers, Receivers and Transmitters: 1930-1980" <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0228> is hardcover and 128 pages. It is available from the ARRL Web site and dealers for $39.95. If you order before November 30, 2008, you will receive a free 2009 ARRL Calendar <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0302> featuring the vintage radio photography of Joe Veras, K9OCO.

* ARRL Book Released in China: The first of several ARRL books to be translated and published in Chinese has just been released. "Getting Started with Ham Radio" by QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, published by Posts and Telecommunications Press (PTPress) of Beijing, People's Republic of China, is the first of eight books that will be published in that language. Other ARRL titles to be translated and published in the PRC include "The ARRL Handbook," "ARRL Antenna Book," "Experimental

Methods in RF Design," "Understanding Basic Electronics" and "Ham Radio on the Move." Posts and Telecommunications Press is one of the largest Chinese print and electronic media publishers. It is a specialized publishing house operating under the management of the Ministry of Information Industry. At present, PTPress annually publishes 3600 book titles in 10 categories such as communications, computers, electronics and electrical engineering technology. "Getting Started with Ham Radio" was translated and adapted for its Chinese audience by Zhang Hong, BG1FPX.

* ARRL Invites Nominations for 2008 International Humanitarian Award: Nominations are open for the 2008 ARRL International Humanitarian Award <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/humanitarian.html>. The award is conferred upon an amateur or amateurs who demonstrate devotion to human welfare, peace and international understanding through Amateur Radio. The League established the annual prize to recognize Amateur Radio operators who have used ham radio to provide extraordinary service to others in times of crisis or disaster. A committee appointed by the League's President recommends the award recipient(s) to the ARRL Board, which makes the final decision. The committee is now accepting nominations from Amateur Radio, governmental or other organizations that have benefited from extraordinary service rendered by an Amateur Radio operator or group. Amateur Radio is one of the few telecommunication services that allow people throughout the world from all walks of life to meet and talk with each other, thereby spreading goodwill across political boundaries. The ARRL International Humanitarian Award recognizes Amateur Radio's unique role in international communication and the assistance amateurs regularly provide to people in need. Nominations should include a summary of the nominee's actions that qualify the individual (or individuals) for this award, plus verifying statements from at least two people having first-hand knowledge of the events warranting the nomination. These statements may be from an official of a group (for example, the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army or a local or state emergency management official) that benefited from the nominee's particular Amateur Radio contribution. Nominations should include the names and addresses of all references. All nominations and supporting materials for the 2008 ARRL International Humanitarian Award must be submitted in writing in English to ARRL International Humanitarian Award, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 USA. Nomination submissions are due by December 31, 2008. In the event that no nominations are received, the committee itself may determine a recipient or decide to make no award. The winner of the ARRL International Humanitarian Award receives an engraved plaque and a profile in QST and other ARRL venues.

* Singapore to Make Temporary Licenses Available for Visiting Hams: On Thursday, October 9, the Singapore Amateur Radio Transmitting Society (SARTS) <http://www.sarts.org.sg/> -- that country's IARU Member-Society -- announced that the Infocommunications Development Authority (IDA) would begin issuing temporary Amateur Radio licenses for visiting hams; the IDA is the agency responsible for Amateur Radio licenses in

Singapore. According to SARTS Vice President Peter Cook, JV1PC, visiting hams should apply three weeks before arriving in Singapore. The license, typically valid for a three month period at a cost of 50 Singapore dollars (or $25 for VHF/UHF-only operation), would use the call sign 9V1/home call (for example, 9V1/K1SFA). "The Singapore administration's accommodation of visiting radio amateurs will be greatly appreciated by many who visit and pass through this busy city-state," said IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Congratulations to the Singapore Amateur Radio Transmitting Society for achieving this long-sought objective." Check the IDA Web site for the application process and necessary forms <http://www.ida.gov.sg/doc/Policies%20and%20Regulation/Policies_and_Regulation_Level2/Guidelines%20on%20Licensing%20Scheme/GuideAmateur.pdf>.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change

your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

1049. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-15 06:00:03 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1224050401@panix.com>
Source record: 2320
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

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Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.6 2008/10/04 03:18:51
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

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1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
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promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. Crossposts of regular discussion articles between rec.radio.amateur.moderated and other discussion newsgroups are not permitted.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/ announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers, and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header, containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the moderators if one is not already provided.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

Mentions of small amounts of free items for giveaway will be permitted on an occasional basis from casual, non-commercial owners, and at the discretion of the moderators. The items should be free except for reasonable direct costs such as shipping, must be directly amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable condition, and be practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is intended as a common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, provided that it doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion newsgroup with classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in salvage condition.

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2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns, are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or

members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should

not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Due to Usenet newgroup access being eliminated at many ISP's, including | MSN, AOL, RoadRunner, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast, we are starting | to receive many article submissions asking about free or low-cost | alternatives for accessing Usenet newsgroups such as ours. We initially | permitted this topic in light of the significant impact to many of our | readers due to this loss of access through their ISP's. However, this | subject is arguably off-topic for our newsgroup, is better answered by | other sources, and better discussed in other venues. Because of this, | we will no longer approve submissions that request or suggest where to | obtain access to Usenet newsgroups. For more information about this | topic, please consult the following: |

- The last approved thread of discussion about this topic on our |
newsgroup from October 2008: |

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/19770b88ec527aff/8dcee92de293f615?hl=en#8dcee92de293f615 |

- A list of Public News Servers at the Open Directory Project: |

http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Usenet/Public_News_Servers/ |

- An article with links and reader suggestions at Broadband Reports: |

http://www.broadbandreports.com/shownews/96318 |

- Google Groups: |

http://groups.google.com |

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team does not endorse or |
recommend any particular News Service Provider (NSP). We encourage our |
readers to choose the free or subscription service that best meets their |
own personal needs based on their own evaluation of the available |
alternatives. |

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article
to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

1050. Re: Need advice on HDTV antenna

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-16 05:11:02 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <gd6h8r$eu7$1@registered.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2321

One piece of good news......

At our vacation place (pretty "fringy") I >>always<< could see some TVI on the analog TV when I got on 40M. Put on a digital converter (same TV receiver/same antenna) and the digital channels survive crystal clear.

73, de Hans, K0HB

1051. Those pesky newcomers...

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-17 00:25:54 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <gd8m2601nj0@news3.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2322

Beginners, QRM and Rstrictions

By James O. Wood

"Much is said about beginners these days in conjunction with QRM on various popular DX bands. The Old-Timer has perhaps forgotten the day he went into the R.I.'s office, drew a diagram of a simple crystal detector and spark or possibly a one-tube receiver and Hartley, read a bit of code, was almost invariably hand an amateur ticket; he did his own share of pestering those who were before him until he got enough actual operating experience to qualify as one of the gang."

Interestingly enough, this if from a February 1935 edition of QST.

We're ALWAYS going to hear complaints about the new comers, or noobs as the younger crowd calls them.

James went on to suggest letting the noobs jump right in to the fray as it were rather than restricting them to portions of the bands. Well, I guess he should be pleased, "incentive licensing" completely with Novice Bands have come and gone.

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

1052. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1627 - October 17, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-17 10:00:08 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20081017025857.015c9828@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2323
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1627 - October 17, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1627 with a release date of Friday, October 17th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. W5KWQ comes on the air from space and the world of amateur radio is there to great him. Also, India says that ham radio should be taught in school and those radio tagged migratory birds need you. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1627 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: RICHARD GARRIOTT W5KWQ OPERATES ON-ORBIT

The son of famed ham radio space pioneer Owen Garriott, W5LFL, is now on the International Space Station and on the air. A Russian Soyuz spacecraft carrying Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, arrived at the space station at 08:26 UTC on October 14th and was soon heard on the air. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has the details:

--

Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, has made it to the International Space Station high above the Earth.

And since his Oct. 14, arrival, he has been busy making amateur radio contacts across the globe.

Some say the excitement and enthusiasm surrounding this mission almost rivals that of his father, Dr. Owen Garriott, W5LFL, the first ham who made contacts from space as an astronaut

Here's a sample of an exuberant Richard Garriott speaking with youngsters during a school contact arranged through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station Program.

--

Richard Garriott audio: Hear it in the mp3 version of this weeks newscast at www.arnewsline.org.

--

Well, it didn't take long for Garriott to jump onto the radio after a welcome aboard from cosomonaut Sergei Volkov, RU3DIS.

Stan Vandiver, W4SV, in Hanna, Indiana, had his recorder going as Garriott conducted his first QSO with Randal De Priest, N4AC, in Cummins, Georgia. Here's the space to Earth side of that QSO:

--

Richard Garriott audio: Hear it in the mp3 version of this weeks newscast at www.arnewsline.org.

--

Garriott stayed on for more than one stateside QSO.

Here's his contact with Warren Nuckols, W4TNJ, in Chester, Virginia. Again the audio from the ISS was recorded by Stan Vandiver and again you will hear only the voice of Richard Garriott from space:

--

Richard Garriott audio: Hear it in the mp3 version of this weeks newscast at www.arnewsline.org.

--

Within hours of climbing aboard, W5KWQ began sending slow scan amateur television pictures to stations on the ground. All of the photos were transmitted on 145.800 MHz FM and can be viewed at the ARISS Slow Scan gallery.

That URL is simply www.amsat.com/ARISS_SSTV/

And yes that is a dot com rather than the usual AMSAT dot org.

By way of background, Garriott, is a computer game developer who paid $35 nillion dollars for his trip to space. Traveling with him to the space outpost were U.S. astronaut Michael Fincke, KE5AIT, and Russian cosmonaut Yury Lonchakov, RA3DT. Fincke will serve as commander of the six-month Expedition 18 mission which will focus on preparing the station to house six crew members on longer-duration missions.

W5KWQ will return to Earth on Friday October 24th with the space station's outgoing crew aboard a Soyuz re-entry vehicle.

Until then, keep an ear open for many more voice QSO's, your Slow Scan TV equipped radio set to 145.8 MHz and an eye on the special AMSAT SSTV gallery. This, for a lot more ham radio from W5KWQ on board the I-S-S.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, following the story from Philadelphia.

--

As an aside, once the hatches between the Soyuz capsule and the I-S-S were opened Sergi Volkov, whose cosmonaut father was orbiting the earth when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, welcomed Garriott with a hug. NASA says that they are first children of previous space adventurers to meet in orbit. (ARNewsline(tm) from various sources)

**

RADIO WAVES: A NEW CYCLE 24 SUNSPOT APPEARS

Some encouraging news for DX'ers and any ham who hopes to one day work some distant contacts. Whats being called a 'new-cycle' sunspot belonging to Solar Cycle 24 has shown itself near the stars northeastern limb. The new spot, now designated as SSN 1005 was reported over the weekend of the 12th and 13th making this the third time in as many weeks that a new-cycle sunspot has interrupted the year's run of blank solar activity.

The accelerating pace of new-cycle sunspots is viewed an encouraging sign by astronomers and hams alike. For radio amateurs, it seems to be saying that while solar activity remains very low, the sunspot cycle is unfolding more or less normally. In other words, we are not stuck in a prolonged solar minimum. At least we hope its not.

More about this new sunspot and overall solar activity is on line at www dot spaceweather dot com. And remember that Spaceweather is spelled as one word. (Southgate, Spaceweather)

**

RESTRUCTURING: INDIA HAM RADIO LEADER SAYS RADIO SHOULD BE TAUGHT IN SCHOOL

The chairman of India's Gujarat Institute of Amateur Radio says that the government should incorporate radio communication as an optional subject in schools and colleges.

S. K. Nanda whom QRZ.com lists as VU3BVD, says that having radio communication as a subject in educational institutes will help develop people's interest in ham radio. This he says should result in more people joining the hobby, which will result in more operations in the amateur radio spectrum and better connectivity.

Nanda, who is also the Principal Secretary of the group made the comment while addressing a gathering of amateur radio operators in the city of Gandhinagar. (Yahoo News)

**

RESCUE RADIO: GLOBAL SET 08 ON NOVEMBER 8

The next Global Simulated Emergency Test will take place on Saturday, November 8th. The operation will take place from 04.00 to 08.00 UTC on and near the established emergency communications Center-of-Activity frequencies on 80, 40, 20, 17 and 15 meters. The exact frequency will be determined after the start of net operations based on band activity and local QRM.

The objectives of the test are to increase interest in emergency communications and to test how usable the Center-of-Activity frequencies are across all ITU regions. It's also meant to create practices for international emergency communication and rehearse the relaying of emergency communications messages using all modes permitted to radio

amateurs world-wide..

Please remember that this is not a contest. Rather it is an emergency communications preparedness activity. A list of participating stations will also be available at www.raynet-hf.net. (Various)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N8VAA repeater serving Moorefield, West Virginia.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: SIMULATED QUAKE IN THE GREAT AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

A simulated emergency test centering around an earthquake near Tecopa, California, has shown the value of having a well trained corps of ham radio volunteers. Don Carlson, KQ6FM, is in Reno with more on the event and those taking part:

--

According to news reports, the simulated emergency was set up to test emergency preparedness in Nye County Nevada. And so it was that moments after a simulated 6.2 earthquake hit, ham volunteers were on the air notifying other radio amateurs to meet immediately at the Nye County Emergency Services Operations Center .

By 7:30 a.m., volunteers were in the training room and heading out to strategic areas around town. Seventeen operators covered 7 locations in and around the town of Pahrump. Among them were Andy Gudas, N7TP and Archie Selbach, KE7IOE, who established a communications presence in Amargosa. Meantime, Richard Gamble K7RTG set up a shelter at Manse Elementary School, while Ron Daviau, KC7YMH, did the same at Rosemary Clarke Middle School. Other hams were assigned to the Pahrump Senior Center, the Nye County Sheriff's Office and the Saddle West Casino and Hotel.

Gerald Fuge, KC6ILH, is the Southern Nye County Emergency Coordinator. He directed the exercise from the emergency services communications office. That's also where Carol and Steve Bird, KE7KHD and KE7KHE who worked the radios, relaying messages from the field to other emergency organizations. For this training exercise the group was supporting the communities of Amargosa Valley, Crystal, Beatty and Tecopa, as well as Pahrump.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

--

Press coverage in the Pahrump Valley Times praised the hams for helping to organize the exercise as well as knowing exactly how to respond in a crisis situation. (Pahrump Valley Times, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAM TO HAM CONTACT LEADS TO SEA RESCUE

A Coast Guard crew rescued an unnamed boater who ran out of fuel as he sailed from Hawaii to California. Early on Tuesday, October 7th the crew aboard the cutter Halibut out of in Marina del Rey, California, found the sailor about 100 miles off the coast.

According to the Daily Breeze newspaper, the mariner was traveling on his 44-foot boat when he ran out of fuel. He reportedly used his amateur radio gear to contact another radio amateur in Florida, who in turn contacted the Coast Guard in California. It in turn dispatched the Halibut.

The cutter located the marooned vessel and towed it closer to shore. It was then transferred to a 47-foot motor lifeboat crew from the Channel Islands station.. The names and calls of the hams involved in the rescue were not reported. (Daily Breeze)

**

HAM IN ACCIDENT: WINAPRS WRITER HURT IN BALOON CRASH

One person has been killed and a well known ham radio operator critically injured in a hot air balloon crash at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta on Friday, October 10th. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the latest:

--

Killed in the crash was Stephen Lachendro, of Butler, Pennsylvania. Keith Sproul, WU2Z, was critically injured in the accident when the 'Wings of Wind' balloon hit powerlines near the festival grounds just North of the city.

According to news reports, there were gusty winds as the two balloonists were trying to land. From pictures taken by attendees, it appears as if the basket carrying the men caught fire after hitting the power lines, separated from the balloon envelope and fell to the ground.

First responders reported that Lachendro was found lying on the side of a ditch after falling 45 feet to his death. Sproul who was reportedly piloting the balloon jumped some 60 feet from the burning gondola. W-U-2-Zed was unconscious when he was found and was flown by helicopter to a local hospital where he was admitted in critical condition. Reports say that he suffered a broken leg and hip, punctured lungs and burns to his face.

Keith Sproul is the twin brother Mark Sproul, KB2ICI. The two are best known in ham radio circles as the co-authors of the popular WinAPRS, MacAPRS and X-APRS APRS is the multi-faceted position reporting system

originally developed bt Bob Bruninga, WB4APR. It allows the monitoring of real time geographical information such as the position of vehicles, the status of weather, radio direction finding and much more.

According to a National Guard spokesman at the scene, the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate this latest crash.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles..

--

The International Balloon Fiesta, held each October, is Albuquerque's pre-eminent tourist draw, but this is not the first accident that has happened at the event. In 2007 a 60-year-old California woman fell to her death and three other women were hospitalized after their balloon snagged a power line. In 1982, four people died when propane tanks on a large balloon exploded. Other fatalities were recorded in 1990, 1993 and 1998. (WA5WHN, Published news reports)

**

RADIO LAW: THE NEW PENNSYLVANIA TOWER LAW

A follow-up now on the good news that Pennsylvania hams received last week. This after Governor Edward G. Rendell signed into law a bill that guarantees radio amateurs the right to erect antenna support structures up to 65 feet without the need for a Special Use Permit.

The bill passed in the Pennsylvania House with a vote of 196-1 and the states Senate with a vote of 49-1. Governor Rendell signed it on Wednesday, October 8, with it scheduled to go into effect December 8th. That's the normal 60 days after signing.

Originally called Pennsylvania Senate Bill 884 it was renamed to Act 88 after its passage. And according to the ARRL, it requires local municipalities to reasonably accommodate amateur radio service communications, and to impose only the minimum regulations necessary to accomplish the legitimate purpose of the municipality. The act also says that no ordinance, regulation, plan or any other action shall restrict amateur radio antenna height to less than 65 feet above ground level.

There is only one caveat. It says that a municipality may impose necessary regulations to ensure the safety of amateur radio antenna structures. Even so, the measure still requires that the governing body reasonably accommodate amateur service communications.

The measure was first introduced on June 1, 2007 by Pennsylvania Senator Stewart Greenleaf. He represents portions of Bucks and Montgomery Counties. (ARRL, others)

**

TELECOM CRIME: COPPER THEFT DOWN-UNDER

Copper thefts continue world-wide. Now an entire neighborhood has been put in the dark by the wire villains. It happened down-under. Amateur Radio Newsline's

--

Police in Brisbane, Australia are investigating the theft of ï¿½live' copper
wire from a street in the Richlands area of the city. We are talking about an active power distribution line which had the potential to cause fatal injuries to members of the public or to the thieves themselves.

Sometime between 5pm on September 26th and 8am October 2nd thieves removed electrical cabling and wiring from a housing estate in an area called Richlands. Approximately 100 meters of fully powered copper wire was stolen from three electrical poles, with another two poles sustaining damage.

Electrical provider Energex located exposed live wiring inside one pole that had the potential to deliver a fatal electric current should it have been mishandled. Burn marks located inside another of the metal poles indicated that the thieves were lucky to have escaped unscathed.

Im Jim Damron, N8TMW, reporting.

--

Here in the United States several want-to-be copper thieves have been injured or killed attempting the same type of crime. Even so the bad guys continue to risk their lives for the few pennies that the stolen copper wire will bring as scrap. (WIA News)

**

RADIO THINGS: SCOTT FYBUSH 2009 TOWER SITE CALANDER

A photo calendar for 2009 with hams and SWL' in mind -- and broadcast Band DX'ers as well. That may be the best way to describe a rather impressive calendar that shows some very impressive transmission towers as photographed by veteran radio writer Scott Fybush.

In his travels Fybush has photographed hundreds of towers. This includes tall towers, to some downright pretty towers. He also has taken photos of funny-shaped towers like the very rare Blaw-Knox diamonds as used by Nashville's famed WSM and WLW as well as towers in spectacular locations. Now, he is making some of his best photos as part of his own Tower Site 2009 Calendar.

The Tower Site Calendar 2009 features 14 full-color, high-quality images of transmitter sites in all corners of the United States and Canada. Sites pictured include WNYM in New Jersey, KNBR in San Francisco to CFFX in Kingston, Ontario Canada to mention only a few. This photo calendar sells for under $19, with more information on-line at www.fybush.com /calendar.html (RW)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: RUSSIA TO LAUNCH SOUTH AFRICAN HAMSAT

South Africa's second satellite will be launched from the in the December to March time frame. This, with word that SumbandilaSat, will go into space on board a Russian launcher in Kazikstan.

SumbandilaSat was first scheduled for launch on a Sthil rocket from a Russian submarine. Due to political issues between various departments in Russia the plan was aborted and the satellites sponsors began a search for a new launch opportunity.

Some concerted behind the scenes diplomatic talks resulted in the Russians agreeing to honor the contract and shift the launch to Baikonur. This is the same launch complex where, Earth's first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1was launched. (SARL)

**

WORLDBEAT - UK: ICOM DONATION SUPPORTS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Icom UK has donated the latest digital radio to the United Kingdom's Chatham House School. The transceiver will allow students at the school to communicate with other radio users around the globe using a sophisticated mix of digital amateur radio and Internet communications technology.

The Chatham House is grammar school in Ramsgate that specializes in teaching mathematics, science and computer technology. The radio will be used by the School's Amateur Radio Club, M0DLI, run by their Science Teacher, John Hislop, G7OHO. Hislop is credited with having successfully tutored 14 students for their UK Foundation class ham radio tickets. (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT - SOUTH AFRICA: HAMS ASSIST IN CELL JAMMING CASE

Ham radio is assisting in an investigation of illegal iuse of cellphone jamming gear by tow truck operators in South Africa. This, after allegations appeared in that nations main stream media that some of Cape Town's tow truck drivers are almost certainly using sophisticated cell phone jammers to ensure that accident victims cannot contact other tow truck drivers or even emergency services.

According to research by a member of the Cape Town Amateur Radio Center, cell phone reception is compromised at the scene of car accidents whenever certain tow truck operators arrive. A member writes in the Amateur Radio Center's latest newsletter that the objective of this jamming appears to be very simple. No cell phone access means no alternative help can be summoned. This in turn forces victims are forced to use the towing services that are jamming the cellphones.

Andre van der Merwe is the national chairman of the South African Towing and Recovery Association. He says that he had no doubt that some operators were using cell phone jamming equipment and urged motorists to report drivers scrambling cell phone signals. (SARL, Southgate)

**

ON THE AIR: K7BV TO AGAIN VISIT SAN ANDRES ISLAND FOR 6 METER OPERATION

On the air, word that Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, will again return to the San Andres Islands and be active as 5J0M. This, between June 19th and July 5th, 2009.

Dennis will again be concentrating on 6 meter Sporadic E skip contacts but will be on the high Frequency bands as well. If you are lucky enough to work him next summer, QSL direct to W1JJ via the QRZ.com address. For more details and update, visit the following Web page at www dot qth dot com slash k7bv slash caribe2009.

And less we forget, for those not aware, Dennis Motschenbacher. K7BV, is Executive Vice President of North American Amateur Sales for Vertex Standard. They are the fine people who bring us all Yaesu brand ham radio gear. (OPDX)

**

DX

In D-X, word that JK1KSB, will be active as 8Q7SO from Mirihi Island. This, between October 26th and November 1st. His operation will be holiday style on 80 through 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via JK1KSB, either via the bureau or to the address on QRZ.com.

7L1FPU, 7L1FFH and AH0BR will be active as AH0BT between November 8th and 9th. The trio plan to be active in Japan's International DX Phone Contest as a multi-single entry. QSL via 7L1FPU.

JJ2NYT, will be active from Easter Island as CE0Y through October 19th. Operation will be on 40, 20, 17 and 15 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home callsign.

ON7YK, will once again be active as from Gambia as C56YK through November 9th. His activity will be on 80 through 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. He ays he will try to activate 160 meters as well. For more details and updates, visit www dot on7yk dot net on the World Wide Web.

Lastly, keep an ear open for a team of Italian who are now active as 9L1X from Sherbro Island and will be on through October 23rd. QSL direct only to I2YSB.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: RADIO ORIENTEERING: IN SEARCH OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

And finally, we all know that fall is here and North American. This means that migratory birds are heading south to find winter homes. Ham radio operators are keeping track of some of them. You could help in this scientific study, which is going on right now. Amateur Radio Newsline's Joe Moell K0OV has the details.

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For the second year, ham radio operators and VHF monitoring enthusiasts are assisting in scientific studies of the Loggerhead Shrike. Researchers from a university in Canada have placed radio tags on twenty of these endangered birds, which were part of a captive breeding program. The primary purpose of the tags has been to determine dispersal patterns, which are the movements the birds make immediately after leaving their nests.

But there is also hope that more may be learned about the birds' fall migration journey. Scientists think that they will fly south to Florida, but they might also overwinter in Tennessee, North Carolina, and states just south of there.

If you live in the target area, please get the list of tag frequencies, which are between 172 and 173 MHz, and listen for the brief pulse signals. The list is at www.homingin.com. Other articles at that site will provide hints on listening gear and identification of radio tag signals. Please listen now, because migration is under way and the radio tag batteries will only function for the next six weeks.

Again, the frequencies are at www.homingin.com, where homingin is spelled as one word. From southern California, where I'm getting ready to announce the 2009 USA ARDF Championships very soon, this is Joe Moell, K0OV for Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Joe adds that T-hunting tagged migratory birds is a scientific project that any ham or SWL can be a part of. (K0OV, ARNewsline(tm))

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio

Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, saying 73 from Lima, Ohio, and we thank you for listening.

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1053. Re: Those pesky newcomers...

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-17 14:35:12 UTC
From: an old freind <konstans@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <f8cdcf42-e9c1-4bf0-aaed-1794b6d0b35b@u57g2000hsf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2324

On Oct 16, 8:25 pm, Jeffrey D Angus <jan...@socal.rr.com> wrote:
> Beginners, QRM and Rstrictions
>
> By James O. Wood
>
> "Much is said about beginners these days in conjunction with QRM
> on various popular DX bands. The Old-Timer has perhaps forgotten
> the day he went into the R.I.'s office, drew a diagram of a simple
> crystal detector and spark or possibly a one-tube receiver and
> Hartley, read a bit of code, was almost invariably hand an amateur
> ticket; he did his own share of pestering those who were before
> him until he got enough actual operating experience to qualify as
> one of the gang."
>
> Interestingly enough, this if from a February 1935 edition of QST.
>
> We're ALWAYS going to hear complaints about the new comers, or
> noobs as the younger crowd calls them.
>
> James went on to suggest letting the noobs jump right in to the
> fray as it were rather than restricting them to portions of the
> bands. Well, I guess he should be pleased, "incentive licensing"
> completely with Novice Bands have come and gone.
>
> Jeff-1.0
> wa6fwi

I don't think anyone should be please that he ARS has been so much
pain without learning much it seems about people.

of course the difference is today the newcomers (something I am often
still called after 10 years) is we have enough self confidence (or
whatever) to jump in without waitng to asked and knowing already that
some OT are goingto be whining about us

1054. Re: Those pesky newcomers...

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-17 14:36:01 UTC
From: Andy <N@n.com>
Message-ID: <Q8edneA31vKM8mXVnZ2dnUVZ_rjinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2325

what if i was new and made mistakes you going to jump on my case to?
you should welcome new comers and teach them:)

"Jeffrey D Angus" <jangus@socal.rr.com> wrote in message
news:gd8m2601nj0@news3.newsguy.com...
> Beginners, QRM and Rstrictions
>
> By James O. Wood
>
> "Much is said about beginners these days in conjunction with QRM
> on various popular DX bands. The Old-Timer has perhaps forgotten
> the day he went into the R.I.'s office, drew a diagram of a simple
> crystal detector and spark or possibly a one-tube receiver and
> Hartley, read a bit of code, was almost invariably hand an amateur
> ticket; he did his own share of pestering those who were before
> him until he got enough actual operating experience to qualify as
> one of the gang."
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> Interestingly enough, this if from a February 1935 edition of QST.
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> We're ALWAYS going to hear complaints about the new comers, or
> noobs as the younger crowd calls them.
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> James went on to suggest letting the noobs jump right in to the
> fray as it were rather than restricting them to portions of the
> bands. Well, I guess he should be pleased, "incentive licensing"
> completely with Novice Bands have come and gone.
>
> Jeff-1.0
> wa6fwi
>
>
>
>
>

1055. Re: Those pesky newcomers...

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-17 14:36:35 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <gd93nm$hl1$1@registered.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2326

"Jeffrey D Angus" <jangus@socal.rr.com> wrote in message
news:gd8m2601nj0@news3.newsguy.com...

>
> James went on to suggest letting the noobs jump right in to the
> fray as it were rather than restricting them to portions of the
> bands. Well, I guess he should be pleased, "incentive licensing"
> completely with Novice Bands have come and gone.
>

The Novice bands indeed have been bulldozed under, but the ghettos created
by disincentive licensing have actually grown.

73, de Hans, K0HB

1056. Re: Those pesky newcomers...

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-17 20:31:53 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <gdas830781@news3.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2327

Andy wrote:
> what if i was new and made mistakes you going to jump on my
> case to? you should welcome new comers and teach them:)

I think you missed the point Andy, James said that we were
ALL newcomers at one point and that we should offer help and
assistance to the "new guys".

And my point behind posting this bit of ancient trivia was
simply to point out that no matter how things change, some
things remain the same.

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

1057. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 41 (Friday, October 17, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-17 20:33:28 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20081017185758.C522530BEA@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2328
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 41
October 17, 2008
****

IN THIS EDITION:

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* + Get Ready for the 51st Jamboree On The Air This Weekend
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ARRL to Participate in Combined Federal Campaign

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========

==> CITY OF MANASSAS TAKES OVER BPL SYSTEM FROM PRIVATE COMPANY

Late last month, the Manassas, Virginia City Council voted 4-2 to assume control of the Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) service from the private company that serves approximately 675 residents. As a result of the vote, the City of Manassas will now have to use monies from an enterprise fund -- around $110,000, in addition to the approximately $640,000 the city has already spent on BPL infrastructure -- to fund the service and recoup the cost from the subscribers; monies in an enterprise fund come from the utility's ratepayers. BPL technology uses the electricity grid in a city and the wiring in individual homes to provide direct "plug in" broadband access through electricity sockets,

rather than over phone or cable TV lines. Because BPL wiring is physically large, often overhead and extends across entire communities, these systems pose a significant interference potential to over-the-air radio services, including Amateur Radio.

According to "BPL Today," "Manassas was the first city in the world to have BPL deployed to all its residents and has been a demonstration center for utilities, integrators/operators and government entities from around the globe." It was in Manassas that then-FCC Chairman Michael Powell and then-Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Chairman Pat Wood announced completion of the FCC's BPL rules and FERC's support for FCC jurisdiction over BPL before the October 2004 meeting at which the BPL rules were finally adopted, prompting an ARRL complaint <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/10/13/1/>. "BPL Today" is a weekly journal for the BPL industry.

The City of Manassas launched a field trial to test out BPL technology in July 2002; 15 months later, they awarded a 10 year franchise to Prospect Street Broadband. This company agreed to expand the field trial and offer high speed Internet service to the entire Manassas community via power lines. In April 2004, the city terminated its contract with Prospect Street and puts the contract out for rebidding. At this point, the City of Manassas had spent $140,000 in BPL equipment to serve 200 accounts.

In March of 2005, Manassas reported that it had signed up more than 200 customers for BPL services, with another 1300 on a waiting list. Manassas officials said they "expect[ed] to spend [another] $500,000 enhancing its telecommunications and electrical infrastructure by the time COMTek completes the installation [later that month]."

In October 2005, COMTek, based in Chantilly, Virginia, announced the first city-wide BPL service in Manassas. According to COMTek, the City of Manassas -- located 30 miles southwest of Washington, DC -- had the potential for more than 12,000 residential and 2500 commercial subscribers. In May 2006, Philadelphia-based GridPlex announced it would acquire Manassas' BPL program from COMTek.

In May 2006, "BPL Today" reported that GridPlex had the goal of "growing the deployment into a state-of-the-art smart grid including a wide range of municipal applications such as electricity demand response, energy and water conservation, security monitoring and many more." GridPlex also announced plans to upgrade and modernize the network in Manassas, including the provision of smart meters.

In July 2008, the Manassas City Council held a public hearing concerning GridPlex's takeover of the BPL system. The Director of the City of Manassas Utility Department, Mike Moon, told the council that the cost for BPL services -- currently $28.95 per month -- could be lowered and said GridPlex had plans to improve connection speeds. Moon did not give a timetable for when the change would take place, but said subscribers would be notified when it was to occur. No one at the hearing spoke in

favor or against the provider change.

Moon said that if GridPlex acquired COMTek, this would permit city residents to utilize GridPlex's smart grid technology, allowing them to tap into "cost effective, conservation encouraging technology." Residents could keep track and control their consumption of water and electricity on a daily basis. "We are in discussions with [GridPlex] on using those services, but we're not to the point of making that final decision," he said. "That's a $4-5 million project for us, so we have to make sure it's the right company, the right business plan for the city."

At the Council meeting in September, Moon explained that GridPlex's takeover of Manassas' BPL system -- scheduled for early August 2008 and postponed many times -- would not occur. According to the meeting minutes, "The inability of GridPlex to take over the COMTek franchise has made it necessary for [Manassas] to assume the operation of the BPL system and the current customer base, which consists of approximately 675 residents. The City must now purchase all assets owned by COMTek and will then exercise a short-term service agreement to service existing accounts." Speaking for Moon, Manassas' Utilities Deputy Director (Electric) Gary Paulson told the ARRL that the cost of the assets totaled approximately $110,000. "This includes all the hardware, software and licenses needed to operate the BPL system," Paulson said.

Four members of the six member Council voted to take over the BPL service. According to Kipp Hanley, a reporter for the "News and Messenger" daily newspaper in Manassas, this means the city will have to use a small percentage of its electric department reserve fund to pay for the service for the next six months. After six months, Hanley told the ARRL, it will be up to the Council if they want to include it in the city budget.

One reason to keep the BPL technology, he said, is Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) via the smart grid, something that the Manassas utility department has advocated. Moon said that his office is also looking at other ways to carry AMI, such as wireless. This was put out to bid in September 2008.

Manassas Vice Mayor Andy Harrover was one of the four who voted to take over the service from COMTek. Harrover told the "News and Messenger" he voted in the affirmative as a "common courtesy for those who use the service and for the future of the AMI system," but said he has a "fundamental problem" with the city providing Internet services. "The philosophical question is should the city be in the Internet business and the answer is no."

Councilman Jonathan Way was one of two members who voted against taking over COMTek's services. "If we really feel compelled to compete, we should do so with modern, fast and reliable technology," he told the "News and Messenger." "The current operator of the BPL system cannot make a go of it and wants out. There should be a lesson hiding somewhere in that fact."

==> GET READY FOR THE 51ST JAMBOREE ON THE AIR THIS WEEKEND

When Scouts want to meet young people from another country, they usually think of attending a World Jamboree. But each year, many Scouts and Guides "get together" over the airwaves for the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) <http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota/>. This year, JOTA celebrates its 51st anniversary. JOTA follows a 48 hour schedule beginning at 0000 (local time) on Saturday, October 18, continuing through 2400 local time on Sunday, October 19.

JOTA is an annual event in which Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other by means of Amateur Radio. Since the first Jamboree-on-the-Air was held in 1958, millions of Scouts have met one another through this event. Many contacts made during JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between Scout troops that have lasted many years. With no restrictions on age or on the number of participants, JOTA allows Scouts to contact each other via ham radio. Many Scouts and leaders hold licenses and have their own stations, but the most participate in JOTA through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual radio amateurs.

There are many resources available on the ARRL's JOTA Web site for Scouts to use as they prepare for JOTA <http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota-resources/>. Scout leaders can also access the ARRL's Scouting Web pages that list resources to help teach the Radio Merit Badge, conduct a foxhunt, build an antenna or provide other activities to explore the excitement of Amateur Radio <http://www.arrl.org/scouts>.

Last year, the ARRL introduced a JOTA feature that proved to be such a success that the League is bringing it back for this year's event. The JOTA Storyboard is a place where Scouts from all over the world can post stories and pictures on how they participated in their JOTA activities. Let other Scouts read your stories and catch the excitement of Amateur Radio and Scouting <http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota/Stories>.

Stations that participate in JOTA should call "CQ Jamboree," or answer stations doing so. Any authorized frequency may be used. The World Scout Bureau recommends that stations use the agreed World Scout Frequencies:
* 80 meters -- 3.690 and 3.940 MHz (SSB), 3.570 MHz (CW)
* 40 meters -- 7.090 and 7.190 MHz (SSB), 7.030 MHz (CW)
* 20 meters -- 14.290 MHz (SSB), 14.060 MHz (CW)
* 17 meters -- 18.140 MHz (SSB), 18.080 MHz (CW)
* 15 meters -- 21.360 MHz (SSB), 21.140 MHz (CW)
* 12 meters -- 24.960 MHz (SSB), 24.910 MHz (CW)
* 10 meters -- 28.390 MHz (SSB), 28.180 MHz (CW)
* 6 meters -- 50.160 MHz (SSB), 50.160 MHz (CW)

In addition to local Scouts getting on the air for JOTA, national Scouting associations around the world fire up their rigs for the event, too. National organizations that have participated in JOTA in recent years include:
* HB9S -- World Scout Bureau, Geneva Switzerland

* K2BSA -- Boy Scouts of America National Office, Dallas, Texas
* JA1YSS -- Boy Scouts of Nippon National Office, Tokyo, Japan
* PA6JAM -- Scouting Nederland National Station, Sassenheim, Netherlands

* 5Z4KSA -- The Kenya Scouts Association, Paxtu Station, Nyeri, Kenya
* VK1BP -- The Scout Association of Australia National Station,
Canberra, Australia
* GB2GP -- The Scout Association, Gilwell Park, London, United Kingdom
* XE1ASM -- Boy Scouts of Mexico
* DX1BSP -- Boy Scouts of the Philippines
* TF3JAM -- Scouts of Iceland

JOTA is not a contest; the idea is not to contact as many stations as possible during the weekend. Radio operators run their stations in accordance with their national licensing regulations. Check the ARRL Web site for a review of control operator rules <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/fd-control.html>.

All groups participating in JOTA are asked to send a report of their activities to their National JOTA Organizer (NJO) and to the ARRL JOTA Desk <jota@arrl.org> after the event (find the name and e-mail address of your NJO at <http://home.hetnet.nl/%7Ekava04un/Jota/njolist.PDF>). NJOs then forward their national JOTA reports to the World Scout Bureau for the "World JOTA Report," published by the World Scout Bureau <http://home.hetnet.nl/%7Ekava04un/Jota/library.htm>.

Although the worldwide JOTA is organized in October, Scouts can meet on the air at other times during the year. Regular Scout nets (a pre-arranged time and frequency when operators meet) are organized nationally or regionally. An updated list of these nets can always be found in the latest "World JOTA Report."

AMSAT-NA has announced that they are again supporting JOTA by dedicating AO-51 operation to the event <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/>. According to AMSAT Vice President for Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, the satellite will be configured as a single channel V/U repeater. He asks that users limit QSOs to those between or involving at least one JOTA station during this weekend. The frequencies used for this weekend will be 145.880 FM uplink, and 435.300 FM downlink, no PL tone required. The mode change should occur at around 0000 UTC on the 18th (Friday evening in the US) and run for approximately 48 hours.

Bernie McClenny, W3UR, of "The Daily DX" <http://www.dailydx.com/>, reports that the following DX stations will be on the air for JOTA:
* The Tunisian Scout Amateur Association (CAST) will be on the air with the following stations on October 17-19: 3V8SM (Djerba Island AF-083); 3V8CB; 3V8SQ, Monastir, and 3V8ST, Tunis. QSL via the bureau. Do not send dollars or other money.
* David Hutchinson, GI4FUM/EI4DJ, is expected to begin in Swaziland as 3DA0DJ on October 17, with activity until the October 27. He will use 3DA0SS (Swazi Scouts) during JOTA. He will be operating from a station in Hawane.

* The Yongsan US Military Garrison, HL9BSA, in South Korea, will be on from Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, South Korea during JOTA. McClenny said they will be on 10-40 meters on CW, SSB and limited satellite operations (and possibly RTTY). Both American and Korean hams plan to operate. Send QSLs via Harry Rudolph, WX8C <http://www.qrz.com/detail/WX8C>, or direct.
* In Egypt, hams will be using special call SU8JOTA at the Cairo International Scout Centre. Activity will be on the HF bands on CW and SSB, including 160 meters and their VHF network to EchoLink. Send QSLs via Said Kamel, SU1SK <http://www.qrz.com/detail/SU1SK>.

US Boy and Girl Scouts who participate in JOTA may purchase a JOTA patch to wear on their uniforms. These patches are available from the respective Scouting organizations, not the ARRL. Information on purchasing the patches can, however, be found on the ARRL's JOTA Web page.

==> FOURTEEN NEW SECTION MANAGERS MEET IN NEWINGTON

The 16th annual New Section Manager Workshop October 10-12 afforded 14 new SMs a chance to visit ARRL Headquarters and gain some perspective on their new leadership positions. During the weekend gathering, participants not only got to meet many HQ staffers but learned some of the ins and outs of how to become effective section leaders and administrators.

The workshop also provided an opportunity for those taking part to chat among themselves or within the group, sharing their own views on various issues and exchanging ideas. Through training and orientation sessions conducted by ARRL staff members and by meeting with other Section Managers, participants were able to explore what works as well as what does not and to bring home some fresh ideas, plus some encouragement.

On Friday, October 12, Field Organization Supervisor Steve Ewald, WV1X, led the Section Managers on a tour of Headquarters where they met staff and visited W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station. The visiting Section Managers enjoyed the chance to operate from W1AW in their spare time during the weekend.

ARRL Membership and Volunteer Services Department hosted the event. Several HQ staff members led training sessions during the weekend workshop, giving the new Section Managers an opportunity to learn more about the League's Field Organization, as well as discuss the variety of ARRL programs and support available from Headquarters with staff experts.

Western Washington Section Manager Jim Pace, K7CEX, said he has attended many conferences throughout his career and found that "some are not so good, some are sort of good and some are just a waste of time; however, the Section Manager Workshop was beyond what I thought it was going to be. The information, quality of presenters and the ability to converse, argue and resolve issues with other Section Managers made it a great

event."

Louisiana Section Manager Gary Stratton, K5GLS, agreed: "I had a great time in Newington, as well! It was a pleasure to meet all of the other Section Managers and interact with them during the meetings. I think that Steve and the rest of the Headquarters staff did a great job organizing the sessions."

Those providing workshop presentations included Ewald, ARRL Emergency and Preparedness Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD; ARRL Marketing and Sales Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R; ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH; ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X; ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP; ARRL Education Services Manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ; ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI. ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, spoke about the Amateur Auxiliary and issues concerning regulatory matters. ARRL News Editor Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, discussed writing and editing for the ARRL Web site, QST and other League publications.

Workshop attendees were Jay Isbell, KA4KUN, Alabama; Jim Larsen, AL7FS, Alaska; Jim Latham, AF6AQ, East Bay; Ed Stuckey, AI7H, Idaho; Gary Stratton, K5GLS, Louisiana; Don Wood, W5FHA, New Mexico; Joe Giraudo, N7JEH, Nevada; Lynn Nelson, W0CQ, North Dakota; Paul Eakin, KJ4G, Northern Florida; Rich Krohn, N2SMV, Northern New Jersey; Steve Early, AD6VI, San Diego; Glen Clayton, W4BDB, Tennessee; Jim Pace, K7CEX, Western Washington, and LeeAnne Allen, WY7DTW, Wyoming.

==> RICHARD GARRIOTT, W5KWQ, GETS BUSY FROM SPACE

Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, took off for the International Space Station (ISS) on Sunday, October 12, becoming the sixth private citizen to fly with the Russian Federal Space Agency (RKA) for a short-term mission on the ISS. Not two hours after he arrived on the ISS on October 14, Garriott was making ham radio contacts, just as his father, Owen Garriott, W5LFL -- the first ham to make QSOs from space -- did in 1983. Richard is scheduled to return to Earth on Thursday, October 23.

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, said that not only did Richard start making QSOs almost immediately after docking to the ISS, he also started SSTV operations. "We have had a number of image uploads on the [ARISS Web] site by hams from all around the world. A volunteer ARISS team is working 24/7 during Richard's flight to review these images, to understand how the SSTV operations are progressing and to include some of these images on the Gallery pages [on the ARISS Web site] <http://www.amsat.com/ARISS_SSTV/>. All uploaded images have been archived and are being reviewed." Bauer asked hams to continue to upload these images, as they help the ARISS team analyze and redirect the SSTV operations. He also said that a blog providing the latest ARISS information for Richard's expedition is available <http://www.ariss-sstv.blogspot.com/>.

"Richard is really not supporting SSTV uplinks during his short duration mission," Bauer said. "The downlink is on the normal ARISS VHF downlink, 145.80 kHz." For general voice contacts, Bauer recommends the regular general voice frequencies: 145.80 for the downlink and 144.49 in Region 2 (Americas) and 145.20 for Region 1 (Europe, Africa, Middle East) and Region 3 (Australia, Asia) for the uplink. "Richard and Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, have been on the air on voice since shortly after docking [on Tuesday]," Bauer said.

"Richard is great!" said ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO. "First he wanted to do a QSO with the mayor of his hometown -- Austin, Texas -- then he asked us to sponsor an Austin school QSO. He got the mayor to bring kids into the mayor's office for the QSO! Last I heard, several busloads of kids were being brought to the mayor's digs. And right after that QSO, he thrills hams with more QSOs. We've gotten several notes from hams who talked to Richard saying they had talked to his dad years ago, too. Pretty cool!"

Richard also chose the Budbrooke Primary School in Warwick is England to make QSOs with. "The QSO will enhance their technology and ham radio studies. ARISS Vice Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, in Belgium is mentoring this school," White said.

Richard has also scheduled a QSO with two groups who are in the ARISS queue: Pinehurst Elementary School in Ashland, Oregon, and the National Planetarium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The teacher at the Oregon school is leading the ham radio presentations and space-related lessons; John Spasojevich, AG9D, of Indiana is mentoring this school. The planetarium QSO will be coordinated by ARISS volunteer Sangat Singh, 9M2SS, using the planetarium's club call sign 9M2SS. Part of the planetarium's Space Challenge educational activities, the QSO is scheduled on the day Richard is required to pack his belongings for his return to Earth. If he becomes too occupied with packing and other required duties, Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, the commander of Expedition 18, could assist with the QSO.

Because Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) takes place on while Richard is on the ISS, he hopes to hook up on the air with Scouts. "Past experience shows that scouts love talking to hams in space," White said. "The ARISS Team feels the most important aspect of Richard's mission is to pique students' interest in science and technology through the ARISS QSOs."

Bauer explained that Richard Garriott's flight on the ISS is "a part of history. Some of you have asked why Richard is using his call sign for some QSOs and SSTV contacts, instead of the ISS station call signs. There is a long and proud history that is attached to the Garriotts. This includes ham radio in space and their personal call signs. Twenty-five years ago, Richard's father, Owen Garriott, W5LFL, initiated the first ham radio contacts from space on the STS-9 SAREX mission. Richard, W5KWQ, is following in his father's footsteps, using the ARISS ham radio system extensively on his first flight. Richard's call sign is actually his grandfather's original call sign. So you can see that this mission touches three generations of ham radio and two generations of

ham radio in space!"

==> ARRL GENERAL LICENSE COURSE ON CD-ROM NOW AVAILABLE

Now there is even more help for upgrading to a General class Amateur Radio license -- the new "ARRL General Class License Course" <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1387>. The course includes the popular "ARRL General Class License Manual" with an all new instructional CD-ROM. This package has everything you need to upgrade.

The CD-ROM includes topics divided into "bite-sized" sessions, allowing you to learn at your own pace. The visual animations, along with colorful illustrations and audio, make your learning experience exciting and fun. The CD-ROM also includes quizzes and practice exams based on official exam questions to help reinforce your learning. The complete "General Class License Manual" is on the CD, giving you the freedom to have the entire book at your fingertips.

There are many reasons to upgrade your license, including:
* More frequencies -- The General class licensee has access to more bands.
* More communications options -- As you access the General frequencies, you now have many more ways to make contacts on new modes and with new groups of hams. Your new skills are also valuable to your emergency team or club.
* New technical opportunities -- With your new General class privileges, you now have many more ways of assembling and operating a station. The effects of the ionosphere and solar conditions will become second nature. Your improved technical understanding of how radio works will make you a more knowledgeable and skilled operator.
* More fun -- The traditional activities of ragchewing, DXing and contesting continue to attract hams as they have for decades. You'll find that even familiar activities take on new and interesting aspects on the HF bands.

Not only does upgrading your license grant you more privileges, but your experiences will be much broader. You'll enjoy Amateur Radio in ways that hams have pioneered and fostered for generations. These new privileges are well worth the effort.

By earning your General class license, you will gain access to nearly all amateur frequencies. Remember: There are no bands on which a General class licensee can't transmit! As a more experienced ham, your wider knowledge will allow you to experiment with, modify and build equipment and antennas to improve your communications abilities.

The "ARRL General Class License Course" with CD-ROM is available from the ARRL for only $74.95 <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1387>. This course is valid for exams given until June 30, 2011.

Minimum System Requirements for CD-ROM -- Microsoft Windows Vista/XP/2000/NT/98/95 or Apple OS X; 200 MHz processor; 32 MB RAM; sound card and speakers; 4-speed CD-ROM drive or higher. Requires Web

browser -- Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0, Mozilla Firefox 2.0, Apple Safari 3.0 or later versions. Some documents require Adobe Reader.

==> CONTESTER/DXER PAULO CORTESE, I2UIY (SK)

Well-known contester, DXer, and QST and NCJ author Paolo Cortese, I2UIY, passed away from a brain aneurysm the weekend of October 11. He was 48. According to fellow contester Doug Grant, K1DG, Cortese was the "most popular competitor" at the first WRTC in Seattle in 1990 <http://www.ncjweb.com/w2gd_a.pdf>.

"His big laugh and constant kidding around really made everyone smile," remembered Grant. "Everyone will tell you that he was a big man with a big heart, a big appetite for life (both literally and figuratively) and one of the biggest and most enthusiastic cheerleaders for ham radio in general -- and contesting specifically -- anywhere in the world."

Cortese served as log-checker for many contests, including the European Sprints, CQ WPX RTTY and CQWW RTTY, and was an active DX advisor to the CQ World Wide Contest Committee, translating the rules into Italian. Grant said that as manager of the Associazione Radioamatori Italiani (ARI, the Italian IARU Member-Society <http://www.ari.it/>) QSL bureau, "every QSL card into or out of Italy via the bureau passed through Paolo's hands."

Cortese was inducted into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame in 2008. "Paolo has been a tremendous contributor behind the scenes to contesting and ham radio," said fellow inductee Randy Thompson, K5ZD. "It was an honor to be inducted into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame with him this year."

His article, "A DXpedition to Niger" appeared in the May 2002 issue of QST.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Warms in the Sun, refreshes in the breeze" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Finally, we are seeing Solar Cycle 24 sunspots that don't emerge on one day, only to evaporate the next. That's right -- sunspots, as in two or more. On Friday, October 10, sunspot 1005 emerged at high latitude over our Sun's eastern limb; that day's sunspot number was 12. On the following day, the sunspot number rose to 16 and a solar wind emerging from a coronal hole caused a geomagnetic storm. The planetary A index rose from a quiet 3 on Friday to 37, and the mid-latitude A index was 20. The 3-hour planetary K index reached a maximum of 7 that day, a high value for that scale. Conditions have quieted again since then. On Sunday, Monday and Tuesday -- as the spot progressed toward the center-north of the solar disk -- sunspot numbers were 16, 15 and 14 as the dark spot began to fade. On Wednesday, the sunspot number faded another point to 13, but on Thursday, October 16, sunspot 1006 emerged, but this time in the southwest corner, about to rotate out of view. The sunspot number for Thursday jumped to 24. Sunspot numbers for October 9-15 were 0, 12, 16, 16, 15, 14 and 13 with a mean of 12.3. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.7, 68.9, 70.8, 70.1, 70.9, 70.4 and 70.9 with a mean of

70.1. The Estimated planetary A indices were 2, 3, 37, 13, 9, 4 and 8 with a mean of 10.9. The Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 1, 2, 20, 10, 7, 3 and 7 with a mean of 7.1. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Alexander Pope's "Essay on Man" <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/2428>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This week is the ARRL EME International Competition on October 18-19 and the ARRL School Club Roundup from October 20-24. The NCCC Sprint is October 17 and the Feld Hell Sprint is October 18. Look for the JARTS WW RTTY Contest, the ARCI Fall QSO Party, the Worked All Germany Contest, the Stew Perry Topband Challenge, the W/VE Islands QSO Party, the PODXS 070 Club 160 Meter Great Pumpkin Sprint and the 50 MHz Fall Sprint to be on the air October 18-19. The Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint (CW) and the UBA ON Contest (2 Meters) are October 19. The Illinois QSO Party is October 19-20 and the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is October 20. The SKCC Sprint and the RSGB 80 Meters Club Sprint (SSB) are October 22. The NCCC Sprint is October 24. Next week is the
NCCC Sprint on October 24. The Microwave Fall Sprint is October 25 (local time). The CQ Worldwide DX Contest (SSB) and the 10-10 International Fall Contest are October 25-26. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, November 9, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, November 21, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted

through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

* ARRL On-Line Auction Begins Preview Week: The Third Annual ARRL On-Line Auction began its preview week on Thursday, October 16 <http://www.arrl.org/auction>. With more than 160 items up for bid -- with more being added every day -- this event promises to have something for just about everyone. The auction will kick off October 23 and runs until October 31 on the ARRL Web site. This year's auction will again include many transceivers and other items that have appeared in the QST Product Review column and have thus been thoroughly tested by the ARRL Lab. According to ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, "Last year's online auction -- our second -- proved to be a successful and enjoyable event for both hams and ARRL staff members alike. When the bidding ended, we realized that we had sold 162 items and sold just over $50,000 worth of merchandise." Proceeds from the auction benefit ARRL education programs including activities to license new hams, strengthen Amateur Radio's emergency service training, offer continuing technical and operating education, as well as create instructional materials.

* E-mails Asking for Personal Information Are Not from ARRL: We have received several reports from ARRL members with arrl.net e-mail accounts who have recently been contacted via e-mail asking for personal information, such as user names and passwords. Please be assured that these e-mails are fraudulent attempts at "phishing" <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phishing> and did not originate from ARRL. According to ARRL Information Technology Manager Don Durand, "This is a very crude attempt at phishing, using an easily determined spoof of the originating/return address. There is never a time when we would ask via mass e-mail for user names and passwords of arrl.net users. There is simply no need to ever do so." If you receive an e-mail asking for personal information and it looks like it originated from ARRL, please do not respond, just delete it.

* Hams Can Help Scientists Study Shrikes: For the second year, scientists are asking ham radio operators and VHF monitoring enthusiasts to assist in scientific studies of Eastern Loggerhead Shrikes <http://www.shrike.ca/index.html>. If you live in an eastern state and can tune away from the ham bands for a few minutes a day, you could help scientists study this endangered bird species. Every year, these birds leave their captive breeding program in Ontario, Canada, but fewer and fewer are returning in the spring. Researchers at the University of Guelph in Ontario have placed radio tags on 20 young shrikes. Although the primary purpose of the tags is to determine dispersal patterns -- the movements the birds make immediately after leaving their nests -- scientists also hope that more may be learned about the birds' fall migration journey. Scientists think the birds will fly south to Florida, but they might also overwinter in Tennessee, North Carolina and states

just south of there. You can help by tuning in regularly to the tag frequencies, which are between 172-173 MHz. The complete frequency list is published here <http://www.homingin.com/>, along with articles to help you distinguish the pulsed tags from other signals you may hear. Please listen now, as migration is under way; the radio tag batteries will only function until the end of November. -- Joe Moell, K0OV, ARRL ARDF Coordinator

* ARRL to Participate in Combined Federal Campaign: For the seventh year running, the US Office of Personnel Management has designated the ARRL to participate in the 2008 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) <http://www.opm.gov/cfc/>. In the past, this campaign for federal government civilian employees, US Postal Service workers and members of the military has generated more than $120,000 for ARRL programs; in 2008 alone, ARRL has received $37,475 in pledges from CFC participants and direct contributions of $21,316. The CFC provides an easy way to support ARRL's effort to represent its members and all radio amateurs. Similar to the United Way, the CFC encourages individuals to pledge by payroll deduction to non-profit organizations of their choice. The ARRL encourages eligible radio amateurs to consider the League when designating campaign recipients. Payroll deduction through the CFC is an easy way for participants to support ARRL over and above their annual membership. Such contributions support programs that are not funded by member dues, enriching ARRL's ability to serve its members and all of Amateur Radio. Those wishing to select the ARRL to receive all or part of their payroll deductions should designate organization 10099 when completing their CFC donor forms. Donations to ARRL can be designated for Diamond Club contributions, the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund or the ARRL Education & Technology Program. Donors may also make unrestricted contributions to the League. One important note: Since the CFC does not provide the ARRL with the names of individual donors, the ARRL Development Office <k1mmh@arrl.org>; would appreciate a copy of the donor form to ensure that each contribution is applied according to the donor's wishes and the contribution or pledge can be properly acknowledged. The 2008 CFC ends December 15.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

1058. Re: Those pesky newcomers...

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-18 02:28:17 UTC
From: N2EY@aol.com
Message-ID: <9a6b1976-9ec0-462e-909f-b10a02896a86@t54g2000hsg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2329

On Oct 16, 8:25 pm, Jeffrey D Angus <jan...@socal.rr.com> wrote:

> James went on to suggest letting the noobs jump right in to the
> fray as it were rather than restricting them to portions of the
> bands. Well, I guess he should be pleased, "incentive licensing"
> completely with Novice Bands have come and gone.

I think you may be conflating a couple of bits of history there.

The Novice license wasn't in 1951 created to restrict newcomers. It was created to encourage them. There was never a requirement that newcomers start out with a Novice license.

The idea was that instead of having to learn enough Morse Code, theory, regulations and operating practice to pass the General/ Conditional, newcomers could choose to get the much-easier Novice and learn by doing. But since the Novice had much less comprehensive test requirements, its privileges were reduced as well.

Not only that, but until the mid-1970s, the Novice was a nonrenewable one-time-only license, which emphasized its learner's-permit concept.

OTOH, the changes that came to be known as "incentive licensing", with the maze of subbands-by-license-class, did not come into effect until late 1968, and had nothing to do with the Novice license.

All ancient history now.

Yes, some things do not change. All that's needed to verify that is to read some of the "Rotten Radio" stories by T.O.M.

73 de Jim, N2EY

1059. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-22 06:00:04 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1224655201@panix.com>
Source record: 2330
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

1060. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-22 06:05:02 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1224655501@panix.com>
Source record: 2331
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

1061. ALERT: Release of Newsline 1628 Delayed Due To W5KWQ Landing

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-24 09:32:21 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20081024022833.01691c20@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2332
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

We are delaying the release of newscast 1628 several hours because of the landing of Richard Garriott W5KWQ in a few hours. A soon as that story is recorded and inserted into the newscast, it will be released. Look for it at about 1 PM EDT / 10 AM PDT.

Thanks

Bill / WA6ITF

1062. The ARRL Letter, Vol. 27, No. 42 (Friday, October 24, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-24 15:56:32 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20081024154609.7A2CC30D9F@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2333
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 42
October 24, 2008
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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, <k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> ARRL FILES PETITION WITH FCC AGAINST EXPERIMENTAL LICENSE USING 40 METER BAND

On Monday, October 20, the ARRL filed a "Petition for Modification or Cancellation of Experimental Authorization" ("Petition") <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/Digital_Aurora_Radio_Technologies_Petition_10_20_08.pdf> with the FCC with respect to WE2XRH. According to the FCC, this experimental license -- issued to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies (DART) -- proposes to "test digital transmissions in 4.50-5.10 MHz, 7.10-7.60 MHz and 9.25-9.95 MHz for a terrestrial digital radio service to the citizens of Alaska."

The League's petition states that DART's hopes that this experimentation "will lead to a terrestrial, high-frequency (HF) digital aural (domestic broadcast) service in Alaska. Ostensibly to study the operation of this 'shortwave' system at high latitudes, and apparently in order to roll out this domestic broadcast service, DART specifies exceptionally high power operation in various segments of the HF spectrum. ARRL's interest in this matter is limited to the fact that the experimental license includes the band 7.1 -7.3 MHz...allocated domestically exclusively to the Amateur Radio Service."

"It is astonishing that the FCC would grant this experimental license for operation at such a high power level in a band that is allocated exclusively to a service with which such operation is clearly incompatible," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "The only possible explanation is that it was an error; the only reasonable step for the FCC to take is to correct its error immediately, either by cancelling the license or by amending the frequency ranges to delete 7.1 -7.3 MHz."

It is the ARRL's view that "Simply stated, there is a 100 percent certainty of severe, continuous, harmful interference from operation of the DART facilities as authorized by the Commission to ongoing Amateur Radio operation at 7.1 to 7.3 MHz. This authorization must be modified immediately (if not cancelled completely), so as to delete the band 7.1-7.3 MHz" from DART's experimental license application.

DART has been permitted operation in the 7.1-7.6 MHz band using a 20 kHz bandwidth digital emission at a transmitter output power of 100 kW and an ERP of 660 kW within a radius of 1500 kilometers of Delta Junction, Alaska. In the petition, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, points out that while DART says it will coordinate with the High Frequency Coordination Conference (HFCC) <http://www.hfcc.org/>, "[i]t does not propose any coordination with any individual or entity in the Amateur Service. There is no showing whatsoever how DART proposes to avoid interference to Amateur Radio operation at 7.1-7.3 MHz. In fact, there is no indication that DART is even aware of the allocation."

Calling the 40 meter band "perhaps the most heavily-utilized Amateur HF band in the United States," the ARRL states that it can see "no compatible use that DART can make of this band in any state or territory of the United States, at any time of the day or night" and that such use will cause "preclusive interference" to amateurs using that portion of the band. "The entire 7.0 - 7.3 MHz band is used heavily within Alaska, especially by radio amateurs located in its remotest areas, at all times. It is particularly critical in times of emergency due to its daytime and nighttime propagation characteristics. The band is also used at all times of the day and night for worldwide communications by radio amateurs."

The League's "Petition" points out that the FCC's Rules at Section 5.83(b) state that experimental license grants are subject to change or cancellation by the Commission at any time without hearing if in the Commission's discretion the need for such action arises: "ARRL submits

that this application should never have been granted as applied for in the first place, and there is an urgent need to prohibit operation of the DART high power transmitters in the entirety of the 7.1-7.3 MHz band. It is likely that DART has been under a misapprehension that the band is among the international broadcast allocations, because, in ITU Regions 1 and 3, the band is allocated to that Service. However, in Region 2, in Alaska, it is not." After March 29, 2009, 7.1-7.2 MHz will not be available for broadcasting anywhere.

The League goes on to say that Section 5.85 of the Commission's Rules governs the selection and use of frequencies by holders of experimental authorizations and adamantly states that "there is no justification submitted by DART for the use of the frequency bands requested, particularly with respect to 7.1-7.3 MHz. It is unclear why such large segments of spectrum were specified by DART, given its stated course of experimentation, and given its narrow occupied bandwidth" and notes that DART "should have been required to conduct its frequency coordination efforts in advance of the filing of its application."

The ARRL contends that DART's proposed facility cannot meet the FCC's requirements, as outlined in the Commission's Rules, Section 5.111(a)(2), "and there is no showing that the transmitter power is the lowest practical value consistent with the program of experimentation. Nor has it even taken Amateur Radio operation into account." This portion of the Rules state that when transmitting, the experimental licensee "must use every precaution to ensure that the radio frequency energy emitted will not cause harmful interference to the services carried on by stations operating in accordance with the Table of Frequency Allocations of part 2 of this chapter and, further, that the power radiated is reduced to the lowest practical value consistent with the program of experimentation for which the station authorization is granted. If harmful interference to an established radio service develops, the licensee shall cease transmissions and such transmissions shall not be resumed until it is certain that harmful interference will not be caused."

Calling for DART's WE2XRH experimental license to "be cancelled entirely, or at least modified so as to delete the reference to any Amateur HF allocation," the ARRL reminded the FCC that DART failed to make any showing as to how it would avoid interference to Amateur Radio operation at 7.1-7.3 MHz: "ARRL submits that such a showing could not be made in any case."

==> ARRL ANNOUNCES NEW YOUTH EDITOR

Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, of Prairie Village, Kansas, has been named as the new ARRL Youth Editor and will write the Youth@HamRadio.Fun column <http://www.arrl.org/news/youth/>. MacLachlan, who turns 14 next week, takes over from Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, as she continues her education at the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech). Amateur Radio runs in the MacLachlan family -- 12 family members are hams. "I got interested in ham radio through Boy Scouts," MacLachlan said, "but it

was with family support that I got licensed."

An ARRL member, MacLachlan was first licensed in February 2006. "I passed my Technician and decided I might as well get the code out of the way at the same time," he said. "I came home that afternoon with my CSCE and began the cycle of looking at radios, checking their price and then checking to see if I was in the database. Finally, after what felt like a year, but was really just a few days, I learned my call: KC0VVU."

Using an old handheld transceiver that his uncle, Phillip Fry, WD0FHK, loaned him, MacLachlan quickly got on the air. "I soon learned that I wasn't going to get into any repeaters from my room, so I put on a jacket and went outside to brave a February evening to talk on the radio," he said. "It was worth it! But it wasn't long that I got restless with being restricted to VHF/UHF -- I wanted to be able to talk around the world! I decided it was time to get to work on getting my General class license. I studied for two weeks and passed that test in April 2006 at a local hamfest."

MacLachlan said he remembers "getting on HF and gleefully calling CQ every afternoon." But soon, he said, he caught the DX bug: "I was satisfied with stateside QSOs, but not for long. I had heard about DX hunters, and the 'last 25,' so after doing some research, I knew I'd need my Amateur Extra license to get those contacts. After about a year of procrastinating, I decided it was time to start studying for my Extra. I think late January 2007 was one of the happiest times of my ham career: I had passed my Extra! Later that year, I changed my call to KU0DM. The KU is for University of Kansas (go Jayhawks!) and the DM is for my initials."

Since then, MacLachlan has become active in public service and emergency communications. "I feel that it is very important to provide Amateur Radio communications when asked or needed and that we do it in a way that is efficient for the operation and that respects accepted practice on the bands. I am currently the coordinator for the Johnson County ARES Rapid Response Team. My job is to assemble a roster of amateurs who are ready to respond at moment's notice to any disaster or request to aid in communications."

Outside of public service, MacLachlan, who calls himself a "big APRS geek," enjoys helping to build and maintain repeaters and digipeaters, trying to get the most range and reliability out of them. "I am a huge DXer," he said. "My total is currently at 110 entities (with a dipole and 100 W). When I get the chance, I'll put in an effort for almost any contest. I mainly operate SSB, but am getting up to speed on my CW after a year-long hiatus. I also enjoy weak-signal/sound card modes on HF and spend a lot of my time on PSK31 or RTTY. My favorite band is 15 meters. It is really almost always open, but people just don't use it."

Outside of ham radio, MacLachlan is an 8th grader at Indian Hills Middle School: "I enjoy football, basketball, climbing, swimming, listening to music and just spending time with friends and family. I am a Life Scout

with Boy Scout Troop 91 and am working toward my Eagle Scout rank. I also am a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. I'm always looking ahead to see what's next in life and Amateur Radio!"

The two previous ARRL youth editors -- Hartlage and Brian Mileshosky, N5ZGT -- have both received the prestigious Hiram Percy Maxim Award from the ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/hpm.html>, as well as "Amateur Radio Newsline's" Young Ham of the Year Award (YHOTY). Hartlage was also awarded the Goldfarb Scholarship <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/04/12/101/> from the ARRL Foundation in 2007. Mileshosky currently serves as Rocky Mountain Division Director; he is the youngest to be elected ARRL Vice Director and Director.

==> ARRL HOSTS AMATEUR RADIO CLASSROOM FOR USTTI STUDENTS

Students from Kenya, The Gambia, Ghana, The Philippines, Honduras, Dominica and Nepal attended the United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI) Amateur Radio Administration Course (ARAC) <http://ustti.org/courses/display.php3?CourseID=332> at ARRL Headquarters October 13-17. ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, coordinated the session and led the course. ARRL Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer and Meeting Planner Lisa Kustosik, KA1UFZ, coordinated with ARRL's participation with USTTI.

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, led the classes on the first day. According to Price, the students work in their respective government telecommunications offices dealing with telecommunications and Amateur Radio testing, licensing and monitoring. "Our seven students -- Fitzroy Pascal (Dominica), Purushottam Prasad Khanal (Nepal), Godfrey Odipo (Kenya), Eriberta Tamoro (The Philippines), Paola Michelle Pascua Cantarero (Honduras), Constance Takyi (Ghana) and Rodine Renner (The Gambia) -- made the trek to Newington," said Price. "The curriculum covered a wide variety of Amateur Radio topics and concerns, including licensing, spectrum requirements, disaster communications and antenna requirements." The curriculum also covered the ITU and its regulations, as well as the process leading to the 2011 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-11).

"All seven students took a keen interest in how the Amateur Radio Service has developed through its history and continues to develop today," Price said. "There was a particular interest in RFI issues, and students were receptive to our ideas for resolving these issues."

Numerous ARRL HQ staff assisted with the course. VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM; Assistant VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O, and Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, covered US Amateur Radio Licensing Structure and the VEC program. Dennis Dura, K2DCD, presented the Disaster Communications module, and ARRL Publications Manager and QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, spoke on HF digital communications and Amateur Radio satellites.

ARRL Laboratory staff members -- Mike Gruber, W1MG; Bob Allison, WB1GCM; Zack Lau, W1VT, and Ed Hare, W1RFI -- also contributed to the training effort. Hare and Gruber delivered presentations on RFI and RF safety, while Lau demonstrated 10 GHz equipment. Gruber and Allison assisted the students in assembling 40 meter receivers.

The Amateur Radio Administration Course is designed for those in developing countries who regulate and manage their countries' Amateur Radio Service. The course is intended to help participants create, administer and foster an Amateur Radio Service in their home countries. Now in its 26th year, USTTI is a nonprofit venture involving leading US-based communications and information technology corporations, as well as leaders in the federal government, cooperating to provide tuition-free management, policy and technical training for talented professionals from the developing world <http://ustti.org/>. ARRL has been offering the ARAC with USTTI for 24 years.

==> THE "DOCTOR IS IN" THE ARRL LETTER

This week, ARRL Letter readers are in luck! The ARRL's very own Doctor, author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is IN," answers a question from his mailbag:

Jim Kueck, KC9LMO, of Long Grove, Illinois, asks: I greatly enjoyed the article about feeding a dipole with low loss balanced line in July 2008 QST. I have put up a half wave 40 meter dipole fed with 300 Ohm twin lead, with an antenna tuner at the radio. This $15 antenna has worked very well on 40 and 20 meters, with many European contacts logged using just 100 W.

Is there any concern about having RF in the shack with the twinlead as a feed line? I have read that a long wire antenna can pose this problem and want to be sure that I'm not slow cooking myself with this feed line going right in back of my operating position.

The Doctor Answers -- The short answer is no, but the long answer is longer! If the dipole is fed in the center, the two sides are at the same height and the transmission line is perpendicular to the antenna, the currents on the two sides of the balanced transmission line will be equal and opposite and there is virtually no radiation outside of an imaginary tube a few times the wire spacing around the wires.

If all of those conditions are not met, there may be some radiation from the line, but it will generally be a small portion of the total signal. Note that if you were to feed the dipole with coax, if you didn't have a balun at the antenna, the current on the outside of the shield would likely be higher than that from a not quite balanced dipole fed with balanced line. Note also that the pickup on a transmission line that is not perpendicular to the antenna would be about the same on coax as balanced line.

So my conclusion is that balanced line and coax are about the same in this regard, as long as you stay more than a few inches from the line -- it can have high RF voltage in places. If you notice effects of large

common mode currents on you feed line -- typically a hot chassis or RF feedback -- you will want to address them for many reasons, but even then I have trouble imagining an RF safety issue especially at the 100 W level.

One caution worth mentioning is that twinlead may be more susceptible to picking up RFI as it works its way to the tuner. Make sure you keep it as far as possible from your PC or other potential RFI generators.

Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via e-mail <doctor@arrl.org>; or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST, the official journal of the ARRL.

==> GET READY FOR THE ARRL NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES

This year marks the 75th running of the premier domestic contest, the ARRL CW Sweepstakes <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/novss.html>. According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, the event started back in 1929 as a competition for handling formal traffic messages and is one of the oldest traditions in Amateur Radio. "The contest exchange contains more elements than usual, an homage to the traffic-handling days of yore," he said. "If you have never participated in Sweepstakes, you are really missing out on some serious fun! A complete primer by ARRL Contributing Editor H. Ward Silver, N0AX, on how to participate in Sweepstakes can be found in the Radiosport supplement in the October 2008 issue of QST."

Kutzko said that since 2008 is the 75th running of Sweepstakes, ARRL is anticipating record levels of participation and many prizes will be available for those who participate: "We'll have a special magnet that will be sent free to all stations that submit a log with 75 of the 80 ARRL and RAC Sections worked. As in previous years, those who submit logs with at least 100 contacts will be able to purchase Participation Pins."

The major challenge in Sweepstakes is to work all 80 ARRL/RAC Sections; this is known as a "Clean Sweep." "This year, we will be awarding a Clean Sweep whisk broom to all stations that make a Clean Sweep," Kutzko said. "Brooms were last available in 1983, the 50th running of Sweepstakes. In addition to the free brooms, Clean Sweep coffee mugs will also be available for purchase. This year's mug will be fine etched glass and will truly be a collector's item."

Thanks to ICOM America <http://www.icomamerica.com/>, the Principal Award Sponsor of the November Sweepstakes, certificates will be awarded for first place in each of the 80 ARRL/RAC Sections for all six entry categories; plaques will be available to the overall winners in each entry category, as well as the winners in each Division. "ICOM has provided plaques and certificates for Sweepstakes winners since 2005, and we are grateful for their support over the years," Kutzko said.

"Certain Sections are always rare for Sweepstakes, especially on CW," Kutzko pointed out. "VY0/VY1/VE8 (Northern Territories), VE1-VE9-VY2 (Maritimes), VE2 (Quebec), VE4 (Manitoba), VE5 (Saskatchewan), VO1-VO2 (Newfoundland-Labrador), Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming always seem to be highly sought after. If you live in one of these places (or want to travel there), this is a golden opportunity for you to be the 'rare DX.' Stations in these Sections get to hear 'Thanks for the Sweep!' more than once during the weekend. Even if your CW is rusty or your station is modest, your effort to put a rare Section on the air during CW Sweepstakes will be appreciated by every single station that works you."

Whether you want to go for a Top 10 finish, or simply get on the air to hand out a few QSOs or work on your Worked All States Award (WAS) <http://www.arrl.org/awards/was/>, Kutzko said the November CW Sweepstakes is guaranteed fun and excitement. Be sure to check out the complete rules and entry forms. Come be a part of one of Amateur Radio's finest traditions <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/novss.html>.

==> NEXT ROUND OF PAVE PAWS MITIGATION CONTACTS BEGIN

On October 22, the FCC notified the ARRL that they would immediately begin making direct contact with owners or trustees of approximately 40 repeaters. The US Air Force identified these repeaters earlier this year as contributors to the harmful interference affecting the Beale Air Force Base PAVE PAWS radar installation near Sacramento, California.

"ARRL understands that contact with individual amateurs will be made from the DFCC's San Francisco office," said ARRL Regulatory Information Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The owners of these newly identified repeaters will be provided the operating parameters determined by the Air Force engineering unit's testing to be necessary to mitigate the interference. The owners will be requested to meet signal strength limits as soon as possible. The ARRL Lab and staff are available to answer specific questions for the owners of these newly identified repeaters and to provide technical information to assist them in implementing the mitigation."

Henderson said that as the Amateur Radio Service is a secondary user on the 70 cm band, "It is important for amateurs to remember that it is 100 percent our responsibility to eliminate harmful interference to the primary user. While we realize that this is and will continue to be an ongoing process, this third round of mitigation should mean that each of the known repeaters in the affected area has been tested at least once. How the FCC will address approximately 50 repeaters previously identified as interference contributors -- but which have not apparently completed the required modifications -- still remains. Nor is it clear when a process by which new coordinations can be issued in the area might commence."

Henderson reminded amateurs that "It is important to remember that this isn't a one-time solution. The amateur community needs to remain aware of this problem and responsibly utilize the band in the future to avoid

any large-scale problems such as those we have experienced in this situation."

==>PENSION PROTECTION ACT STREAMLINES CHARITABLE DONATIONS FROM IRAS

The ARRL Development Office notes that legislation was signed on October 3, 2008 in conjunction with the Economic Stimulus Bill of 2008 to include the immediate and retroactive extension of the popular charitable contribution a provision of the Pension Protection Act (PPA) of 2006.

Certain IRA holders may give something back to Amateur Radio by donating to the Spectrum Defense Fund, the ARRL Education and Technology Fund or the ARRL Diamond Club. The Diamond Club provides flexible funding for a variety of programs not supported by member dues.

"Individuals who are at least 70-1/2 and support nonprofits of their choice may use IRA or Roth IRA assets as a convenient, tax-efficient source to make contributions while conserving non-IRA assets," ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, points out. "Contributions must be made directly from the IRA to the organization, not to a donor-advised fund, gift annuity or trust." Hobart says contributions of up to $100,000 may be made annually during each of the next two years -- by December 31, 2008 and again next year by December 31, 2009. "A direct contribution from an IRA to a qualified organization is excluded from income," she emphasizes. "We have received significant support through this program. I hope donors will take advantage of this renewed giving opportunity in 2008 -- and again next year!"

This two-year program expires December 31, 2009. Hobart urges prospective donors to consult with a financial advisor before taking advantage of this opportunity. Contact Hobart <mhobart@arrl.org> for more information or call 860-594-0397. You can also visit the ARRL's PPA Web site <http://www.arrl.org/development/ppa.html#top> for more information.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This week, the NCCC Sprint on October 24. The Microwave Fall Sprint is October 25 (local time). The CQ Worldwide DX Contest (SSB) and the 10-10 International Fall Contest are October 25-26. Next week, look for the ARRL Sweepstakes Contest (CW) on November 1-3. The NCCC Sprint is October 31 and the IPARC Contest (CW) is November 1. The Ukrainian DX Contest is November 1-2. The IPARC Contest (SSB), the High Speed Club CW Contest and the DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest are all November 2. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event

Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, November 9, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, November 21, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

* Third Annual ARRL On-Line Auction Begins: The Third Annual ARRL On-Line Auction kicked off Thursday, October 23 <http://www.arrl.org/auction >. With almost 200 items up for bid, this event promises to have something for just about everyone. This year's auction will again include many transceivers and other items, including items that have appeared in the QST Product Review column, and have thus been thoroughly tested by the ARRL Lab. According to ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, "Last year's online auction -- our second -- proved to be a successful and enjoyable event for both hams and ARRL staff members alike. When the bidding ended, we realized that we had sold 162 items and sold just over $50,000 worth of merchandise." Proceeds from the auction benefit ARRL education programs including activities to license new hams, strengthen Amateur Radio's emergency service training, offer continuing technical and operating education, as well as create instructional materials. The auction runs through Friday, October 31 on the ARRL Web site.

* ARRL's 500 kHz Station, WD2XSH, Wants to Hear from You: Fritz Raab, W1FR, coordinator for ARRL's 500 kHz Experimental Station, WD2XSH <http://www.500kc.com/>, reports that fall has brought lower static and good propagation, making excellent conditions for the 500 kHz experimenters. The experimental license, issued in September 2006 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/09/15/104/>, has more than 20 active stations. Raab said that last year, a second US experimental license -- WE2XGR, with five participants -- joined the project, as well as experimenters in the UK, Germany, Sweden and the Czech Republic. These stations' operating modes include CW, QRSS, PSK-31 and others. Contacts have been achieved at distances up to 1234 miles, with signals

received from all over North America, Alaska and Hawaii; trans-Atlantic reports are not uncommon. "The 500 kHz experimenters are experiencing excellent propagation conditions," Raab said. "The best time to listen is between sunset and sunrise." The operating frequencies are: WD2XSH -- 505.2-510 kHz; WE2XGR -- 505-515 kHz; UK -- 501-504 kHz, and SM, DL, OK -- 505.0-505.2 kHz. Raab requests that listeners file reception reports at the experiment's Web site so that they become part of the station's data base <http://www.500kc.com/>. Additional information can be found at the experiment's Web site and also in the July/August 2007 issue of QEX <http://www.arrl.org/qex/2007/07/raab.pdf>.

* TAPR Announces HPSDR Mercury Receiver Board: High Performance Software Defined Radio (HPSDR) is an open-source hardware and software project designed and developed by a group of enthusiasts with representation from interested experimenters worldwide. TAPR <http://www.tapr.org/> is looking for a "show of interest" to determine the production run for the new HPSDR Mercury receiver board. The assembled Mercury receiver board uses SMT parts and is manufactured in quantity by machine. If interested, please check out the HAMSDR Web site and log in <http://www.hamsdr.com/>. You will find the interest page under the <Projects><TAPR-HAMSDR> tab. Once interest has been determined, Mercury boards may be purchased from TAPR. Mercury board specifications can be found here <http://hpsdr.org/wiki/index.php?title=MERCURY>.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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1063. ARRL Letter Update - FCC Amends Experimental License

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-24 17:58:29 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20081024175804.E4B6130BB3@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2334
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

==> FCC AMENDS WE2XRH EXPERIMENTAL LICENSE

In response to the October 20 ARRL Petition for Modification or Cancellation of Experimental Authorization (Petition) concerning an experimental license issued to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies (DART) station WE2XRH, the FCC today issued an amended license that redefines one of the station's frequency ranges to eliminate conflict with the Amateur Radio Service. This revision addresses ARRL's concern that the original 7.10 to 7.60 MHz range would cause unacceptable interference to Amateur Radio operations in the 40 meter band. The amended license narrows the range to 7.30 to 7.60 MHz and gives as the reason for the change, "operation in the band 7.1-7.3 MHz will cause harmful interference to Amateur Radio Service licensees."

"We are delighted that the FCC acted so promptly to correct this error and are pleased that the matter has been resolved," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

WE2XRH will be testing a proposed domestic broadcast service using a 20 kHz bandwidth digital emission at a transmitter output power of 100 kW and an ERP of 660 kW within a radius of 1500 kilometers of Delta Junction, Alaska. According to the amended license, the transmissions will take place in the frequency ranges 4.4 to 5.1 MHz, 7.3 to 7.6 MHz and 9.25 to 9.95 MHz.

1064. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1628 - October 24, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-24 19:06:14 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20081024120515.0168de40@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2335
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1628 - October 24, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1628 with a release date of Friday, October 24th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, heads home from space after thrilling the ham community on Earth. Also, the ARRL says no to 40 meter digital broadcasting in Alaska, the man accused of murdering a ham radio couple at sea is convicted in California and a radio clubs generosity brings rescue communications to the Idaho wilderness. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1628 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: RICHARD GARRIOTT, W5KWQ, MISSION A SUCCESS FOR HAM RADIO

Its been an amazing trip into space for Richard Garriott, W5KWQ. Its also been one for ham radio operators world-wide who have had the opportunity to speak with him on-orbit. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has been following the story and has the latest:

--

Actuality: One of W5KWQ's from the ISS making final QSO's from orbit: Hear it in the MP3 version of this newscast available at www.arnewsline.org

--

As we prepare this report for this week's installment of the newscast, Richard Garriott's mission has come to a close.

And, those who worked behind the scenes to make it such a success for amateur radio are beaming.

Hundreds of contacts, thousands of Slow-Scan-Television Images, and an historic QSO between retired astronaut father (the first ham to make contacts in space) and his son, the next generation of ham from space.

Here are portions of that historic link - and we'll give you both sides of it. The QSO between Richard Garriott W5KWQ and his father, Dr. Owen Garriott, W5LFL.

--

Actuality: Excerpt of QSO audio between W5KWQ ans W5LFL - hear it in the MP3 version of this newscast available at www.arnewsline.org

--

And, imagine the thrill during the recent Scout Jamboree on the Air event when some heard this CQ:

--

Actuality: W5KWQ from the ISS calling CQ for Scouts: Hear it in the MP3 version of this newscast available at www.arnewsline.org

--

Perhaps the best way to sum up the success of the mission comes from a posting to AMSAT and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program personnel.

It's from David Barber G8OQW, who was among those to get a QSO with Richard and capture some 40 SSTV images from the space station.

Barber wrote with appreciation of what he described as the boundless exuberance Richard Garriott displayed during his stay aboard the ISS.

Quoting here: "Richard's (and the support teams) contribution has been immense. His QSOs have been carried out succinctly and with professionalism, his voice filled with contagious enthusiasm."

And, Barber continued, "The SSTV has been a triumph again due to the unstinting dedication of Richard and his support team."

Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, is AMSAT's vice president for Human Spaceflight programs, and the ARISS International Chairman.

In a posting that has been widely circulated, Bauer called it a stellar and an historic week for Amateur Radio on the International Space Station.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, following the journey of W5KWQ, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia

--

25 years ago Owen Garriott, W5LFL, opened to door to space for all of amateur radio. Now, in 2008, his son Richard, W5KWQ, has taken manned ham radio space operations to a whole new level. This by sharing his on-orbit experience with all of us here on Earth.

(Story by ARNewsline(tm) with on-orbit audio supplied by Scott Avery, WA6LIE and Stan Vandiver, W4SV. W5LFL to W5KWQ QSO excerpt from Richard Garriott in Space website. The complete QSO is at http://www.richardinspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=Multimedia_Gallery.welcome)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: W5KWQ SSTV IMAGES ON YOUTUBE

Slow Scan TV images and audio clips from Richard Garriott W5KKQ's Amateur Radio operation from the International Space Station are now available on YouTube dot com. The video is presented in SSTV format as it was received in Robot 36 mode on a downlink frequency of 145.800 MHz FM. You can see and hear it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=mW9DXHkKpNo

Also more audio and video clips are on line at Richard Garriott's own website at http://www.richardinspace.com (Southgate, ARNewsline(tm))

**

THE HAWKES CASE: DELEON CONVICTED OF MURDERING COUPLE AT SEA

Back on Earth, a California jury has convicted Skylar Deleon of murdering three people. Two of them were amateur radio operators. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the details:

--

A jury in Orange County, California has convicted Skylar Deleon of the special circumstances murder-for-profit of Thomas and Jackie Hawks, KD7VWJ and KD7VWK off the coast Newport Beach. Deleon was also found guilty of the murder of John Jarvi whose body was found in Mexico.

It took the jury less than 2 hours on Monday October 20th to reach its decision of guilty on all counts. Deleon's attorney Gary Pohlson had conceded from the outset that Deleon was guilty but should not be put to death.

After court let out, attorney Pohlson told reporters that during the penalty phase of the trial that he would try to convince the jury to spare his client's life. This, by having Deleon's relatives and doctors testify during the punishment phase about his troubled past.

The prosecution is demanding that Deleon be put to death. Its expected to present witnesses to refute the defense claims. There's also a chance that members of the Hawkes family will present testimony requesting that Deleon pay the ultimate price for his crimes.

The penalty phase of the trial began on Wednesday, October 22nd. Jurors are still deliberating as we go to air. More for you next week.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

The jury's recommendation will be imposed on Deleon at a formal sentencing hearing before Superior Court Judge Frank F. Fasel who was the trial judge in the case. (ARNewsline(tm) from published news reports)

**

RADIO LAW: ARRL OPPOSES DIGITAL RBROADCASTING ON 40 METERS IN ALASKA

The ARRL is saying no to Digital Aurora Technologies proposed operation in the 40 meter band.

On Monday, October 20th, the League filed a Petition for Modification or Cancellation of Experimental Authorization with respect to license WE2XRH. This is an experimental license issued to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies that proposes to test digital transmissions in 4.50 to 5.10 MHz, 7.10 to 7.60 MHz and 9.25 to 9.95 MHz bands for a terrestrial digital radio service to the citizens of Alaska.

The ARRL says that its interest in this matter is limited to the fact that the experimental license includes the band 7.1 to7.3 MHz. This is a spectrum parcel that is allocated domestically exclusively to the Amateur Radio Service.

The ARRL says that in its view that there is a 100% certainty of severe, continuous, harmful interference from Digital Aurora Radio Technologies operation of the facilities as authorized by the Commission to ongoing Amateur Radio operation in the 40 meter band. It says that this authorization must be modified immediately if not cancelled completely. This, so as to delete the band 7.1 to 7.3 MHz from the experimental license application. (ARRL)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W2CNY repeater serving Syracuse, New York.

(5 sec pause here)

**

WORLDBEAT - SINGAPORE: NEW VISITORS LICENSE ANNOUNCED

Its now official. The Singapore licensing authority has now announced that temporary amateur licenses are available to radio amateurs visiting Singapore.

The application should be made three weeks before arrival and the license is typically valid for a three months period. A fee of 50 Singapore Dollars will be charged.

The application process and forms are posted on the Singapore Infocommunications Development Authority government website. Visitors must use their callsign preceded by Singapores 9V1 prefix while on the air. (Southgate)

**

RESCUE RADIO: FCC PROPOSES AMMENED 700 MHS EMCOMM BROADBAND PLAN

Yet another new interoperable radio system has been proposed by the FCC. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with the details:

--

In what the FCC calls a sustained commitment to help solve the nation's communications challenges currently faced by America's first responders, the Federal Communications Commission has adopted a Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. One that proposes licensing the D Block spectrum at 700 MHz as part of a revised public and private partnership that will maximize the public safety and commercial benefits nationwide through the creation of an interoperable broadband network.

In its recent press release, the FCC says that like in its first attempt the spectrum for this interoperable emergency communications system will be put up for auction. As such, the Notice also proposes to retain a so called public and private partnership framework for the project. This, absent other sources of funding.

The Notice also proposes that a Public Safety Broadband Licensee should remain a non-profit entity. As such, certain restrictions will need to be imposed on its business relationships to avoid the potential for conflicts of interest.

The FCC says that its primary goal is to promote the deployment of such a broadband network that provides maximum coverage to first responders across the country. The N-P-R-M also presents a number of specific proposals with regard to the rules governing public safety users and the Public Safety Broadband Licensee's. This includes such specifics as eligible users of the public safety broadband spectrum must be providers of public safety services as defined under federal law.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

--

There was no real interest in the private sector in supporting such a system the first time an attempt was made to auction this spectrum. Some observers feel that it will be no different this time around as the nation heads into some bad economic times. (ARNewsline(tm) From FCC release)

**

RESCUE RADIO: RADIO CLUB PROVIDES WILDERNESS REPEATERS IN IDAHO

Two new repeaters dedicated to rescue service are now up and running in Idaho's Wood River Valley and Sawtooth National Forest. This, thanks to the dedication of members of the Wood River Amateur Radio Club that spent $15,000 installing two radio systems.

According to a news report on KTVB television, the recently installed radio relay units are located on Mount Baldy and Galena Summit. The news report says that they are filling the gap in emergency response that was desperately lacking in the Sawtooth National Forest which is a dead zone for cellular telephone service. The report also noted that prior to the installation of the repeaters, that direct point to point radio communication was frequently impossible. (KTVB Television)

**

RESCUE RADIO: FALLBROOK CA. HONORS HAM RADIO WILDFIRE EMCOMMS

Southern California's Fallbrook Amateur Radio Club was recently honored for its contributions during last year's 10,000 acre wildfire. Called the Rice Fire, the blaze destroyed 206 homes, two commercial buildings and 40 outbuildings in and around the Fallbrook area.

Now, Fire Chief Bill Metcalf has acknowledged several groups that provided valuable help when the town of Fallbrook was evacuated. First on his list was the Fallbrook Amateur Radio Club which Chief Metcalf said put its people in the city's Emergency Operations Center and helped with communications.

Chief Metcalf termed the club as being a great group of community volunteers who function behind the scenes. He said that his hat is off to the Fallbrook Amateur Radio Club for a job well done.

The fire chief added that he and his staff are currently looking at ways to strengthen the clubs involvement. Fallbrook California is located North of the city of San Diego. (W6VR)

**

RESCUE RADIO: NEW CAL AGENCY SHOULD ENHANCE DISASTER COMMS

A new California state law will combine two emergency response agencies into one cabinet-level organization. The merger bill was in one of 10 measures Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed on Saturday September 27th aimed at improving the states emergency response and disaster prevention.

Schwarzenegger says merging the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the State Office of Homeland Security will improve the state's ability to respond to emergencies and natural disasters. He says the new California Emergency Management Agency will be more streamlined and efficient than the two previous agencies were.

Observers say that the joining mean that communications between first responders and those backing them up should be more immediate. Also signed were several measures aimed at preventing or fighting wildfires and providing relief to disaster victims. (Published reports)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FAILURE TO OBSERVE LIGHTS LEADS TO $1600 FINE

The FCC has issued a monetary forfeiture in the amount of $1,600 to B K Towers of Manter, Kansas. This, for failure to make observations of the antenna structure's lights at least once each 24 hours, either visually or by observing an automatic indicator designed to register any failure.

Section 17.47(a) of theFCC's Rules states that the owner of any antenna structure which is registered with the Commission and has been assigned lighting specifications shall make an observation of the antenna structure's lights at least once each 24 hours. This can be done either visually or by observing an automatic properly maintained indicator

designed to register any failure of such lights.

Although an automatic alarm system was installed at the Tower, according to B K's owner, the system had not been operational for at least a year prior to September 10, 2008. BK also admitted that its system was not reliable and needed to be replaced.

Making matters worse, during the year prior to September 10, 2008, BK admitted that no employees or contractors visually inspected the Tower's lights on a daily basis. In fact, at most, BK employees made visual observations of the lighting status on only two days during the period between August 1, 2008 and September 9, 2008.

B K's response to the NAL does not dispute any of these facts. So, based on the evidence before it the FCC has found that BK willfully and repeatedly violated Section 17.47(a) of its rules by failing to observe visually the Tower lighting at east once each 24 hours, at a minimum, between August 1 and September 9, 2008.

The FCC has given B K the customary 30 days to pay the fine or to file an appeal. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FTC BUSTS ALLEGED WORLDWIDE SPAM RING

Some truly unwanted communications should soon be gone. This with word that the Federal Trade Commission has successfully shut down a global spam operation. One that that's spewed out billions of unwanted e-mails to all of us in recent years.

The FTC says the spam and its click here web sites generated more than 3 million complaints. The agency says that these sites allegedly used false claims to try to sell unsuspecting customers a wide range of products.

According to the agency's Midwest director, web site servers were located in China with many products shipped from India. Operatives on Cyprus and in the former Soviet republic of Georgia handled the processing of credit card payments. (Published reports)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC LOOLKS AT BROADBAND FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES

The FCC says that it will move forward with plans to reserve spectrum for free wireless Internet use for those who cannot otherwise afford it. According to the Washington Post, FCC Chairman Kevin Martin wants to provide some available spectrum for future free community-based wireless broadband..

Martin says that the new spectrum allocation would be used to design a broadband system for lower-income people who may not otherwise have access to the Internet. The move is opposed by large telecommunications companies such as T-Mobile, Verizon Wireless and AT&T. They claim that their

customers will experience interference from users of the new spectrum.

But a report by FCC engineers released on October 10th disputes that claim. The newspaper story says the field tests showed little if any interference would take place. (Published reports)

**

RADIO LAW: CONGRESS WANTS DIGITAL RADIO BILL

Some in congress feel its time to make every radio sold in the United States HD ready. Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, reports:

--

Massachusetts Congressional Representative Edward Markey says that he supports mandating HD Radio in any receivers that can tune in AM/FM analog and satellite radio signals.

The chairman of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet introduced the "Radio All Digital Channel Receiver Act." If passed, H.R. 7157 would require that radios used in the satellite digital radio service be capable of receiving terrestrial digital radio signals. That measure already has bipartisan support and several co-sponsors, including Representatives Republican Lee Terry, of Nebraska and Greg Walden of Oregon. Democrats in support include Texas' Charlie Gonzalez.

Markey said the recent satellite radio merger between Sirrius and X-M underscored the importance of ensuring consumer access to a diversity of sources for digital radio content. In particular content originating in their local communities.

I'm Fred Vobbe, W8HDU.

--

The legislative calendar is getting short as members of Congress prepare for the elections, so the chances of passage this year aren't good, experts believe. That said, observers believe the bill lays the groundwork for a better chance of passage next year. (RW)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: TAPR ANNOUNCES MERCURY SDR RECEIVER BOARD

Tucson Amateur Packet Radio has announced the development of a new a software Designed Receiver board code named Mercury.

The Mercury board is described as being a High Performance Software Defined Radio open-source hardware and software project. It was designed and developed by a group of enthusiasts with representation from interested experimenters worldwide.

Tucson Amateur Packet Radio says that it is looking for a show of interest in this unit to determine the production run for the new Mercury receiver board. If this unit interests you please check out http://hpsdr.org on the World Wide Web. (TAPR)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: INDIA MOON PROBE TO MAP MOONS SUB SURFACE

India will use a combination of spectral photography and ground penetrating radar to map the moons surface and sub-surface and will employ radio to send the data back to Earth. This after a launch vehicle carrying that nations Chandrayaan One moon exploration probe lifted off on Tuesday October 21st from India's spaceport launch facility.

The Chandrayaan One is scheduled to go into orbit 100 kilometers above the Moon on November 8th or 9th. It will then begin using on-board instrumentation from three countries to chart the Moons surface and its mineral composition below the surface

In addition to a three dimensional terrain-mapping camera developed by India, Chandrayaan One, is also carrying mapping instruments for the European Space Agency, radiation-measuring equipment for the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and two devices for NASA. One of these has been described as a ground penetrating radar that will look for ice deposits in the lunar poles. The other will assess the moon's overall mineral composition.

Chandrayaan One is expected to remain in Moon orbit for at least two years. During that time it will radio its findings back to the Indian Deep Space Network Campus for analyses. The spacecraft will also release a probe to take close-range images during a 25-minute descent to the Moon's surface. This Moon Impactor Probe will hopefully soft land on the moon to kick up some dust, while instruments in the craft analyze the particles.

Chandrayaan-1 is being looked at as a stepping stone for the 2010 unmanned Chandrayaan-2 mission. This one which will be in collaboration with the Russian Space Agency, will include a lander and a rover vehicle. (India Space Agency release)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: RADIO GUIDES SPACECRAFT PAST ASTROID

Radio can be amazing. Just ask the folks at the European Space Agency in Germany that are using it to guide the Rosetta deep space probe which has successfully passed close to an asteroid 250 million miles from Earth

Rosetta is billed as a space exploration mission that may bring man closer to solving the mystery of the solar system's birth than any before it. The spacecraft recently completed its flyby of the Steins asteroid, belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter .

As expected, the spacecraft's radio signal was lost for about 90 minutes as engineers turned it away from the Sun. Right on schedule the signal from Rosetta resumed and was greeted with cheers from ESA engineers and technicians. (ESA release)

**

WORLDBEAT - SOUTH AFRICA: OCTOBER EXAM HITS CLOSE TO RECORD APPLICANTS

Turning to news from around the world, South Africa has likely added almost 100 new hams to its ranks in one sitting. According to the South African Radio League a close to record 97 Students that sat for that nations October national radio written examination that took place about two week ago. Now the applicants await the test results and their callsigns if they passed the test. (SARL)

**

WORLDBEAT - IRAN: IRAN OPENS 4TH TALLEST RADIO TOWER

Iran has opened a telecommunications tower more than quarter of a mile high. The 1,427-foot Milad Tower is the world's fourth tallest communication structure. The tallest is believed to be the 1,815-foot-high C N Tower in Toronto, Canada. (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT - BELGIUM: HIGH VOLUME ON MP3 PLAYERS CAN CAUSE HEARING LOSS

Researchers in Belgium say that prolonged use of MP-3 players and similar devices at high volume can lead to sustained hearing loss. This, as they release a report that says millions of youngsters across Europe could suffer permanent hearing loss if they listen to MP3 players at too high a volume for more than five hours a week and for a prolonged time.

The study was requested by the European Commission. It tackled the concept of leisure noise such as that coming from personal music players used at very high volume.

Commission experts estimate that between 50 and 100 million people listen to portable music players on a daily basis. The report says that if they listened for only five hours a week at more than 89 decibels, they would exceed European Union limits for noise allowed in the workplace. And if they listened for longer periods, they risked permanent hearing loss after five years.

The researchers calculated the number of people in that risk category at between five and 10 percent of listeners. This means up to 10 million people in the European Union alone Sales of personal music players have soared in European Union countries in recent years. (EU release)

**

WORLDBEAT: LOOKING FOR HORKHEIMER 2009

Germany's Deutscher Amataeur Radio Soceity, that's the is looking for nominations for the 2009 Horkheimer Prize.

Rudolf Horkheimer was one of the first radio amateurs in Germany. The prize bearing his name is awarded for merit in amateur radio and its further development. The prize can be awarded to one or more persons or institutions and is not restricted to members of D-A-R-C. Any member of an amateur radio society in the IARU is entitled for proposal. Self proposals are permitted.

The prize is awarded during the opening of Ham Radio 2009 fair in Friedrichshafen, Germany. Nominations must be submitted by March 31st 2009 to Deutscher Amateur Radio Vlub. Those submitting nominations should list name and address of the amateur, a short description of why he or she has been nominated and any further information you think useful.

And here's the fine print. The decision of the jury is final and cannot be voided. If there is no fitting proposal, the prize will not be awarded. (DARC)

**

DX

In D-X, listen out for DK3TNA operating portable EA8 from the Canary Islands. Stephan is expected to show up on 80 through 10 meter using CW and SSB at 100 watts to a dipole antenna. He will be there from October 20th to November 1st. QSL via bureau to his home call.

W8GEX and his crew of 6 plan to activate Saint Barthelemy from October 16th through the 27th and should be on the air right now. The call to listen out for is TO5DX with stations on CW, SSB, PSK, SSTV and RTTY on all of the High Frequency bands. QSL via AA4NN.

HB9AON will conduct its 25th DXpedition to Liechtenstein during the CQ World Wide SSB Contest at the end of October. They will be on the air from the 18th through the 31st complete with a host of guests from Europe, the USA and Asiatic Russia. QSL as directed on the air.

Lastly, WB5ZAM will be on from St Lucia signing J68WI on 30 through 6 meters from October 16th through the 30th. QSL cards should be sent to his home call, either direct or via the bureau.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: BEWARE OF HAM RADIO PHISHERS

And finally this week, a warning that the fishers are out there and in this case we spell fishers p-h-i-s-h-e-r-s. These are electronic scam artists that want your personal information to rob you blind and they will

go to great lengths to get you to release it. Even claiming that its needed in some way for ham radio.

Now, the American Radio Relay League says that it has received several reports from members with arrl dot net e-mail accounts who have recently been contacted via e-mail asking for personal information. The League says that this includes such things as user names and passwords.

The ARRL says that these e-mails are fraudulent attempts at "phishing" and did not originate from ARRL. The League says that there is never a time when it would ask via mass e-mail for user names and passwords of arrl dot net users.

As we have said before, if you receive an e-mail asking for personal information do not respond. This even if it appears to come from some legitimate source you know and trust. Instead delete it and go on with life. Both you and your bank account will be happier that you did. (ARRL)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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1065. Changing Kenwood display

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-29 02:55:42 UTC
From: richgr@panix.com
Message-ID: <ge8jb6$3jv$1@panix5.panix.com>
Source record: 2336

I have a Kenwood TM-V7a which has developed the infamous dark vertical lines problem. I can get the replacement and even have the Kenwood part number. My question is: Has anyone reading this done this repair, and how difficult is it for someone with "moderate" soldering and serviceing experience?

--
Rich Greenberg N Ft Myers, FL, USA richgr atsign panix.com + 1 239 543 1353
Eastern time. N6LRT I speak for myself & my dogs only. VM'er since CP-67
Canines:Val, Red, Shasta & Casey (RIP), Red & Zero, Siberians Owner:Chinook-L
Retired at the beach Asst Owner:Sibernet-L

1066. Re: Changing Kenwood display

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-29 15:24:58 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <ge9v3t$1jri$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2337

Rich Greenberg wrote:
> I have a Kenwood TM-V7a which has developed the infamous dark vertical
> lines problem.

Hi Rich

What is this dark vertical line problem you speak of? As a rough guess, I'll assume it is a displa issue. I've replaced LCD panels, and you need a combination of steadiness, and being very gentle. Torsion on the display is a real killer. It isn't likely to happen, but if you're using tweezers you cana accidentally apply a lot more force than you think.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

1067. Re: Changing Kenwood display

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-30 14:08:32 UTC
From: Alan WA4SCA <ALANBIDDLE70@YAHOO.COM>
Message-ID: <1jfjg45t211u9hmg7guoj5jr19gkn1e2ct@4ax.com>
Source record: 2338

Rich,

I was lucky enough to get in one of the windows where Kenwood did the replacement for free. There is a good description of doing it yourself here:

http://www.angelfire.com/ma4/tmv7a/page2.htm

Google will probably bring up some others. Good luck!

--
Alan
WA4SCA

1068. Re: Changing Kenwood display

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-31 01:35:05 UTC
From: richgr@panix.com
Message-ID: <gecmrj$s3b$1@reader1.panix.com>
Source record: 2339

In article <1jfjg45t211u9hmg7guoj5jr19gkn1e2ct@4ax.com>,
Alan WA4SCA <ALANBIDDLE70@YAHOO.COM> wrote:

>I was lucky enough to get in one of the windows where Kenwood did the
>replacement for free. There is a good description of doing it
>yourself here:
>
>http://www.angelfire.com/ma4/tmv7a/page2.htm

Thanks Alan, thats exactly what I need.

--
Rich Greenberg N Ft Myers, FL, USA richgr atsign panix.com + 1 239 543 1353
Eastern time. N6LRT I speak for myself & my dogs only. VM'er since CP-67
Canines:Val, Red, Shasta & Casey (RIP), Red & Zero, Siberians Owner:Chinook-L
Retired at the beach Asst Owner:Sibernet-L

1069. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1629 - October 31, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-31 09:22:27 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20081031012150.01723bf0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2340
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1629 - October 31, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1629 with a release date of Friday, October 31st, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, thanks hams world-wide who helped to make his adventure in space a big success. Also, the crossband repeater on board the International Space Station comes on the air, a California jury decides the fate of a convicted murderer of two radio amateurs, Ireland gives its hams a 5 MHz allocation while hams in Spain gain access to the 1 point 8 and 70 MHz bands. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1629 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: RICHARD GARRIOTT W5KWK SAYS THANKS TO THE WORLD WIDE HAM COMMUNITY

Ham radio space traveler Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, is back on solid ground and has paused to thank the world-wide amateur radio community for making his journey to orbit such a great success. Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, is here to tell us what ham radios newest space hero has to say:

--

Actual contact audio of Richard Garriott W5KWQ on the ISS

--

Not long after getting through medical evaluations and getting adjusted to Earth's gravity, Richard Garriott had a lot to say about his amateur radio adventures in space.

His father, Dr. Owen Garriott, W5LFL, who met his son after he landed safely in the Soyuz space capsule, relayed Richard's thoughts and appreciation to the ham community through an email.

In it, Dr. Garriott provided a transcript of an interview with Richard, in which he relayed the space traveler's thoughts and feelings.

He said W5KWQ was surprised to find so many enthusiastic hams who were so well informed of his activities.

Richard said he was receiving reports from Mission Control-Moscow about the technical side of his work and how much the amateur community was enjoying his transmissions.

"This redoubled my enthusiasm to do quality work for the amateur radio legions around the world as I realized how much it meant to those with whom I had the chance to talk," Richard said. "By late in my flight I had contacted many hundreds of hams by voice and I have good records of these contacts."

--

Actual contact audio of Richard Garriott W5KWQ on the ISS

--

Finally, Richard related he had contacted many hams who had listened to or contacted his father in space 25 yars ago.

On the final days of his flight, Richard says he was moved by the many soft-landing messages from individuals and classrooms of children he received as he passed overheard.

And Richard offered a special salute to those who helped make his flight such a tremendous adventure.

"The ham community has added greatly to my personal feelings of success on my flight," Richard said. "I can only hope that you enjoyed it as much as I did."

Our thanks to Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, AMSAT's vice president for human spaceflight programs and international chairman of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program for passing along the Garriott email.

And, a special thanks to so many of you who forwarded audio clips to us here at the Amateur Radio Newsline editorial offices in Los Angeles of contacts W5KWQ made.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

--

While W5KWQ is back on the ground, the International Space Station will have at least one other ham radio visitor in the coming months. Word is that former Microsoft executive Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP, will be heading on his second trip to the orbital outpost sometime next year. (ARNewsline(tm) with actuality audio supplied by radio amateurs worldwide)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CROSSBAND REPEATER OPERATIONAL FROM THE ISS

Still with ham radio space related news, Roy Stokes, AG5D, says that astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT has turned on the crossband repeater on board the International Space Station and early reports indicate that its coverage is quite good to those within its ever shifting radio range.

The world-wide frequencies are 437.80 MHz as your uplink while you listen on 145.80 MHz as the downlink or output channel. Operation is similar to working the Amsat Oscar 51 satellite or any ground-based crossband

system. The big difference is that in this case you literally talk through the repeater on board the I-S-S to other hams within range of the I-S-S radio footprint on the ground.

How long the crossband repeater will remain in operation is not known. 145.8 MHz is also used for normal QSO's and school contacts, you can expect it to be off during those times. Also, the crossband repeater uses the crossband repeat function of the on-board Kenwood D 700 radio. This unit is also used for other on-orbit ham radio operations and during those periods the repeater will likely be off line. (ARISS Refector)

**

RESCUE RADIO: GLOBAL SET NOVEMBER 8th UPDATE

More information has surfaced on the upcoming International Amateur Radio Union sponsored Simulated Emergency Test. As reported a few weeks ago, International amateur Radio Union member societies and emergency groups world-wide will take part in the on air communications exercise on November 8th. Jim Linton, VK3PC, has the latest:

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The Global Simulated Emergency Test on or near the emergency Center-of-Activity frequencies on the 80, 40, 20, 17 and 15 meter bands runs 0400 to 0800 UTC on Saturday, 8 November.

Organized by the IARU Region 1 this exercise aims Increase the common interest in emergency communications
Test how usable the Center-of-Activity frequencies are across ITU regions
Create practices for international emergency communication and the relay of messages using all modes.

Participating stations using Phone, Data or CW will be heard calling 'CQ GLOBALSET' or initiating and relaying messages.

Where their local regulations permit they may also add the recommended /D to their callsigns to identify as a distress or disaster station.

The amateur radio community is asked to be aware of this important training exercise on the 8 November and to please keep the Emergency Center-of-Activity frequencies clear.

I'm Jim Linton VK3PC, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Again that's Saturday, November 8th runs 0400 to 0800 UTC for the Global Simulated Emergency Test. A ham radio emergency training exercise whose results could eventually help save lives. (IARU via WIA News.)

**

RESCUE RADIO: CANADIAN DATABASE NAME CHANGE

Still with rescue radio news, word from up North that the acronym for the Radio Amateurs of Canada's Canadian Amateur Radio Emergency Database Has been charged from "CARED" to the National Amateur Radio Emergency Database, or "NARED." We are told that the change was made in order to avoid possible confusion with another Amateur Radio-related list that uses the "CARED" acronym for a database unrelated to emergency communications. (RAC)

**

RESTRUCTURING: HAMS IN IRELAND GET 5 MHZ ALLOCATION

The First 5 MHz licenses have been issued to hams in Ireland. Following a long process of contacts between the military authorities and Ireland's regulator ComReg, the first of the 5 MHz operating permits were issued to E I prefix stations on Friday, October 17th.

Hams in Ireland are permitted three, 3 kHz wide, spot channels with center frequencies of 5280, 5400 and 5405 kHz. As in other parts of the world where 5 MHz operation is permitted, the practice is to use Upper Sideband for voice transmissions on these channels with a radio dial readout of 5278.5, 5398.5 and 5403.5 kHz respectively. CW stations are encouraged to use the bottom 300 Hz of the channels as this permits the use of the channel for SSB at the same time. (IRTS)

**

RESTRUCTURING: SPAIN GIVES HAMS 1.8 MHZ AND 70 MHZ BANDS

Amateurs in Spain will be getting new allocations at both 70 MHz and 1.8 MHz allocations. This, according to an announcement posted on the website of the Spanish national ham radio society, the URE.

The post says that the new Spanish Radio 4 metro allocation is 70.150 - 70.200 MHz with a 10 watts Effective Radiated Power restriction. Spanish Amateurs will be permitted to operate 160 meters on 1 point 810 to 1 point 830 and 1 dot 850 to 2 dot 000 MHz during specified international contests.

The announcement in Spanish is on-line at www.ure.es. An English translation can be found at tinyurl.com/5pcs25 (Southgate)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W1JLI Memorial repeater serving Norwood, Massachusetts.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC LIMITS DART ALASKA ALLOCATION AT 7 MHZ

A win for the ARRL in its request that an Alaskan digital radio experimental broadcast license be modified to exclude operation in the 40 meter band, but one that may not have been necessary. This with word that the Federal Communications Commission has modified the license for the WE2XRH granted to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies for Digital Radio Mondiale trials in the far North. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, has more:

--

As we reported last week, on October 20th the American Radio Relay League had asked the FCC to delete the 7.1 to 7.3 MHz amateur service segment from the 7.1 to 7.6 MHz allocation that it had approved to Digital Aurora Radio Technologies. This, as one of several segments originally authorized to its Digital Radio Mondiale transmission experiment.

Acting uncharacteristically quickly, on October 24th the FCC limited the station's license to 7.3 to 7.6 MHz if it wanted to try 40 meter operations. All other spectrum allocated for the experiment in the 4.5 to 5.1 and 9.25 to 9.95 MHz were not affected.

However, it turns out that the main reason for the quick action by the FCC may have had nothing to do with what hams wanted. Rather, the word is that it gave the agency a chance to correct a clerical error made in the original license grant.

According to several sources, the reach of the 7 MHz Digital Aurora Radio Technologies frequency assignment down to 7.1 MHz was never an issue in the Digital Radio Mondiale broadcasting community. Sources say that it has always been widely understood that no domestic Digital Radio Mondiale experiment or service will be launched in any ham radio band.

So what happened? The Digital Aurora Radio Technologies antenna system bandwidth as specified in its filing to the FCC shows that it had the capability to operate down to 7.1 MHz . In an oversight, that became authorized as the lower band edge for the experimental grant until the ARRL petitioned the FCC to change it.

Soon after the ARRL filed its petition Digital Aurora Radio Technologies readily agreed to the change. Also to be noted is that none of the technical data that Digital Aurora Radio Technologies supplied to the FCC proposed transmissions in any amateur service band.

None the less the ARRL apparently felt compelled to act now if for no other reason than to protect ham radio operations on 40 meters from the potential incursion that might happen at a later date. This, if another broadcaster or service came along that did not want to play be the established gentlemen's agreement rules.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

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The bottom line. Some on-line critics of the ARRL claim that this action and other recent stands by the League may have ruffled some political

feathers in the nations capital. What these hams tend to forget is that protecting the ham radio spectrum -- and doing so at any cost -- is the ARRL's job.

For more insight on this subject, see http://klixie.com/26mhz/index.php?id) (ARNewsline(tm) from ARRL press release and other sources.)

**

RADIO HERITAGE: MIKE DORROUGH KO6NM TRYING TO SAVE DELANO VOA RADIO SITE

Famed inventor Mike Dorrough, KO6NM, is taking part in efforts to save the retired Voice of America facility in Delano, California. Dorrough says that he is trying to enlist the help of Delano city officials to restrain demolition of the facility.

According to KO6NM, the Delano V-O-A facility is part of America's broadcast history and the greatest radio antenna landmark in California, if not the world. He is urging the city of Delano to use whatever power it has to keep the wrecking ball from destroying the most important historical, educational and strategic radio installation in the world today.

Delano Mayor Sam Ramirez says that he had not been aware that the facility might be removed. Dorrough says that there is only one Voice of America facility intact in existence, and it is in Delano. It is also the last shortwave broadcast facility of its kind.

Mike Dorrough is a long-time electronics manufacturer in the broadcast and audio business. He is a recipient of several awards including the National Association of Broadcasters Radio Engineering Achievement Award, a technical Emmy and an Academy Award. (RW)

**

RADIO HERITAGE: CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LENORE JENSEN, W6NAZ

A special radio club screening of an episode of the famed television show "This is Your Life" exploring the life and ham radio career of the late actress and ham radio operator Lenore Kingston Jensen, W-6-N-A-Zed, has been announced for Friday, February 20th, 2009, This, to her longtime radio club to celebrate her recent induction into the CQ Ham Radio Hall of Fame. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with more:

--

The event is being produced by Cliff Chen, AC6C, and will be hosted by the San Fernando Valley Amateur Radio Club. This is an organization that both Lenore and her husband Bob Jensen, W6VGQ, called their home radio club and belong to for many years.

For those of you who never heard of Lenore Jensen who was known professionally as Lenore Kingson, a bit of background. Starting in the 1930's and continuing through most of her career, W6NAZ was a well known

character actress in radio, television and in some movies. She began her career in radio drama in Chicago. Eventually he came to Hollywood where she appeared on such top rated TV shows as "The Munster," "Petticoat Junction," "Love American Style" and "Ironside" to name only a few.

But it was not her career in the entertainment world that brought her to "This Is Your Life." Rather, it was brought to the attention of producer and host Ralph Edwards that the wife of the show's Director -- the late Bob Conn -- was a ham operator who had provided over 60,000 phone patches to overseas service personnel. It was an accomplishment that Edwards wanted to honor and did so on national Television before an audience estimated in the millions.

According to AC6C, he was able to procure a DVD of the July 26, 1961 show from Ralph Edwards Productions. He calls the episode very inspiring, noting that for years after it aired that people would approach W6NAZ at conventions and hamfests to tell her that they had become radio amateurs because of it.

AC6C says he is looking forward to this event honoring this very special lady of ham radio.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, who was honored to have Lenore Jensen, W6NAZ, as a friend for many years. I'm reporting from Los Angeles for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Clif Chen, AC6C, has arranged for the radio club screening to be held in the Penthouse Auditorium of Northridge Hospital Medical Center. It is located at 18300 Roscoe Beloved in Northridge, California. The show will begin on February 20th at 7:30 P.M. Pacific Standard Time. (AC6C)

**

HAM RADIO BUSINESS: RADIO OPERATIONS CENTER DIGITAL DESKTOP FROM CSS

Turning to the ham radio business scene, Creative Services Software, Inc. has announced the availability of the Radio Operations Center Digital Desktop. Formerly called Pac Term for Kantronics TNCs and P K Term for Timewave and AEA products this new version includes a number of new features and enhancements in addition to re-branding as Creative's' new Radio Operations Center product label. Lots more about Radio Operations Center Digital Desktop is on-line at www.cssincorp.com. (CSS release)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND IN MARCH 2009

On the social scene, word from down-under that the annual Wellington New Zealand Radio EXPO-09 is to be held on March 28th of 2009. The show is sponsored b the Combined Wellington Amateur Radio Expo Committee. In addition to usual manufacturer and retailer displays there will also be swap-meet like trading tables of used equipment. Refreshments will be

available in the main hall. (ZL2HO)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: FIRST FRED FISH MEMORIAL AWARD PRESENTED TO W5FF

Lee Fish, K5FF, accepted the first Fred Fish Memorial Award that was awarded posthumously to her late husband Fred, Fish, W5FF, in Ardmore, Oklahoma, on October 25th. The presentation was made to her by ARRL West Gulf Division Director Coy Day, N5OK. In her remarks, Mrs. Fish recalled times at the early Central States VHF conferences which she and Fred had attended. (VHF Reflector)

**

WITH NEWSLINE: ANDY WRAPS UP THE 2007 THANK YOU LIST

Now with some thank you's to those who support these newscasts through the end of 2007, here's Amateur Radio Newsline's Support Fund Administrator, Andy Jarema, N6TCQ

--

Our thank-yous start in October of last year with Newsline's long-time friend Carole Perry Parker, WB2MGP, Staten Island, NY, whose QSL card with the teachers apple on it is proudly displayed on our shacks wall.

Richard Leschack, KB1OCN of Bedford, MA; William Smith, W7GHT of Boise, ID ; The Catalina Island Repeater Association, AA6DP; The South Orange Amateur Radio Association of Mission Viejo and Bob Paquette, W6ZPL of La Habra. Regular contributors include Benton Bonney, W4PE of Orlando; Joseph Bartzi, Jr., KC8DKF of Columbus, OH; William Walters, WA2IBM, and Scott Hensley of the Area Communications Team, both in San Jose.

Via PayPal we heard from Scott Currier, KT1B in Haverhill, MA.

In November we heard from the Sequoia Amateur Radio Group, N6KRV in Lake Isabella, CA, and a matching grant from Don Jefferson, host of their weekly nets on his KC6OCA 145.54 repeater.

In December we heard from: Jim Hansen, KG6ZDP and the West Coast ARC in Huntington Beach, CA

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, we at the Amateur Radio Newsline are thankful for you, our loyal listeners, who do your part to help keep these weekly newscasts stay on the air. We've made it easy for you through PayPal on our website, arnewsline.org, and at the address you will hear at the end of this broadcast.

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

--

Andy will be back with us in the near future with more than-you's to those who have contributed to the support fund during 2008. (ARNewsline(tm)

Support
Fund)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: JOHN PAOLI, KG6GCB - CHIEF ENGINEER OF KFI - S.K.

John Paoli, KG6GCB, the Chief Engineer of KFI - AM, in Los Angeles, has passed away. Paoli, who lived in Northridge, California died on Sunday morning, October 19th.

According to the CGC Communicator, either Paoli or his wife had fallen ill and they had gone to the St. Joseph Medical Center's emergency room in Burbank. That's John Paoli unexpectedly collapsed and could not be revived.

According to CGC Communicator editor Bob Gonsett, W6VR, the passing of John Paioli is a real tragedy for the Los Angeles broadcast community. Especially for those who have had the privilege of working with this extraordinarily personable and gentle engineer.

Services for John Paioli were held on Friday, October 24th at Saint Sebastians Church, in Greenbrae, California. (CGC)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ANOTHER UPDATE ON XW-1

We have an update on the upcoming Chinese amateur radio satellite update XW-1. According to Michael Chen BD5RV, the XW-1 will be launched into a Sun synchronous orbit to an altitude: 499 kilometers with an inclination of 98 degrees and an orbital period of 94 minutes. It will be powered by a 16 amp hour Lithium Ion battery that will recharge off solar cells that will be a part of the spacecraft.

XW-1's ham radio payload will consist of a Morse beacon operating at 435 MHz plus a linear transponder for 2 meter and 70 centimeter operations and an FM repeater operating crossband from 2 meters also up to 70 centimeters. A digital store and forward transponder on these same bands round out the gear which Chen says will way in at 5 point 2 kilograms. That come out to be about 11 pounds. (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NEW AMSAT BOARD ANNOUNCED

Meantime, AMSAT Board of Directors approved a slate officers to serve the 2008 to 2009 administrative year. At its meeting in Atlanta on October 23rd, Barry Baines, WD4ASW, of Westborough, Massachusetts was confirmed as president. Serving with him will be Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, as Vice President of Operations: Gould Smith, WA4SXM as Vice President of User Services: Gunther Meisse, W8GSM in the position of Treasurer and Lee McLamb, KU4OS as both Secretary and Vice P resident of Special Projects. Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, continues on as Vice President Human Spaceflight. Rounding out the team is Martha Saragovitz who continues as Manager of the AMSAT North America Washington home office. (KU4OS)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: HD RADIO HIGHLIGHTED AT CONSUMER ELECTRONIC DESIGN EXPO

HD Radio backers say that this year's Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association Expo will definitely help them showcase new HD Radio receivers. This after almost two dozen IBOC models were on display at the showcase event held in Denver, Colorado last month.

At this years event audio manufacturers such as Denon, Marantz, Niles Audio, Onkyo and Polk offered a lineup of custom-install, home theater receivers and processors that feature HD Radio technology. And seven new products were unveiled from companies as prestigious as Integra, McIntosh Laboratories and Yamaha. Also, iTunes tagging was supported by some models on display.

IBiquity Digital President Bob Struble described the offerings as being a host of core high-end and mid-range components. Struble added that the adoption of HD Radio technology by consumer electronics companies in the advanced home audio system arena is yet another proof point in the overall manufacturer dedication to offering consumers a variety of HD Radio products that enhance their entertainment experience across a wide-ranging price point spectrum."

The Custom Electronic Design & Installation Association Expo is a trade show for the residential electronic systems industry. (Press release)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: FCC REVIEWING IBOC POWER INCREASE

Meantime, Radio World reports that the digital power increase proposal for HD radio now is getting a closer look. This as the Federal Communications Commission asks for public input on the feasibility of increasing FM IBOC transmitted power levels.

According to the newsletter, a group of 18 broadcasters and four IBOC transmission manufacturers have asked the commission to let stations voluntarily increase FM IBOC power up to 10 dB. This, from the current level of 1 percent of a station's authorized analog power to a maximum of 10 percent of a station's authorized analog power. Their intent is to

boost digital power levels for better building penetration and mobile and portable reception. IBiquity Digital filed studies in support of the request.

But one broadcaster is saying not so fast. National Public Radio has submitted its recently completed research on digital radio coverage and interference. Funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting its studies concluded that such an increase could result in interference to reception of first- and second-adjacent channel FM outlets. Because of this National Public Radio argues that further testing is necessary.

Either way, the FCC is seeking comment on Mass Media Docket No. 99-325everything involved in this issue no later than November 28th. Reply comments are due in the Commissions hands no later than January 4th 2009. (RW)

**

THOSE RARE ONES: WILLIS ISLAND OPERATION CLOSES A DAY EARLY

The Willis Island DXpedition went QRT almost a day early. This after weather reports predicted heavy winds across the island on their planned departure date.

Operation was supposed to continue Sunday, October 26th with camp breakdown on Monday the 27th. But due to heavy winds expected on Monday, the group elected to shut down at 22:00 hours U-T-C on the 25th and use the 26th to strike the antennas, pack the gear, take down the complete camp and transport everything to the boat for the ride home.

The entire team did take part in the first 24 hours of the CQ World Wide SSB Contest with three station positions operational. The remaining station positions did remain available for WARC operation.

According to the teams press release, the decision to end operations early was to permit a controlled shutdown and a secure trip back to the Australian mainland for all members and all of the equipment that had gone to Willis to bring that rare spot on the air. (Various DX sources)

**

DX

In DX, word that F4EGX will be working at the French base on Petrel Island from early November through mid of December. He will be using SSB and signing FT5YI during his spare time. No specific bands or frequencies have been mentioned. QSL as directed on the air.

VK2MRP, will be on from Antarctica's Davis Base from November 1st through March 7th of next year. His callsign will be VK0BP but he cannot say when he will have time to operate. If you do make contact, QSL via VK2CA.

And XE1MO is expected to show up portable ZA1 from Albania. He will be there November 1st through the 9th using SSB on 40, 20, 15m and 10

meters. QSLs direct to XE1MO.

Lastly, ZS6AVM, will be on from Swaziland signing 3DA0VM on 40 through 10 meters during all of November. Dave says he will be using a Flex-5000A Software Defined Radio. QSL cards are requested only direct to his home call ZS6AVM.

(Above from various DX news sources.)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: THE BPL HAMNDICAP RACE

And finally this week a bit of racetrack radio humor from down-under. Its from the Wireless Institute of Australia's weekly ham radio news bulletin but we simply call this story the 2008 B-P-L Handicap:

--

Audio only. Hear it in thew MP3 version of this weeks nrewscast that can be downloaded at www.arnewsline.org

--

What can we say -- other than that track announcer sounds more than a bit familiar. Could that have been Jim Linton, VK3PC? Well, only the WIA News knows for sure.

(WIA News)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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1070. Re: Changing Kenwood display

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-31 15:43:37 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <reFOk.1741$225.230@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2341

"Rich Greenberg" <richgr@panix.com> wrote in message
news:ge8jb6$3jv$1@panix5.panix.com...
> I have a Kenwood TM-V7a which has developed the infamous dark vertical
> lines problem. I can get the replacement and even have the Kenwood part
> number. My question is: Has anyone reading this done this repair, and
> how difficult is it for someone with "moderate" soldering and serviceing
> experience?
>
Requires great care in handling. Module may be repaired if there is only
shifting of the interconnect.

http://infotech.awardspace.com/

1071. Ft. Myers ARC hamfest and ARRL South Florida Section Convention Jan 17.

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-31 20:35:17 UTC
From: richgr@panix.com
Message-ID: <gefppgjrv1@panix5.panix.com>
Source record: 2342
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.swap,rec.radio.info

Attention all hams in the SouthEast USA:

Reserve the date: SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2009 8 AM TO 3 PM

For the Ft. Myers ARC hamfest and ARRL South Florida Section Convention.

Araba Shrine Auditorium

2010 Hanson Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901

Talk-In Repeater: 146.880 (136.5 Tone)

Huge flea market in the Auditorium and parking lot.

See: http://fmarc.net/hamfest_2009.htm for more details and directions.
--
Rich Greenberg N Ft Myers, FL, USA richgr atsign panix.com + 1 239 543 1353
Eastern time. N6LRT I speak for myself & my dogs only. VM'er since CP-67
Canines:Val, Red, Shasta & Casey (RIP), Red & Zero, Siberians Owner:Chinook-L
Retired at the beach Asst Owner:Sibernet-L

1072. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 43 (Friday, October 31, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-10-31 20:57:58 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20081031204726.DA240315C4@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2343
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 43
October 31, 2008
****

IN THIS EDITION:

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* + Ohio Hams Discover, Fix "Ditters" on 40 Meters
* + The ARRL VEC: More than Just Amateur Radio Exams
* + ARRL Invites Nominations for 2008 International Humanitarian Award
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+ Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========

==> SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY SET FOR DECEMBER 6

The 10th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) Special Event will take place Saturday, December 6, 2008 <http://hamradio.noaa.gov/>. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. According to SRD Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their local participating NWS office <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/hamradio/participating_offices.php>, working as a team to contact other hams across the world throughout the 24 hour event.

The idea for the first SRD took shape in the summer of 1999. Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Goodland, Kansas NWS office Scott Mentzer, N0QE, tried to find a way to recognize the valuable contributions storm spotters make to the National Weather Service. "Since many of those storm spotters were also hams," Floyd said, "it seemed like a natural fit for the recognition to be centered on Amateur Radio."

With the approval of NWS headquarters and a commitment to participate from many local NWS offices across the country, the first National Weather Service Special Event took place on November 27, 1999. "At the end of the event, an amazing 15,888 QSOs were logged, with contacts made to all 50 states and 63 countries," Floyd recounted. "The Des Moines forecast office took the honor of making the most contacts of any office that first year with 761 QSOs, and went on to lead the pack until 2003 by logging between 1300-1500 contacts each year!"

Floyd said that feedback from that first event was "overwhelmingly positive" from both the NWS staff and the local ham clubs: "Suddenly there was incentive for more NWS staffers to either obtain a license or upgrade so that more people could work ham radio during severe events. In addition, many club members had never visited an NWS office before. When they came for the special event, they learned the value of their reports and how they were used in conjunction with existing technology."

And so began an annual tradition. The following year, 85 of the 122 NWS offices -- almost 70 percent -- participated in the event, making nearly 24,000 QSOs. "Perhaps the most unusual contact occurred in 2000 with an airliner 39,000 feet above Utah," Floyd said. "The pilot ended the QSO with a request for a 'spot weather forecast' for his arrival at Salt Lake City airport."

In 2001, the name of the event was changed to SKYWARN Recognition Day, a name Floyd said better relayed what the day was all about: "Each year since the inception of SRD, the number of NWS offices and local ham clubs participating has increased, until now more than 100 offices sign up each year to take part. The most contacts made during any SRD occurred in 2006 when -- thanks to the staff and local hams in the Grand Junction, Colorado area -- 1640 QSOs were logged!"

Station call signs have also changed over the years. Floyd said that some NWS offices and clubs apply for a special event call sign, "such as W3B in Brownsville or N0Y in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Other call signs hint at office location, including WX9GRB in Green Bay and WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center. Still others represent more of the big picture, as in KC0SKY in Pleasant Hill, Missouri."

Floyd said that as SKYWARN Recognition Day has grown throughout the years and is mainly an SSB event, he has seen a greater use of digital communications in addition to CW, RTTY and packet radio: "Each year, more and more contacts are being made using EchoLink and Winlink."

2008 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held on December 6 from 0000 UTC-2400 UTC. Last year, contacts were made in all 50 states and 40 countries during the 24 hour event. If you haven't joined in the fun, make 2008 your year to do so!
==> OHIO HAMS DISCOVER, FIX "DITTERS" ON 40 METERS

Silent since the summer of 2000, "ditters" have been heard once again <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2000/07/28/2/> on 40 meters by hams in North Carolina. According to ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, hams in that state contacted him on October 22 complaining of hearing a continuous string of "dits" on 7.0574 MHz. "We informed the FCC HFDFing station of the situation and asked if they could locate the approximate area of the 'dits' so we could get this resolved as soon as possible," Skolaut said. "They responded promptly and said it was coming from Westerville, a town just north of Columbus, Ohio."

Once the general location had been pinpointed, Skolaut called on ARRL Ohio Section Official Observer Coordinator Rick Swain, KK8O for assistance. Swain immediately alerted his team of Official Observers (OO) to check out the situation. "Neither I nor the OOs could hear the transmitter," Swain said in his report. "In a telephone conversation with one of the OOs near the target area, he suddenly stated that he could hear it, but that the signal was at the noise level, about S2 to S3. At just about the same time, I could hear it as well at my location [about 50 miles from the target area] -- just above the noise level -- for about five or ten seconds, then it disappeared."

Swain also placed a call to Assistant Section Manager Bill Carpenter, AA8EY. "Bill lives within the target area. I briefed him on the situation and he went right to his station," Swain said. "Bill checked the frequency and told me he was hearing [the 'dits'] at about S9. He said he thought he might know who it could be and that would make some calls."

Around 7:30 AM on October 23, Swain checked the frequency and found no signal. "I assumed that either Bill had found the transmitter or the owner came home, found it transmitting and turned it off," he said. "Later that morning, Bill sent me an e-mail saying that the signal was back on and about S7. I called Bill's house and left a message telling him I was on my way to Westerville to track down the signal. If he wanted to ride along with me while I looked for it, he was more than welcome to come." Skolaut said the signal was also heard in Newington that day.

When Swain arrived in Westerville, he had a list of the names and addresses of 172 licensees in the area, as well as a general idea of where the signal should be, based on the data from the FCC's HFDFing station. He also had his HF radio, an all-band screwdriver antenna, a GPS receiver and a VHF radio for information and directions.

"I drove around the area checking the signal and noted that it was about S9 and climbing," Swain said. He and Carpenter met up and continued the

search together. About 15 minutes later -- with Swain driving and Carpenter giving directions -- "we noted that the signal was 30 over S9 and Bill had me make a left turn at the next street, saying that there was an address on the list we should check out. We stopped at that address, but no luck."

Swain said he then injected 30 dB of attenuation and continued to drive in the same direction: "The signal was now reading 20 dB over S9 with the attenuator still on. We turned down the next street and the signal rose another 20 dB. I pulled into a parking lot and made a 360-degree turn as to determine the signal's direction. The turn indicated that we should proceed to a newly constructed housing area adjacent to the parking lot."

Swain and Carpenter then made their way over to the housing development and found that signal peaked. "Bill checked the list and found a ham lived on the street we were on, so we stopped and knocked on the door, but no one answered," Swain said. "We checked out the backyard and saw a 4-band trapped vertical antenna. We went next door and spoke to the neighbor and told him who we were and what we were trying to do."

With help from the neighbor, Swain contacted the ham at work and explained the situation. The ham told the neighbor how to get in the house and where they would find the transmitter. "We went in, found the transmitter in operation and turned it off," Swain said. "I noticed the ham had a large cat lounging near the transmitter and assumed the cat could have leaned up against the keyer paddle and started the transmitter. No other explanation could be possible without the owner hearing the transmit relay clicking."

When Swain and Carpenter left the house, they listened to the receiver and discovered the signal had disappeared.

"This was a great example of coordinated cooperation by the FCC and OOs to resolve a problem in a timely fashion," Skolaut said. "The DFing station told us that hopefully the OOs could handle it as the FCC District Office was unable to work on the case at this time."

Calling this a "splendid example of cooperation," ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, echoed Skolaut's praise: "I believe the response to the situation was as fine an example of symbiotic relationship between member-staff-FCC-staff-field organization as one might find. Extremely well done by all hands."

==> THE ARRL VEC: MORE THAN JUST AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS

When you think of ARRL's Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Department (VEC) <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/>, Amateur Radio licensing exams are probably what come to mind. Questions regarding exam requirements, exam accommodations, exam test locations, exam question pools and Volunteer Examiner support are handled by the League's VEC department. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, the ARRL VEC has been busy meeting the needs of the Amateur Radio community since 1984. "Helping a

person become a radio amateur or upgrade their existing license is what we do best, but that's not all we do," Somma said.

"We provide instruction and support for everyone who wants to get an Amateur Radio license, as well as licensing assistance and procedures for those amateurs seeking upgrades to their current license, regardless of where in the US they may live; some sessions are also provided overseas," Somma explained. "Volunteer Examiners are accredited by the ARRL/VEC; they obtain their training -- and receive ongoing guidance -- from our office by phone or e-mail. They can also access our online VE Manual."

Somma said that the ARRL's VEC Department is also a primary provider for club license questions and applications (club call signs) and vanity call signs. "We only serve in an advisory capacity in this activity, as application must be made (with their appropriate fee) directly to the FCC," she said. "We also handle the 1x1 Special Event call signs, International Amateur Radio Permits (IARP) and ARRL member (or non-member with accompanying fee) FCC license updates and renewals <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/forms.html>."

Since the VE program began in 1984, the ARRL VEC has accredited more than 50,000 Volunteer Examiners. "These VEs have conducted more than 90,000 test sessions," Somma said. "At these sessions, more than 850,000 individuals have taken examinations to earn a license or to upgrade their license privileges. And out of those, 400,000 have had their successful applications submitted to the FCC for new and higher class licenses. Today, the ARRL VEC is the largest of the USA's 14 VECs <http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/licensing/vecs.html>, representing nearly 70 percent of all exams given."

Somma credits her "skilled, knowledgeable and friendly staff" with the success of the League's VEC department: Assistant VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O; Pete Warner, K1HJW; Ann Brinius; Lisa Riendeau; Amanda Grimaldi, and China Chaney.

"The ARRL VEC has more than 20 years of service to radio amateurs, operating as a knowledgeable information source for a wide-range of licensing issues," Somma said. "Look beyond the exams -- we're here to help!"

==> ARRL INVITES NOMINATIONS FOR 2008 INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Nominations are open for the 2008 ARRL International Humanitarian Award <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/humanitarian.html>. The award is conferred upon an amateur or amateurs who demonstrate devotion to human welfare, peace and international understanding through Amateur Radio.

The League established the annual prize to recognize Amateur Radio operators who have used ham radio to provide extraordinary service to others in times of crisis or disaster. A committee appointed by the League's President recommends the award recipient(s) to the ARRL Board,

which makes the final decision.

The committee is now accepting nominations from Amateur Radio, governmental or other organizations that have benefited from extraordinary service rendered by an Amateur Radio operator or group. Amateur Radio is one of the few telecommunication services that allow people throughout the world from all walks of life to meet and talk with each other, thereby spreading goodwill across political boundaries. The ARRL International Humanitarian Award recognizes Amateur Radio's unique role in international communication and the assistance amateurs regularly provide to people in need.

Nominations should include a summary of the nominee's actions that qualify the individual (or individuals) for this award, plus verifying statements from at least two people having first-hand knowledge of the events warranting the nomination. These statements may be from an official of a group (for example, the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army or a local or state emergency management official) that benefited from the nominee's particular Amateur Radio contribution. Nominations should include the names and addresses of all references.

All nominations and supporting materials for the 2008 ARRL International Humanitarian Award must be submitted in writing in English to ARRL International Humanitarian Award, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 USA. Nomination submissions are due by December 31, 2008. In the event that no nominations are received, the committee itself may determine a recipient or decide to make no award. The winner of the ARRL International Humanitarian Award receives an engraved plaque and a profile in QST and other ARRL venues.

==> ASK PERRY: WHY IS THE ARRL IN CONNECTICUT?

Every once in a while, ARRL Archivist Perry Williams, W1UED -- a rich source of information about the early days of the League -- runs across a question that really needs an answer. Earlier this month, someone posed this question to Perry: Why was Connecticut chosen as the site for ARRL?

"To answer that question," Perry explained, "consider a parable: Why did the tree choose to grow in this forest? Because that is where the seed fell on fertile ground. The seed that became ARRL fell on Hartford, Connecticut in 1914. When it sprouted, it was cultivated initially by two men: Hiram Percy Maxim, 1WH (he became W1AW after World War I), and Clarence D. Tuska, 1WD, who was still in his teens when the League began.

"Maxim was an inventor in a family of inventors, an industrialist. He was founder of the Maxim Silencer Company, making devices to keep firearms and engines quiet, as well as a principal in a company involved first in making bicycles and then autos. He was also a writer with an early interest in motion pictures (he was also founder of the Amateur Cinematographic League) and on and on. Most of these activities were in

or near Hartford, where he lived with his family.

"Tuska manned the hoe and trowel around the ARRL seedling. Soon after the ARRL's founding, Maxim settled in as President, an office he held until his death in 1936. In those early days, Tuska served as Secretary. Together, Maxim and Tuska founded the magazine QST as a private venture in 1915 out of their own pockets; Tuska was its Editor until the United States got into WWI and amateurs were taken off the air. Tuska closed down the 'offices' of ARRL and QST -- they were in his mother's kitchen -- and joined the Army." Williams said that the story doesn't end here -- to find out more, please see "Two Hundred Meters and Down," by Clinton B DeSoto, W1CBD (SK) <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0011>.

Williams continued: "By the time the Tree had grown to the point to merit relocation elsewhere (this issue has been examined many times by the ARRL's elected, unpaid Board), transplanting it never came out as feasible: The Hartford-area roots were too deep."

==> ARRL MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTERS, BULLETINS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than just The ARRL Letter? One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the ARRL Contest Update (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the ARES E-Letter (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News, the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter and the VE Newsletter, just to name a few.

You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplerian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service to members, letting them know when their membership and license are due to expire.

Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "But give me your Sun from yonder skies!" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Solar Cycle 24 is slowly building momentum. We saw sunspots for eight days in a row -- October 10-17 -- then 12 days of no spots. Another sunspot -- number 1007 -- appeared on October 30 from Solar Cycle 24. It is a high latitude sunspot and may provide some fun for this weekend's 75th running of the ARRL CW Sweepstakes. Sunspot numbers for October 23-29 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 67.2, 67.5, 67.5, 66.9, 67, 67.1 and 66.7 with a mean of 67.1. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 2, 1, 4, 1, 4 and 11 with a mean of 3.7. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 0, 1, 3, 1, 5 and 16 with a mean of 4.1. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts "Relative sunspot number in the range 0-25" for October 31-November 6. They forecast unsettled geomagnetic conditions for today, October 31,

quiet to unsettled November 1, quiet conditions November 2-5 and quiet to unsettled November 6. It is possible that around November 4 we may see a return of sunspot number 1005. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Robert Browning's "The Patriot" <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/the-patriot/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This week, look for the 75th running of the ARRL Sweepstakes Contest (CW) on November 1-3. The NCCC Sprint is October 31 and the IPARC Contest (CW) is November 1. The Ukrainian DX Contest is November 1-2. The IPARC Contest (SSB), the High Speed Club CW Contest and the DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest are all November 2. Next week is the NCCC Sprint on November 7. The WAE DX Contest (RTTY), the JIDX Phone Contest, the OK/OM DX Contest (CW), the Kentucky QSO Party and the CQ-WE Contest are all November 8-9. The SKCC Weekend Sprintathon is November 9 and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Sprint (SSB) is November 13. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, November 9, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, November 21, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

* 2008 Field Day Results Posted: The results from this year's Field Day are now available online <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/results/2008/FD/>. "The addition of the online ARRL Field Day Locator site was a huge success, as more than 1500 sites were listed in this first year of use," said ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "When you scan the Online Soapbox <http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox>, Field Day continues to be the most popular on-the-air event in Amateur Radio." You can find the results in the Members Only section of the ARRL Web site.

* New ARRL Satellite Book Available: "The ARRL Satellite Handbook" by QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, brings the thrill of satellite communications within your reach <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9857>. Filled with understandable descriptions and illustrations, this book includes all the tools you need to participate in this exciting field. This very readable guide was designed to give a broad introduction to the subject of satellite communications, while providing the practical fundamentals you need to explore, track and operate ham radio satellites on your own. Since the pioneering days of satellite communications, ham radio operators have been along for the ride -- building, launching, and operating satellites. You can experience this technology firsthand using today's fleet of Earth-orbiting ham radio satellites. Including content by satellite expert Martin Davidoff, PhD, K2UBC, this book is sure to be a hit with both new and experienced satellite enthusiasts. Be sure to get your copy of "The ARRL Satellite Handbook" today!
* Spanish Hams Receive New Frequency Privileges: The Union de Radioaficionados Espanoles (URE) <http://www.ure.es/>, Spain's IARU Member-Society, reported that as of October 24, 2008, that country's Secretaria de Estado de Telecomunicaciones y para la Sociedad de la Informacion (SETSI) approved an expansion on 160 meters during certain events, such as international Amateur Radio contests <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/Resolucin1800y70MHz.doc>. The new allocation, 1.810-1.830 MHz, as well as 1.850-2.000 MHz, will be available for the 2009 ARRL 160 Meter Contest, the 2009 King of Spain Contests (both SSB and CW) and the 2009 CQ 160 Meter Contest (both SSB and CW); it was also allowed for the CQ Worldwide DX Contest (SSB) earlier this month. In addition, Spanish hams were also granted privileges on the experimental portion of the 4 meter band -- 70.150-70.200 MHz running 10 W ERP -- until April 25, 2009. -- Thanks to "The Daily DX" for the information

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers

informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast"
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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
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<http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during
registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW
bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including
delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the
"Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify
membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change
your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all
automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You
must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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1073. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1630 - November 7, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-07 13:24:29 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20081107014742.015da0a0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2344
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1630 - November 7, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1630 with a release date of Friday, November 7th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The first ever real time ISS packet QSO between Hawaii and the U-S mainland finally takes place, a California jury recommends death for the killer of KD7VWJ and KD7VWK, the US Supreme Court hears testimony on the issue of broadcast indecency and D-Star comes to a remote spot on the globe. Find out the where on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1630 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO RECORDS: FIRST MAINLAND TO HAWAII IS PACKET CONTACT MADE

The first real time packet Hawaii to U-S mainland QSO and information exchange via RS0ISS digipeater on board the International Space Station has taken place. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with the details:

--

The contact occurred at 18:03 UTC on November 1st .when Scott Avery, WA6LIE, in Salinas, California made contact with Ron Hashiro, AH6RH, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

According to an e-mail from Avery, ever since ISS packet and voice system was activated, he has been looking for a partner on the east side of the Big Island of Hawaii to try such a contact attempt. So he sent out broadcast blind e-mails to all hams in the area.

About 3 years ago he met up with AH6RH who shared the same goal. For the past few years the two have been trying to make this first contact. Between ISS packet being off the air, and limited times to try it took a bit of time to make it happen.

But persistence paid off and the two did finally make the path on November 1st when the hooked up on 145.825 simplex on a very low pass of the ISS. which was barely above the horizon. Even more astonishing is that their mutual window of opportunity to complete the contact was only about one minute and 20 seconds or so. Hashiro says it all went better than either he WA6LIE could have hoped for:

--

AA6RH: It was a real pleasure partnering and working with Scott. We got the job done. We had it all scheduled for a minute and 20 seconds and we had almost a whole minute left over for sending a couple of extra packets. So I really enjoyed making that record contact with Scott."

--

Hashiro tells Newsline that both he and Avery have been longtime supporters of communications with and through the I-S-S ham radio stations. He notes that when Space Tourist Charles Simonyi, K-E-7-K-D-P was on the International Space Station on April 11, 2007, he happened to be the first person to talk with him. Minutes later as the ISS drifted towards the United States West coast Avery was the first California and mainland station to make contact. Now the Avery and Hashiro have made their mutual dream of making the first Hawaii to U-S mainland I-S-S packet contact come true.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline. I'm Bill Paternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

--

Hashiro notes that this was the first mutual window, and first weekend both he and Avery could try for a contact after completing the support for the Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, mission a little more than a week ago. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

THE HAWKES MURDERS: JURY RECOMMENDS DEATH FOR KILLER OF KD7VWJ AND KD7VWK

A jury has reached its decision ion the proper penalty to impose on the man that they convicted of killing two ham radio operators off the coast of Newport Beach, California. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW has their judgement:

--

A jury has recommended death for a man convicted of murdering two ham radio operators by binding them to an anchor and throwing them into the ocean off Newport Beach. News reports say that twenty-nine year old Skylar Deleon sat motionless on Thursday, November 6th as the jury announced its decision following nearly two days of deliberation in Orange County California Superior Court.

Deleon was convicted last month of three counts of first-degree murder, which included the 2003 death of Anaheim resident John Jarvi and the killings of Tom and Jackie Hawks, KD7VWJ and KD7VWK.on their yacht in 2004. Deleon killed the Hawks in 2004 after feigning interest in buying their nearly half-a-million dollar yacht. Prosecutors say he overpowered them on a test cruise, tied them to an anchor and tossed them into the Pacific Ocean as they begged for their lives. The Hawks bodies were never found. Deleon was also convicted of killing John Jarvi, whom he met in a work prison furlough program while serving time for burglary

The penalty phase of the trial included six days of statements from attorneys, victims' relatives, Deleon's family and psychiatrists. Each offered differing opinions on the role child abuse has on a person's development. But the prosecutor urged jurors to recommend death for Deleon for the cruel, callous way he carried out the killings. In the end the jurors agreed with the prosecutor.

Outside the courtroom the jury of seven women and five men also issued a statement calling their recommendation the only reasonable outcome. This, given the evidence presented at trial. The jurors also extended their condolences to all concerned and hope that their decision will help them to heal.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

Under California law, formal sentencing of Deleon by the trial judge will take place at a later date. (ARNewsline(tm) from published news reports)

**

RADIO LAW: SUPREME COURT TO CONSIDER INDECENCY ON THE AIR

The Supreme Court has heard arguments for and against the FCC's rules governing broadcast indecency and profanity. This, as the justices carefully avoided using any of the two four-letter expletives at the heart of the case.

During the 60 minute hearing on Tuesday, November 4th the court reviewed broadcast indecency standards for the first time in 30 years In considering the policy that subjects broadcasters to fines for airing a single expletive blurted out on a live television show, several liberal justices seemed concerned over how broadcasters could prevent dirty words from being aired at live events like sports contests. They also questioned whether the words might have other meanings beyond sexual or excretory connotations. On the other side some of the conservative justices appeared supportive of the crackdown adopted by the Federal Communications Commission against the one-time use of profanity on live television when children are likely to be watching.

The case is being closely watched by almost all radio service users. In the past the FCC has used standards created in any one given service as a basis of regulatory action in others. And even in ham radio circles the use of words deemed patently offensive has in years past have lead to charges being brought against alleged users of such language. A ruling is expected in the first part of next year. (Published reports)

**

RADIO LAW: ONTARIO CELLPHONE BILL ON HOLD WHILE HAM RADIO PROTECTUON ADDED

Hams in Ontario, Canada can breathe a sigh of relief . This, after government officials in that Province tabled legislation intended to improve road safety by banning the use of some kinds of electronic devices

by drivers.

While the target of Ontario Bill 118 was to regulate the mobile use of cellular communication devices, the draft was written so broadly that many ham became concerned that Amateur Radio mobile operation could be banned by the measure's provisions. As a result, Radio Amateurs of Canada has already taken steps to protect the interests of Amateurs in Ontario province.

First off, the organizations President Dave Goodwin VO1AU has written to Minister Bradley. In his note Goodwin specifically requests that Amateur Radio be excluded from the scope of the bill. This letter also reminds the minister that similar legislation in Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Quebec explicitly or implicitly protects mobile Amateur Radio operation.

Also, a careful reading of the bill reveals that any exemptions will be contained in regulations. As a result, Radio Amateurs of Canada says that it will soon meet with Ontario transportation officials to make the case for protecting mobile Amateur Radio operation. (RAC)

**

SPECIAL EVENT: CELEBRATING MARCOMI MARITIME MOBILE

Listen out for the Italian special event station IY1EY to be activated on CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK 31 on all bands through November 9th. The operation commemorates the radio experiments that Gugliemo Marconi made on his yacht Elettra from 1919 through 1936. The QSL manager for this one is IK1QBT. (TDXB)

**

THE WORLD OF DX: CROZET TO BE ON IN LATE 2009

The 9th most sought after DXCC entity will be activated in 2009 by F4DYW. This as he announces that he will take to the airwaves from Crozet Island between December 1st and November 30th of next year.

Crozet is listed in the top 10 most wanted contacts in the DX Magazine's' listing. F4DYW says that he will use the callsign FT5WO while on Crozet and his activity will be SSB only on 40, 20 and15 meters using 100 watts into dipoles. QSL will go to his home callsign, either direct or by the bureau. Watch for updates at http://f4dyw.free.fr/index.php?langue=uk&contenu=home.php

We will have more DX news later on in this weeks report. (OPDX)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the VE6YTV repeater serving Langdon, Alberta, Canada

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: A QUAKE DRILL TO END ALL DRILLS

Ham radio is about to take part in one of the most intensive mock earthquake drills ever held in California. We have more in this report:

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A magnitude 7 point 8 earthquake anywhere would be considered a true killer quake. One that strong rippling along California' San Andreas fault line would likely bring widespread devastation to the region. Older buildings would crumble and fall. The power grid would likely fail and normal lines of communications would be cut to millions of residents. Even emergency alerts might be hard to deliver because there would be no Internet access and many of the regions broadcast towers might be felled by the severity of such a quake.

Who would be left to shoulder the communications load? Some experts believe it would fall to the regions ham radio operators to become a lifeline into and out of the area. And that theory will be tested on November 13th in an exercise that will simulate just such an emergency.

The drill is part of the Great Southern California ShakeOut. It's taking place in coordination with the Golden Guardian 2008 exercise of the California Governor's Office of Homeland Security and is expected to be the largest earthquake drill in U.S. history.

To get a better sense of what things will be like after such a powerful quake, those coordinating the emergency response from San Bernardino's central command, will spend two hours without computers, lights or telephone communication. Megan Blaney of the county's Office of Emergency Services says that the region will fall back on its backup or redundant communication. She describes this as being primarily ham radio operators and their own emergency radio gear.

A similar drill will be taking place at the Riverside County Emergency Operation Center in Riverside, California. That's where 120 people will be reacting to the fictional quake. According to spokesperson Zuzzette Bricker, KI6PPO, on November 15th that county will also host two large field-day activities for trained community emergency response teams.

California emergency agencies have had quite a bit of experience reacting to large-scale disasters. Destructive wildfires have provided experience in dealing with sheltering displaced residents, gaining access to damage-affected areas and post emergency cleanup. However, the scope of destruction from a magnitude 7.8 earthquake would dwarf those operations but experts say that's the one to plan for.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, in Los Angeles.

--

Again, this mock earthquake drill takes place at 10 a.m. November 13th.

(KI6BNP, Press Enterprise)

**

RADIO HAPPENINGS: SKYWARN RECOGNATION DAY DECEMBER 6

The 10th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day Special Event will take place from 0000 to 2400 UTC on Saturday, December 6th. Co -sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service, SKYWARN Recognition Day is a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe especially during severe weather events. .

The idea for the first SKYWARN Recognition Day took shape in the summer of 1999. That's when Scott Mentzer, N0QE, the Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Goodland, Kansas office, tried to find a way to recognize the valuable contributions storm spotters. As many of those storm spotters were also hams, Floyd felt that it was a natural fit for the recognition to be centered on Amateur Radio.

According to SKYWARN Recognition Day Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their local participating National Weather Service office. There, working as a team they can contact other hams around the world throughout the 24 hour event. Last year, contacts were made in all 50 states and 40 countries. (ARRL, others)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC CANCELS FINE AGAINST BOSTON POLICE JAMMER DUE TO AGE

The FCC has cancelled a proposed fine levied against a Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, resident only identified as a John Doe based on his inability to pay a proposed $10,000 fine. Instead, it has admonished him for his willful and repeated violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act. This, after he was caught operating radio transmission equipment in on land mobile channels reserved exclusively for use by public safety entities. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, has more:

--

Back on October 22nd, 2007, the Boston Police Department reported to the FCC's Enforcement Bureau that it was receiving interference to its radio communications system. Because the interference was intermittent, the Telecommunications Director advised the Boston Office that he would provide additional information so that agents would know the best time of day to try to locate the interfering signal with FCC direction finding equipment.

Three days later on October 25th the Telecommunications Director contacted the Boston Office and reported that on October 24th police officers had arrested a young person only identified as a John Doe. At that time they had also confiscated a Yaesu transceiver and a Motorola two-way handheld. The person arrested admitted to having purchased the radios in April 2007 and provided the vendors with Boston Police radio codes so that the radios could be programmed with those channels. He also admitted to

operating on police radio channels.

On November 27, 2007, the Boston Field Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture to John Doe in the amount of $10,000 for operating radio transmitting equipment on land mobile channels reserved exclusively for use by public safety entities. In his response to the proposed fine, the John Doe did not dispute the findings. Instead, he requested cancellation of the forfeiture based on his inability to pay.

Now, after examining the financial documentation submitted by John Doe, the FCC concluded that cancellation of the forfeiture is warranted, based solely on his lack of income. However, because of the seriousness of the violation, the FCC did formally admonish John Doe for his willful and repeated violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

--

The John Doe in this story had been arrested on charges unrelated to his operation on police radio channels. Because of his age his name and other information on the case was not made public by authorities. But one question remains. That being why the unidentified radio vendors were not at least a bit suspicious when a young person walked in to buy a radio programmed to transmit on the Boston Police frequencies. Regardless of the story the customer gave it cannot be a usual kind of a sale. (FCC)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC INVESTIGATING DIGITAL CABLE TRANSITION

The Federal Communications Commission has opened an investigation into the pricing policies of major cable operators and that of Verizon Communications. The agency wants to ensure the companies' customers are getting treated fairly,

On October 30th the FCC wrote to numerous cable operators including Comcast and Time Warner Cable. The agency's letter questioned the companies' practice of moving analog channels into digital tiers to free up bandwidth for other uses, such as high-definition channels. Analog customers will have to get a digital set-top box from the operator or buy the digital TV tier to watch those channels. The agency also will look into whether cable operators and Verizon are confusing customers by linking the shift of the analog channel to the digital tier to the nation's transition to digital broadcasts. The FCC says that the two moves are unrelated.

Most cable customers are analog customers, and those who do not wish to upgrade to digital cannot watch the channels that are moved to the digital tier The FCC gave the companies being probed to submit information about their pricing practices within two weeks. Verizon, which offers pay-TV services with FiOS, was also included in the probe. (FCC, published reports)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC APPROVES BROABAND ACCESSS TO WHITE SPACES

The FCC has approved a plan to open up unused, unlicensed portions of the television airwaves known as "white spaces" to deliver wireless broadband service. The vote on Tuesday, November 4th is being viewed as a major victory for public interest groups and big technology companies. They say white spaces have the potential to bring broadband to rural America and other under served parts of the country.

But not everyone is happy with the FCC decision. The move to open up these spectral parcels was opposed by the nation's television broadcasters. They say that their use to deliver wireless Internet access could disrupt their over-the-air transmissions. Also opposed are the manufacturers and users of wireless microphones. They too have raised concerns of mutual interference issues.

For those unaware, a white space in telecommunications refers to unused frequencies that in this case lie between television stations. They are assigned to that status to avoid adjacent channel interference. (FCC)
**

COMMUNICATIONS SAFETY: ANOTHER LAPTOP BATTERY RECALL

Sony has announced that it will recall roughly 100,000 notebook batteries worldwide. This following several reports that the batteries could overheat.

The recall covers notebooks made by Dell, Hewlett-Packard, and Toshiba, during the same timeframe as the widespread Sony laptop battery recall of 2006. However, the laptops named by the Consumer Products Safety Commission with whom Sony is cooperating not overlap with the models previously recalled.

There is some good news this time around. The hazard cited by the agency does not include the risk of a short-circuit or fire as in the last recall. Sony's previous recall cost the company at least $429 million, and covered over 10 million batteries.

Go to your machines manufacturers website to find out if your battery is among those being recalled. (CPSC)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: 6 METER BROADCAST HAMS TO CELEBRATE ANALOG 2 GOING AWAY

The removal of all analog television from channel 2 will be celebrated with an on the air 6 meter operating event. According to Chris Boone, WB5ITT, who is coordinating the happening, the noise floor on 6 meters is expected to drop markedly when all the 100 kilowatt analog channel 2 transmitters go away. This means that here to for unreadable signals may just come out of the noise like never before.

WB5ITT says that he currently has representatives from three analog channel 2 stations on board the event and is looking for others to join in the party. Engineers and other hams at analog channel 2 television stations who will not be staying on channel 2 after the February 17th' digital transition should contact Chris at wb5itt at wb5itt dot net. A remailer on Yahoogroups has also been established. Join it using the normal sign-up commands to TV2on6meters@yahoogroups.com The date of the operating event will be (WB5ITT)

**

D-STAR NEWS: D-STAR COMES TO THE AZORES

D-Star has come to one of the remotest points on the globe. This, with word that the first D-Star repeater in the Azores Islands is on the air.

Operating as CQ0DAH dash B, this D-Star repeater is located on Santa Bï¿½rbara Mountain on Terceira Island. It operates on UHF Channel R U 576, with a transmit frequency of 438.450 MHz and receive frequency of 430.850 MHz, transmitting 25 watts out.

The adoption of D-Star in a remote outpost like the Azores is very significant since ham gear is not easy to come by in that part of the world. What it also seems to mean is that the D-Star digital system is quickly becoming the world standard that will eventually replace analog F-M for ham radio ham radio utility repeater communications. This, even though its only supported by Icom with most other manufacturers having turned their backs to it or trying to push alternatives systems that the worlds ham radio community is showing little interest in adopting. (Southgate)

**

D-STAR NEWS: W6HRO FROM HRO IN ANAHEIM CA

Ham Radio Outlet in Anaheim, California, has a low power D-Star repeater set up in the store. W6HRO operates on both 70 centimeters and 23 centimeter. It was originally established to help demonstrate the D-Star equipment but according to tore manager Janet Margelli, KL7MF, it was found to have pretty fair coverage around parts of Orange County.

The actual operating frequencies are W6HRO A on 1282.550 with a -12 MHz input offset and W6HRO B on 447.800 out with a -5 MHz input offset. Both receive and transmit in the normal D-Star format and are connected to the national gateway. Both bands also retransmit these Newsline reports once every week. As far as we know, W6HRO is the first D-Star repeater to serve as a Newsline outlet. (KL7MF)

**

RADIO EDUCATION: TECHNICIAN CLASS TRAINING ON LINE

The Arlington Radio Public Service Club has placed Technician Class Amateur Radio License Course material on their web site. The study materials are available, with some limitations, to other organizations without charge provided that prior permission is obtained and appropriate copyright notice and acknowledgement are included. For more information on obtaining and using this material please e-mail techclass (at) w4ava (dot) org. (KC5FM)

**

WORLDBEAT - BELGIUM: CELEBRATING THE FIRST TV SHOW

Turning to news from around the world, the first television show in Belgium was broadcast 55 years ago in 1953. And this is the reason for the special event station signing ON55INR. It will be active on SSB, CW and the digital modes through December 31st. QSL only via the bureau. (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT - FRANCE: CELEBRATING THE BOAT RACE

Members of France's Radio Club Vendeen will be active as TM6VG in all modes on all bands through November 15th. This, to celebrate Vendee Globe which is a round-the-world single-handed yacht race, sailed non-stop and without assistance that started on November 9th. More information is on-line at www.vendeeglobe.org (TDXB)

**

WORLDBEAT - OMAN: A SPECIAL GUEST OPERATION

Members of Germany's Lufthansa Amateur Radio Club and the Deutsche Amateur Radio Club I09 are currently the guests of the Royal Omani Amateur Radio Society and will be on the air From Oman through November 11. They are reportedly using the call letters A43DLH on CW, SSB and various digital modes on all bands. And during the final days of the event some EME operation is planned as well by DL8YHR. QSL via DK7PE. (OPDX)

**

DX ASSISTANCE: KN4LF RESUMES PROPAGATION FORCASTS

Tom Giella, KN4LF, in Lakeland, Florida reports that as of Friday October 31st that he resumed publishing his radiowave propagation forecast once again. You can find it in cyberspace at www.kn4lf.com/kn4lf6.htm (KN4LF via Southgate)

**

DX

In DX, word that ZS6AVM, will be on the air from Swaziland during November. Kisten out for him signing 3DA0VM on 40 through 10 meters using a Flex-5000A Software Defined Radio. QSL cards are requested to only be

sent direct via his home call.

And members of Oceania Amateur Radio DX Group Inc. will spend 10 days on Lord Howe Island for the 2009 CQ WPX Contest. VK4FW has announced that the operation will take place between March 24th and April 3rd 2009. He says that the group has successfully obtained accommodations and booked flights for the trip. To date they have 9 confirmed operators for a total of 13 actual people going. They still have room for a couple more, but you must be super-quick as both the accommodations on the island is almost full and so is the plane. If interested, contact vk4fw@westnet.com.au

F6ICX will be active as 5R8IC from Ile Sainte Marie Madagascar between November 18th and December 14th. Activity will be CW on 30 through 10 meters. QSL direct to F6ICX.

W6DXO, will be active as portable C6A from South Andros Island between March 1st and 7th of 2009. His operation will be holiday style with focus on 30, 17 and 12 meter bands as propagation allows. A QSL Manager will be announced at a later date

Lastly, N6NO, will be operating as CE0Y from Easter Island through November 16th. His activity will be mainly CW on use 40 through 12 meters. Although amateur radio is not normally permitted on 30 meters in the band for this operation. QSL via his home call.

(Above from various DX news sources.)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: NEWSLINE FOLLOW-UP: SAVE DELANO MOVEMENT SPARKS YOUTUBE VIDEO

A follow-up to last weeks story on the support being given by inventor Mike Dorrough, KO6NM, to the effort to save the Voice of America transmitter facility in Delano, California, from being dismantled. Now, the Southgate News reports that a new video presentation on YouTube dot com highlights the story of the decommissioning of the Delano facility along with the history of the Voice of America Service.

Produced and hosted by Al Parker, the video's description says that the last remaining intact Voice of America shortwave broadcast facility in Delano, California is facing destruction unless we act now to save a vital part of our cultural heritage. It goes on to note that the Voice of America radio service was not only important to deployed troops and Americans working overseas, it also provided oppressed people around the world a window onto a free society.

The shows title is simply "Save the Delano VOA." You can see it on-line at http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=qlLhWlDbKbI&fmt (Listener reports)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, and I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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1074. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 44 (Friday, November 7, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-07 22:03:24 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20081107215143.C5DAC30D27@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2345
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 44
November 7, 2008
****

IN THIS EDITION:

* + The ARRL On-Line Auction: Going Once, Going Twice, GONE!
* + ARRL VEC Announces Exam Fee Increase
* + Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, Back on Terra Firma
* + ARRL ETP School Gets "Up Close and Personal" with Space
* + Fred Fish Memorial Award #1 Presented to Lee Fish, K5FF
* + ARRL NTS Second Region Net Expands to Include Eastern Canada
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ W1AW to Participate in Global Simulated Emergency Test
+ George Steber, WB9LVI, Wins October QST Cover Plaque Award
Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Appointed Assistant Director

+ Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========

==> THE ARRL ON-LINE AUCTION: GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE, GONE!

Not with a whimper, but with a definite bang of the gavel, the Third Annual ARRL On-Line Auction closed on Friday, October 31 after nine days of frenzied bidding for almost 200 items <http://www.arrl.org/auction>. ARRL Business Services Manager Deb Jahnke, K1DAJ, said that she was thrilled with the responses the Auction received during its run. The generosity of many donors, Jahnke says, made it possible for the auction to offer a diverse list of items that included transceivers, ARRL Lab-tested and reviewed equipment, exotic vacations, vintage gear and mystery "junque" boxes.

This year's auction had more products than the 2006 or the 2007 auction. "Almost 1300 bids were placed this year on 197 items, auctioning off more than $43,000 worth of merchandise," Jahnke said. In 2007, more than 1100 bids were received for 181 items; in 2006, 1300 bids were placed for just over 100 items.

"For the third time in a row, the ARRL On-Line Auction did not disappoint," said Jahnke. "Not only did we have an increase in the number of items to bid on, we were so pleased to see a dramatic increase in Business Partner donations to the Auction this year."

While R4 Systems <http://www.r4systems.com/> -- developers of the Proteus Design Suite, a suite of tools for professional printed circuit board design -- was a new face to the ARRL Auction family, many old friends, such as ICOM <http://www.icomamerica.com/> returned. R4 donated a Proteus Suite software package that sold for $728; ICOM donated an IC-7000 HF/VHF/UHF All Mode Transceiver that eventually attracted 11 bids and sold for $1325.

One of the more popular items in this year's auction included four "junque boxes," donated by the ARRL Lab. Garnering 77 bids between them, these Amateur Radio treasure troves went for more than $250 each, raising more than $1000. "We featured the 'junque boxes' in our first auction, and they proved to be so popular with our bidders," Jahnke said. "We brought them back last year, and once again, we couldn't believe how they were all the rage. I can't even begin to describe how well-received they were this year." The contents of each box are a mystery, Jahnke said, known only to the ARRL Lab staff. "And they won't tell!" she said.

A lucky bidder won the chance for a little DX with the vacation spot on St Croix, donated by Vicky Thorland Oster and George Oster, NP2N (air and ground transportation not included). This villa -- located about 100 meters above sea level with wonderful antenna views to EU, USA and Asia -- has three operating stations equipped with multiple transceivers, amplifiers, antennas and on-site electrical generation capability.

If you are interested in Emergency Communications, then the ARRL On-Line Auction had a great deal for you: Emergency Starter Go Kits. These kits include an abundance of everything today's amateur needs when heading out to assist served agencies. Each kit contains an ICOM IC-V82 Sport handheld transceiver, package of six AA batteries, a black tote bag to hold all your gear, a reflective vest, an "ARRL Repeater Directory" and an "ARES Field Resources Manual." Opening bids for each of the 13 kits was $105, and together they raised $2214.

Proceeds from the auction benefit ARRL education programs, including activities to license new hams, strengthen Amateur Radio's emergency service training, offer continuing technical and operating education, as well as create instructional materials.

==> ARRL VEC ANNOUNCES EXAM FEE INCREASE

On November 6, The ARRL VEC <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/> announced that as of January 1, 2009, the fee to take an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE)-administered Amateur Radio license exam will increase by $1, from $14 to $15. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, ARRL VE teams may retain up to $7 of this fee to directly reimburse their teams' out-of-pocket examination expenses; currently, VE teams keep $6. This is the first time in four years that the examination fee has been adjusted.

Somma said that the FCC allows VECs to collect an examination reimbursement fee from each candidate who takes one or more exam elements. "VEs and VECs may be reimbursed by examinees for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in preparing, processing, administering or coordinating an examination for an amateur operator license (FCC Rule 97.527)," she said <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr97.527.pdf>. "These exam fees help the VEC recover its costs of providing its services."

Saying that every examinee at each ARRL coordinated examination session is charged the same fee in accordance with the annually-established fee schedule, "Any person sitting for an exam, or having a new license or upgrade processed at a test sessions, must pay the exam fee applicable for the calendar year," Somma explained. "The ARRL VEC's exam fee for calendar year 2009 is $15. Each time a candidate pays one exam fee, they are entitled to take tests for Elements 2, 3 and 4 as needed, up to all three elements under the single exam fee. Each time an examinee retakes an exam element (assuming the VE Team has different exam design available), another exam fee is charged."

VE teams may elect to keep a prescribed portion of each exam fee collected exclusively to offset expenses that are directly incurred in administering the VE program. "All out-of-pocket reimbursable expenses shall be necessary and prudent, and must relate to the examination process in some way," Somma said. "VECs and VEs are expected to use good business judgment with respect to reimbursement amounts. The examination reimbursement fee cannot be used to offset non-session related costs and must be kept separate from other accounts."

Somma pointed out that business expenses such as postal, utility, fuel and printing charges, are increasing: "Our VE teams are feeling the effects of the current economy, too! Teams are retaining reimbursement at amounts considerably larger than previous years. The amount of out-of-pocket costs that our VEs and the VEC are expending to provide authorized services in connection with Amateur Radio operator examinations continues to rise."

Recent ARRL VEC cost-cutting steps have included staff reduction, reduced printing charges of ARRL VE training material and exam software, renegotiating shipping and printing contracts and eliminating lesser-used services.

"Only so many cost-cutting measures can be justified without cutting back significantly on services essential to our VE teams, our customers

and our program," Somma said. "As a result, an adjustment was needed in the 2009 exam reimbursement fee if we intended to maintain the basic levels of service that our VEs, VE teams and candidates have come to expect."

Somma said that the ARRL VEC permits its VEs to retain a portion of the exam fees they collect to directly reimburse themselves for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in setting up and conducting their examination sessions. "As long as the expense is warranted and has been prudently incurred -- and the expense is specifically related to exam administration -- then the fee can be retained," she said. "The team should keep a complete record of the expenses paid (with receipts) in team records for two years. Records must be made available to the ARRL VEC upon request. Costs not related to the exam session processes or paperwork are not reimbursable."

"We believe that the ARRL VEC's level of assistance and services are outstanding," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. "Exam supplies, such as paperwork and software, shipping costs both to and from the VEC and ARRL VE accreditation, as well as credentials, are all free of charge for our VEs. We maintain a toll-free number for our VEs and we even offer reimbursement to the VE team for their expenses. We appreciate the dedication and volunteerism of all our VEs in the field. This is why we offer so many services free of charge. This is why we have that same level of duty and commitment here. Every test fee we collect goes right back into the VEC program and to serving the Amateur Radio community."

==> RICHARD GARRIOTT, W5KWQ, BACK ON TERRA FIRMA

After 10 days on the International Space Station (ISS), Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, returned to Earth October 23 on Soyuz TMA-12. Garriott is the son of Owen Garriott, W5LFL, who in 1983 was the first ham to make QSOs from space. While Richard was on board the ISS, he too made QSOs, furthering what has now become a family tradition. "This mission to the ISS fulfilled a lifelong dream to experience spaceflight, just as my father first did 25 years ago [on STS-9]," Richard said. "It's an honor to be the first American to follow a parent into space." Richard took off from Star City in Kazakhstan on October 12.

While on board the ISS, Richard conducted scientific experiments and environmental research -- he also had a chance to do quite a bit of Amateur Radio, including sending slow-scan TV (SSTV) images <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/sstv.html>. Calling the chance to make QSOs from space a "great opportunity," he described speaking directly with hams and trading call signs to be an "unexpected joy" and said in his blog that he was pleased "to find so many enthusiastic hams who were so well informed and interested in my activities in orbit. When I began my transmissions with preplanned SSTV images, including 'pirate messages,' test patterns and family images, I did not know how they would be received. But it seemed that fellow hams really enjoyed seeing this beginning to my time on the International Space Station."

Through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program (ARISS) <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm>, Richard made numerous contacts via Amateur Radio with schoolchildren. He said he found speaking to students "most rewarding...Growing up in an astronaut family, I firmly believed that every person could go to space, and now I have. I took this opportunity to inspire [the students] with my adventure and let them know they can achieve their wildest dreams as well with hard work and perseverance." To date, there have been 379 ARISS ISS-to-Earth QSOs.

Richard Glueck, N1MDZ, a teacher at Orono Middle School in Orono, Maine, said students in his classes were excited about making contact via Amateur Radio with Richard on the ISS. "Richard recorded our contact and wished us well," Glueck told the ARRL. "We returned the greeting. It made the afternoon for my Social Studies class. We made the contact using straight FM voice. Our contact was heavy on the static, and we were hearing Garriott respond to various hams in Iowa and Michigan, as well. We heard the data transmission of the SSTV during the early morning passes."

Saying he "clearly remembers" Sputnik in 1957, Glueck said the "growth of space technology and human inhabitation impacts my life in a huge way. I firmly believe that while modern kids take space flight and satellites for granted, that this is a good thing, Amateur Radio is the most significant manner in which teachers can get kids to interact with spaceflight in a personal manner."

The Liberal Arts and Science Academy at LBJ High School in his hometown of Austin, Texas was one of the many schools that Richard made contact with. "It takes a lot to excite kids these days with the Internet and cell phones, but when you tell kids you're going to talk directly to the space station from our high school, with our own equipment, they're very excited," teacher Ronny Risinger, KC5EES, told an Austin television station. Student Jason Pan agreed: "Just come here and talk to an astronaut...it's just unbelievable. Like you can't even really think about it. It's just like something you can experience. I don't know, I don't really have any words for it."

ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, had nothing but praise for Richard and his trip to the ISS. "We have all made history, starting with Richard, W5KWQ, and his father Owen, W5LFL, and continuing with all [who have] participated and/or volunteered in his ISS journey," Bauer told the amateur community. "Along the way, we have sparked the imaginations of thousands of students, and I understand [that Richard's journey has] excited some youths to the point where they are now licensed."

Calling Richard "prolific on the ARISS ham radio system," Bauer said Richard made "hundreds of voice contacts, operating the packet system during the crew sleep times and transmitting hundreds of SSTV images throughout the day. He put the newest ARISS hardware, the Kenwood VC-H1, to good use, performing the vast majority of contacts with this hardware system coupled with the Kenwood D700 transceiver. The remaining SSTV

downlinks were performed with the software-based SSTV system."

Bauer said that given the limited availability of ISS computer systems, "the ARISS team will continue to utilize the VC-H1 well after Richard's flight. So don't be surprised if you see some VC-H1 SSTV operations from Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, during his stay as the commander of Expedition 18." Fincke is expected to return to Earth in late March 2009. Gregory Chamitoff, KD5PKZ, and Yury Lonchakov RA3DT, are currently on board the ISS, as well.

Richard said that after his first QSOs with Earth, he understood how "well-networked" the global ham community really is: "I received specific reports back through Mission Control-Moscow about the technical aspects of my work and how the [amateur] community was enjoying the transmissions. This redoubled my enthusiasm to do quality work for the Amateur Radio legions around the world, as I realized how much it meant to those with whom I had the chance to talk. By late in my flight, I had contacted many hundreds of hams by voice and I have good records of these contacts."

While in space, Richard performed a series of experiments for NASA that examined the physical impact of spaceflight on astronauts. He observed the reaction of the eyes to low and high pressure in a microgravity environment, the effects of spaceflight on the human immune system, and astronauts' sleep/wake patterns and sleep characteristics. He also photographed a number of ecologically significant places on Earth on behalf of The Nature Conservancy. The photographs will be compared to shots taken 25 years ago by Owen Garriott while he was in space and will be used to document how the Earth has changed in one generation. He also worked in cooperation with the European Space Agency to perform a series of experiments that observed early detection of osteoporosis, vestibular (inner ear) adaptation to G-force transitions and the occurrence of lower back pain.

On his last day in space, Richard sent SSTV "goodbye" images down to Earth. "I also contacted many hams that had listened to or contacted my father from space 25 years ago," he said. "Some hams I contacted 2 to 4 times on my flight. On those last days, I was very moved, when [I was sent] sent many 'soft landing' messages from individuals and classrooms full of children as I passed by. The ham community has added greatly to my personal feelings of success on my flight. I can only hope that you enjoyed it as much as I did."

==> ARRL ETP SCHOOL GETS "UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL" WITH SPACE

When Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, went onboard the International Space Station (ISS), one of his main goals was to make contacts with schoolchildren through the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. According to ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, Garriott requested that ARISS assist him in taking part in a whole slate of varied ham radio activities. "The ARISS Team tagged up on the air with Richard early on to check the radios and the schedule,"

she said. "Not only did he do a multitude of scheduled ARISS contacts, he got on the air for random QSOs with hams around the world."

One of those scheduled contacts was to be on Sunday, October 19 with the LBJ High School Amateur Radio Club, K5LBJ, at the Liberal Arts and Science Academy at LBJ High School in Garriott's hometown of Austin, Texas. The school is an ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP) school <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/>, formerly known as a "Big Project" school; the Amateur Radio club is guided by Ronny Risinger, KC5EES, a graduate of the ARRL's Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html>.

According to Risinger, K5LBJ had worked closely with several hams who had already completed at least one or more direct ISS contacts, preparing for the contact with Garriott. "Our group was confident in its preparation," Risinger told the ARRL, "but those doubts always linger: Did a rotator cable gain a gremlin as it was moved the morning of the contact? Will the rotator decide to fail? Most importantly, will our computer and software function correctly to track the ISS? But all of the stress and worry about such issues melted away as soon as we called 'NA1SS, this is K5LBJ' and heard the faint, but unmistakable reply, 'K5LBJ, this is NA1SS.' From that moment on, I knew that the crowd that had assembled in our school cafeteria in the early hours of a Sunday morning would leave happy."

Risinger said that as soon as contact was established, "Richard began to answer the questions posed by the students from K5LBJ and the Deep Wood Elementary Amateur Radio Club, K5DWE." Calling the participating students "very professional," Risinger said that each student stood in line and eagerly awaited their turn at the mic.

"Never demonstrating any sign of nerves, each of the students -- ranging in age from 8 to 18 -- carefully obtained the mic from the previous student and relayed their question to the ISS," he said. "As the club sponsor and liaison with the schools, I was extremely proud of the students' confidence and poise as they spoke with Richard. They knew that this was a 'failure is not an option' moment and they took their role seriously. No one got 'mic fright' or ad-libbed a 'shout out to the world.' This group of young people demonstrated the best of Amateur Radio: Working together as professionals to achieve great things. In this case, they created memories that will last a lifetime."

Like a row of ducks, the students approached the mic in succession. As each asked their question, Richard gave a thorough but succinct answer. "Thanks to the work of Bryan Bible, N5BTB, the audio from the uplink/downlink was combined and fed into the school speaker system," Risinger said. "The audio from the contact was crisp and loud as it filled the entire cafeteria. While the contact was going on, satellite contact mentor Ron Parsons, W5RKN, treated the audience to the view from the ISS." Using software and Google Earth, Risinger said that Parsons projected the view of Earth from the ISS onto the wall. As the ISS approached Texas, flags denoting major cities were displayed on the

projected view.

"If one watched closely, they would have seen a small flag marked 'Liberal Arts & Science Academy,' showing our location as seen from the ISS," Risinger told the ARRL. "You can't but help to notice from the projection just how fast the ISS is traveling. In just a matter of minutes, the ISS 'view' showed several states crossing below."

The contact between the Austin school clubs and Richard had a 10 minute window (ISS traveling horizon to horizon). Risinger said that after that first faint response from Richard, the audio was loud and clear: "For the next eight minutes, 11 students fired away a total of 20 questions ranging from space sickness to how Richard's own experience as a space traveler would affect his business model to promote private space travel."

As the conversation took place, Risinger noted the time until LOS (loss of signal) and realized that they were going to finish earlier than planned. "While I had warned the audience that we may abruptly lose contact with Richard if we went too long, I had not anticipated having time to spare," he told the ARRL. "As the last student listened to Richard's response, I took the microphone. In that moment, I thought of all the things I could say. Something banal? Something witty? Instead, when I heard silence, I could only tell Richard thank you for taking his short time in space to contact our school. By my students' rough calculations, Richard spent $20,000 of his time -- not to look out the window at the glory of the Earth below, or to work on science experiments -- but to speak with children. This rare act of kindness and inspiration had to be noted. In response, Richard thanked our group and remarked that through education and perseverance, students in our room might also have the opportunity one day to travel to space. The wonder of space travel and its links to Amateur Radio became real as we heard him sign off, 'K5LBJ, this is NA1SS -- 73 from the International Space Station.' As K5LBJ signed off as well, the room erupted in cheers. A moment that had begun with butterflies ended in high-fives and a new generation of students was inspired by the possibility of space travel."

According to Risinger, as the contact ended, the students beamed with pride as they discussed the contact. Comments such as "I was really nervous" and "It was cool!" echoed all around the cafeteria. "All conveyed a deep satisfaction in achieving something unique, something that only Amateur Radio could offer," he said.

After the crowd dispersed, the crew of adults that made the contact possible began to tear down the equipment. "When I looked around the room," Risinger said, "I could not help but notice that the entire chain of command was standing before me. The people that worked together to make this opportunity happen for the students were right here: Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, from Johnson Space Center; ARISS Liaison Gene Chapline, K5YFL; Austin ARC Contact Coordinator Lee Cooper, W5LHC; Austin area satellite mentor Ron Parsons, W5RKN; classroom mentor Joe Fisher, K5EJL, and me, the classroom teacher. I reflected on the time and effort that

went into this contact. While the students only saw '10 minutes of awesome!' I knew that it was due to the efforts of the people on this team. Along with Richard Garriott, they had sacrificed of themselves to benefit others -- they are Amateur Radio at its finest."

==> FRED FISH MEMORIAL AWARD #1 PRESENTED TO LEE FISH, K5FF

The first Fred Fish Memorial Award (FFMA) plaque has been awarded posthumously to Fred Fish, W5FF (SK) <http://www.arrl.org/awards/ffma/index.html>. The award was presented by West Gulf Division Director Coy Day, N5OK, to Fish's widow Lee Fish, K5FF, at the ARRL Forum at the Texoma Hamorama in Ardmore, Oklahoma on October 25.

The FFMA was created to honor Fred Fish, W5FF, a legendary VHF+ operator who became the first amateur to work and confirm all 488 Maidenhead grid squares on 6 meters in the 48 contiguous United States. According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, plaques bearing Fred Fish's likeness will be awarded to any amateur who can repeat Fred's accomplishment.

Several members of the Central States VHF Society (CSVHFS) were present for the ceremony; Fred and Lee were members of CSVHFS for many years. "Lee was visibly moved when she saw the photo of her late husband on the plaque bearing his name," Kutzko said, "and her voice broke as she spoke out loud, realizing that 'when award number 2099 is presented, Fred's picture will still be on the plaque.' Lee also thanked the ARRL and the Amateur Radio community for recognizing her husband's contributions to Amateur Radio."

Both Lee and Fred were very active on the VHF bands, and earned Worked All States (WAS) <http://www.arrl.org/awards/was/> on 6 and 2 meters, as well as 222 and 432 MHz. Lee was the first person to get DXCC on 6 meters; Fred was the second. Kutzko said that the couple is remembered as generous with their time to VHF newcomers.

More information on the Fred Fish Memorial Award, as well as other ARRL operating awards, can be found on the ARRL Awards Program portion of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/awards/>.

==> ARRL NTS SECOND REGION NET EXPANDS TO INCLUDE EASTERN CANADA

As of November 1, 2008, the Second Region Net (2RN) of the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS) expanded its reach, providing regular network nodes for Canadian provinces in Eastern Canada <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nts-mpg/>.

In a joint announcement last week, NTS Eastern Area Chair Marcia Forde, KW1U, and Bill Thompson, W2MTA, NTS Second Region Net (2RN) Manager for Cycles 2 and 3, invited those Canadian radio amateurs who handle traffic to participate in Second Region Net operations as the Eastern Canada Net (ECN) is no longer active. According to Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) <http://www.rac.ca/>, the ECN, a CW Net, handled traffic for Ontario,

Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Price Edward Island and Newfoundland into the US for transcontinental transmission.

"This expansion of 2RN operations is intended to allow Section Nets in the eastern provinces of Canada to have outlet to Eastern Area Net operations and to allow inbound traffic to flow to those provinces of Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes," Thompson said. "This is much the same way as the more-western provinces in Canada currently interface with the NTS RN7 (Seventh Region Net) and TEN (Tenth Region Net) nets."

Canadian operators are invited to participate in the 2RN operations in addition to those of their provincial NTS Section Nets. The Second Region Net operates four times daily on the 75 and 80 meter bands (3.925 and 3.576 MHz) in accordance with the NTS Four Cycle timetable using Cycles 2, 3 and 4.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The sway of magic potent over Sun and star" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Sunspot 1007 is still there, but probably rotating off the visible solar disk sometime today. This is the eighth sunspot of the new solar cycle -- and also the largest. Sunspot numbers for October 30-November 5 were 13, 16, 16, 17, 18, 14 and 11 with a mean of 15. The 10.7 cm flux was 66.8, 68.1, 66.7, 69.1, 69.5, 68 and 67.7 with a mean of 68. The estimated planetary A indices were 11, 6, 1, 2, 1, 1 and 0 with a mean of 3.1. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 11, 5, 0, 2, 1, 1 and 0 with a mean of 2.9. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by William Wordsworth's "Laodamia" <http://www.bartleby.com/41/393.html>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Weekend on the Radio: This week, look for the NCCC Sprint on November 7. The WAE DX Contest (RTTY), the JIDX Phone Contest, the OK/OM DX Contest (CW), the Kentucky QSO Party and the CQ-WE Contest are all November 8-9. The SKCC Weekend Sprintathon is November 9 and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Sprint (SSB) is November 13. Next week is the ARRL EME Contest on November 15-16 and the ARRL Sweepstakes Contest (SSB) on November 15-17. The NCCC Sprint is November 14.The JT Hamradio-50 Anniversary DX Contest and the Feld Hell Sprint are November 15. The SARL Field Day Contest, the All Austrian 160 Meter Contest and the RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest (CW) are November 15-16. The EU PSK63 QSO Party is November 16, the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is November 17 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is November 20. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, November 23, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, December 5, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001), Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006), Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009), Technician License Course (EC-010), Analog Electronics (EC-012) and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

* W1AW to Participate in Global Simulated Emergency Test: On November 8, W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, will be participating in the 2008 Global Simulated Emergency Test (GlobalSET), sponsored by IARU Region 1 <http://raynet-hf.net/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=34>. The event runs from 0400-0800 UTC, but due to the W1AW transmission schedule, the ARRL station will be on the air from 0500-0800 UTC. ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, and ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, will be on the air from W1AW. According to event organizer Greg Mossop, G0DUB, the GlobalSET is an exercise <http://www.iaru-r1.org/GlobalSETNov08Rules-English.pdf> for headquarters stations of IARU Member Societies and stations of emergency communications groups -- it is not a contest. Activity will be concentrated around the IARU Emergency Centre of Activity frequencies. Where permitted by their licensing administration, participating stations will use "/D" after their call sign, indicating distress or disaster. A list of participating stations can be found onine <http://www.raynet-hf.net/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=35>.

* George Steber, WB9LVI, Wins October QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for October is George R. Steber, WB9LVI, for his article "Experimenter's RF Spectrum Analyzer." Congratulations, George! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page

<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the November issue by Sunday, November 30.

* Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Appointed Assistant Director: On October 25, ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, announced that he had appointed Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, former Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, an Assistant Director for the Atlantic Division; Hollingsworth retired from the FCC earlier this year. Assistant Directors are personal appointees of Directors who are chosen to aid in the normal routine of administering the Division; they usually have knowledge or expertise in a certain area concerning Amateur Radio. There are currently nine Assistant Directors in the Atlantic Division.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify

membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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1075. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1631 - November 14, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-14 18:14:17 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20081114101346.015def00@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2346
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1631 - November 14, 2008

I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, for a moment stepping out of my role as Newsline's producer.

For many years, one of the leaders in the repeater coordination community was Karl Pagel, N6BVU. Sadly, I must report that Karl is these days confined to a nursing home in failing health.

Due to lung problems, he finds it hard to speak for any length of time. What Karl needs is a laptop computer with a wireless card so that he can get back to being active by communicating with his fingers rather than his voice. If you have a laptop that you are no longer using, please e-mail us here at Newsline and we will happily arrange for it to get to Karl. Just e-mail us at newsline@arnewsline.org.

One final thought. Karl Pagel literally devoted most of his adult life to serving the ham radio community. He's truly one of the good guys and his repeater directories for the south-western United States were the most accurate ever produced. And he did all of this as a volunteer. So if you have an older working wireless laptop that's sitting in the closet, we have
someone who can put it to good use.

And less we forget, get-well wishes to Karl Pagel, N6BVU, can be sent to him at our e-mail address. We will print them out and see that he gets them.

I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF. Here's the newscast.

**

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1631 with a release date of Friday, November 14th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The sinking economy hits ham radio and forces cancellation of a major ham radio show down-under, I-B-M says its going into the rural B-P-L business, a buyout in the ham radio publishing industry and the long awaited St. Brandon Island DXpedition will take place this month. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1631 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: THE GLOBAL RECESSION HITS HAM RADIO

The world wide recession has hit ham radio. This with word that one of Australia's major ham radio gatherings has been cancelled for 2009 because of it. Bruce Lees, VK3FFF, reports:

--

One of Australia's largest ham radio events has been put on hold. Amateur Radio Victoria has decided to postpone the Center Victoria RadioFest, which was to be held in February at the Kyneton racecourse, due in part to the current economic uncertainty in Australia.

Its President Jim Linton VK3PC says postponing this major annual event until 2010 will be a disappointment to many, but it is the result of a number of factors outside the control of the state-wide organization. Among these are growing concerns within the general community about job security and lower returns from savings and investments including superannuation.

A downturn already exists in some retail sectors, and a sharp fall in the exchange rate value of the Aussie dollar will further increase the price of amateur radio equipment.

On a positive note, Jim Linton VK3PC advises that planning will now focus on the return of the Center Victoria RadioFest in 2010 as part of the Wireless Institute of Australia centenary celebrations.

I'm Bruce Lees VK3FFF.

--

To what extent the recession will affect other ham radio shows around the world is at this time unknown. (WIA News)

**

THE BPL FIGHT: IBM SAYS ITS BOPL WILL SERVE RURAL AMERICA

According to news reports, IBM says it wants to bring high speed Internet to rural areas of the nation using Broadband over Powerline technology. The company has penned a $9.6 million contract with International Broadband Electric Communications to deliver high-speed broadband connectivity to millions of people who both companies claim might otherwise not be able to get it.

The Wall Street Journal reported that IBM and International Broadband Electric Communications are working with over a dozen electric cooperatives in seven states. IBM will provide the data technology while International Broadband Electric Communications will actually manage the networks.

For years the supporters of BPL have hoped that it would allow power companies to become the third alternative in the broadband market, competing against cable operators and telephone companies. But technical limitations and interference issues with radio systems including those used by ham radio operators have stood in the way of mass adoption.

Weather or not this latest attempt to deploy BPL will meet with any measure of success is questionable. Even though IBM and International Broadband

Electric Communications focusing on rural and underserved markets, it seems like they still have an uphill battle in overcoming interference issues. Only a few months ago the deployment of BPL was handed what industry observers considered to be a proverbial death blow. This, after s federal appeals court sided in part with the ARRL and the amateur radio community in its challenge to FCC rules designed to speed the service's rollout. The judges in the case sent the rules back to the FCC with instructions to clarify is reasoning for its rules and to publicize its studies more fully.

Also, deploying any new infrastructure whether it's wired or wireless won't be cheap. Even with the powerlines already in place, some reports say that it could take years before rural Americans e get high-speed Internet. And other technologies, such as 4G wireless may offer lower cost and higher speeds with fewer technical issues than BPL. Also, an article in the latest I-triple-E Communications Magazine reports on a research effort by NATO that shows that BPL would cause interference to military communications systems.

The bottom line: What affect a successful rural rollout of BPL by IBM and International Broadband Electric Communications might have on ham radio communications will not be known until the first system is in trial operation.

(ARNewsline from the VHF Reflector, K0SQ, K2GW, KB6NUand various other published news reports. See http://kb6nu.com/more-evidence-that-bpl-causes-interference/ for the implications to military communications.)

**

RADIO POLITICS: CHANGES LIKELY AT THE FCC

Look for some changes at the FCC early next year. Don Carlson, KQ6FM, has the details:

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Now that the election is over and the Democrats control both Congress and the White House, look for some major changes at the FCC. This, not only because there will be a new chairman and at least one new commissioner will be Democrats. But also in the way issues will be explored and acted upon by a soon to be Democratic controlled telecommunications agency.

While there will be little to impact on ham radio, at least for the present, broadcasters and telecommunications giants may have some cause for concern. For example, the commission's broadcast localism proposals, if adopted, might be more stringent under a Democratic controlled FCC. Those proposals could include requiring the main studio to be in the city of license and returning to the days of 24 hour a day, 7 day a week staffing. This is something that many radio networks have gotten away from by adopting central-casting from one location and satellite or fiber optic based delivery to the cities served.

Also the license term for broadcasters could wind up being shorter. Radio World on-line reports that Ernest Sanchez, a principal of The Sanchez Law Firm says that president-elect Barack Obama has told confidantes he believes eight years is too long a term for a broadcaster to hold a license. That may signal more public interest sensitivity from whomever new administration selects as the next FCC chairman.

All this said, its for the moment a lets wait and see what the new administration brings.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline. I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

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Whatever the changes are, you can be pretty certain that the FCC's overall policies will likely be more liberal leaning in the years to come. (RW, others)

**

THE COST OF US HAM EXAMS: ARRL VS W5YI ON RAISING TESTING FEES

The cost of taking a ham radio exam through the nations largest Volunteer Examination Coordinator is going up, but the nations second biggest V-E-C says not so fast.

On November 6th, The ARRL VEC announced that as of January 1, 2009, the fee to take an ARRL Volunteer Examiner administered Amateur Radio license exam will increase by $1, from $14 to $15.
Meantime, the nations other big VEC says that it will not be raising its exam rate.

Larry Pollock , NB5X, is the President of the W5YI-VEC. He says that the his organization will hold the line on the $14 exam fee level charged applicants to take amateur examinations. That it will not will increase license examination fees for 2009.

It should be noted that each VEC across the country establishes it own fee schedule for providing examination services. As a result, there are almost as many different rates charged for examinations as there are VEC's. Depending on the VEC, the cost runs anywhere from the high of $15 to one that charges no fee at all to administer an exam. (ARRL Release, W5YI VEC Release)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO WAS READY FOR PALOMA

Ham radio was activated when a Hurricane Paloma threatened the Cayman Islands and Cuba over the weekend of November 8th and 9th. Various hurricane watch nets and the ham station at the National Hurricane Center in Miami were on alert. The nets forwarded severe incoming weather reports to the center's WX4NHC amateur radio station and also using VoIP circuits.

At its peak, Paloma became a category 4 storm with peak winds in excess of 130 miles per hour before downgrading to a tropical storm. The National

Weather Service says it will likely dissipate completely as it reaches the colder waters of the Atlantic on its trek North. (Various sources)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: DELAYED ST. BRANDONS OPERATION TO TAKE PLACE THIS MONTH

Some good news for DX'ers. Rachid Cadersa, 3B8FQ, reports that his trip to activate St. Brandon Island is on once again.

His operation from the remote outpost had been planned for late October. It was delayed due to the unavailability of a sea going vessel for transportation. The next boat scheduled to leave for St. Brandon is November 15th. Rachid says that he and the meteorological station maintenance team are hoping to be aboard.

If everything works out as planned, Rachid will be active as 3B7FQ much longer than during his short stay on Agalega Island as 3B6FQ this past April. As was the case this past spring, he will be on a work assignment and will be active on CW and SSB as time is available.

We will have more DX related news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (OPDX)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KM6DF repeater serving the city of Santa Maria, California.

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM RADIO BUSINESS: CQ ACQUIRES WORLDRADIO AND TAKES IT ON-LINE

A big change is coming to the ham radio publishing scene. This as one popular magazine absorbs another. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the Newsroom with the details:

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Two magazines that this writer knows quite well are kind of being joined at the hip. At least, so as to speak. This with word that Hicksville, New York-based CQ Communications, Inc. has acquired Sacramento, California based WorldRadio magazine.

Since its inception in July of 1971, WorldRadio has been the only ham radio magazine published West of the Continental Divide. Its a monthly publication with a primary focus on the human side of ham radio. And as many of you know, for about the past 10 years this reporter has been the editor of its VHF and F-M column.

So why has Worldradio been sold? My longtime friend and Worldradio publisher Armond Noble, N6WR, says that at the age of 74 its simply time for him to retire. And why sell to CQ? In a press release N6WR said simply that he wanted to be sure that WorldRadio found a good home, and that its readers would continue to be served by what he termed as an independent voice in amateur radio.

CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, echoed Armond Noble's words. Ross says that for nearly four decades WorldRadio has filled an important niche in the hobby. Ross says that he welcomes all of WorldRadio's readers to the CQ family, and looks forward to meeting their needs for many years to come.

At this time WorldRadio to continue to be published, but only online magazine with Editor Nancy Kott, WZ8C, continuing in that position. Current WorldRadio subscribers will also have their subscriptions transferred to CQ magazine. Readers will be notified of details as plans are finalized.

CQ, a general-interest ham radio magazine best known for its support of DX'ing and contesting, has been in print since January, 1945. And along with Vertex-Standard Corporation, it is also one of the two primary corporate underwriters of the Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award.

In the newsroom, I'm Bill Pasterak, WA6ITF.

--

We at Amateur Radio Newsline thank retiring Worldradio publisher Armond Noble, N6WR, and his wife Helen for their years of service to the world-wide ham radio community. (ARNewsline from joint CQ / WorldRadio News Release)

**

ENFORCEMENT: LOCAL POLICE AND FCC TEAM UP ON UNLICENSED FLORIDA STATION BUST

Turning to enforcement news, a Lakeland, Florida man is accused of illegally operating a radio station out of a motel. This, after Polk County Sheriff's Deputies arrested 53 year-old Frankie Grover for broadcasting without an FCC license. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the details:

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The investigation into Frankie Grover's unlicensed broadcasts began when a Lakeland Florida detective spotted a flyer advertising a party sponsored by "Blazin' 87.9 Da Biz." With assistance of the FCC the Lakeland detectives were able to locate where the radio 87.9 FM signal was broadcasting from. And, believe it or not, that turned out to be a motel on a main steet in that city.

The FCC quickly confirmed that no license existed for the radio station on that frequency or at that location. So, for the next two months, detectives

say they watched and listened to Frankie Grover and his Blazin' 87. They say Grover was also running live webcam and internet audio of 87.9 FM simultaneously with radio broadcasts, so it was not all that difficult to keep tabs on him.

On November 7th, detectives made their move. They arrested Grover after serving search warrants at the motel. Investigators say Grover paid $450 a month for each of the three rooms that they allege served as the studio and office for the station. At the time of the raid police also seized all of Grover's broadcast equipment and radio gear.

Detectives say Grover claimed he had been in the radio business for 30 years and was former owner of radio station WHNR AM in Winter Haven. He was booked into the Polk County Jail and released the same day after posting a $1,000 bond. Operating an unlicensed broadcast station or making an unauthorized transmission on radio frequency is a 3rd degree felony under Florida state law.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

Grover could also face some severe punitive action from the FCC. (KB5TJI, Radio Ink.com, Winter Haven News Chief, others)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC FINES BROADCASTER $18000 OVER PAPERWORK

Word that broadcaster Sun Valley Radio has lost a three-year-old appeal to the FCC and will be fined a total of $18,000. This, in two cases involving improperly maintained public files. Jim Damron, N8TMW, reports:

--

The matter goes back to 2005. That's when Sun Valley admitted in renewal filing for KBLQ FM in Logan, Utah, and KKEX FM in Preston, Idaho that it had discovered the stations were missing Quarterly Issues and Programs lists for several earlier quarters. Sun Valley said that it recreated the missing lists and placed them into the public files.

But the FCC staff ruled that Sun Valley was apparently liable for a fine for the missing lists . The agency proposed fines of $9,000 for KBLQ FM and another $9000 for the same type of violations at KKEX FM.

Sun Valley appealed. In its reply the broadcaster argued among other things that the fines were higher than those given to other stations in similar situations. It also noted that its other co-owned stations were in compliance and that no one had been harmed because no member of the public had tried to see the files. It also noted that its voluntary disclosure if the error earned it a reduction.

The FCC now has rejected the appeal. It says that its rules are to be obeyed and that Sun Valley had not proved mitigating circumstances as to

why the fine should be reduced or cancelled.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW.

--

Sun Valley Radio can either pay the fine or take the matter into the federal courts on appeal. (FCC)

**

RADIO BUSINESS: NEW QRZ CALLSIGN CD-ROM RELEASED

Turning to the ham radio business scene, the 32nd edition of the QRZ Ham Radio CD-ROM Callsign Database is now available. In addition to the popular QRZ database of callsigns, the also contains over 310,000 e-mail addresses, the latest FCC callsigns issued as of April 2008, over 10,000 Digital QSL Card images and much more. This latest edition also includes a new, faster installation program and a return to the previous disc layout for maximum logbook compatibility. More is on-line at www (dot) qrz (dot) com. (QRZ)

**

HAM RADIO IN THE WEB: CALLBOOK FOR IPHONE AND IPOD TOUCH

And with the popularity of the Apple's mobile devices a ham radio application for these devices could not be far away. Now from Dog Park Software Ltd. comes version 1.0 of CallBook for I Phone and iPod Touch.

CallBook is an Amateur Radio application that allows you to look up call signs via the free WM7D server, the QRZ Online subscription service or the HamCall subscription serve using your Apple portable device. Results can be e-mailed and the QTH can be instantly viewed in the Maps application. More information is on-line at dogparksoftware.com (E-mail)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: ARRL FREQUENCY MEASURING TEST ON NOVEMBER 13

The ARRL has announced that its 2008 Frequency Measuring Test will take place Wednesday evening, November 12 at 9:45 PM EST. That works out to be Thursday morning, November 13 at 02:45 UTC.

The Frequency Measuring Test will start with a general QST call from W1AW at exactly 02:45 UTC, transmitted simultaneously on 3597.5 and 7095 kHz. The test will replace the W1AW phone bulletin scheduled at this time. Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, recommends that those planning to participate listen to W1AW's transmissions prior to the event to determine which band--or bands--will be best for measurement purposes.

West Coast participants have their own signal to check again this year, courtesy of WA6ZTY. (ARRL)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: AA4RC EXPLAINS HAM RADIO TO 10000 SCOUTS

A word of congratulations to Robin Cutshaw AA4RC who recently got on the air to demonstrate amateur radio and amateur satellites to 10,000 scouts. The scouts were camped out at Alabama's Talladega Speedway as part of an outing. Robin also lead the team hosting the 2008 AMSAT Space Symposium in Atlanta. He's to be congratulated on doing both jobs well done. (ANS)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: DX VIDEO RELEASED

The Magnolia DX Association's K5MDX East Ship Island DXpedition video is now on-line. The video documents the first ever activation from East Ship which was officially activated during the period of October 16th to the 19th. We can't show you the pictures on a radio newscast, but here's a sample of the narration track. Take a listen:

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Audio from narration track. Hear it in the MP3 version of this newscast at www.arnewsline.org

--

East Ship Island is located off the coast of Mississippi south of Biloxi and is counted as part of the Mississippi Islands Group under the Islands on the Air awards program.

The DX operation ended barely a month ago and in what may be a record for video, the show was put together by N-Zero-I-R-S Productions in anout three weeks. Its well worth the 10 minutes it runs to watch. You will find it on the YouTube dot com video website at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFPbR1y0U7I (QRZ.COM)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE - THE ARISS CONTACT DOWN UNDER

An ham radio in space contact between the St. Thomas' Primary School in Brisbane, Australia and the International Space Station took place on Tuesday, November 4th. That's when students at the school had a chance to talk with astronaut and ham radio operator Mike Fincke, KE5AIT. Robert

Broomhead, VK3KRB, is in Glen Waverly with the the story and the sound:

--

Think an international phone call is expensive? Try ringing someone in space.

Using an antenna attached to a crane, 15 students from a small Brisbane school have spoken with a US astronaut live from NASA's International Space Station The children, from St Thomas' Catholic Primary School at Camp Hill on Brisbane's southside, had just 10 minutes to talk with the real-life space traveler and mission commander of the United States Air Force, Colonel Edward Michael 'Mike' Fincke, when the ISS orbited over Brisbane.

Way up north of the state, WIA News Man Felix VK4FUQ fired up his IC 706 on 145.8 FM and there was the ISS coming through loud and clear!

--

Contact Audio here. Hear it in the MP3 version of this newscast at www.arnewsline.org

--

The entire local community at Camp Hill got on board for the event,. Parents and students turned out to listen in the hall and to watch a simulcast outside. St Thomas' principal David Cashman said the school was thrilled to receive confirmation from NASA last year that the school had been accepted to take part
in the program.

Im Robert Broomhead, VK3KRB.

--

The St. Thomas' Primary School is very progressive in teaching space sciences. Not only does it have its own very active radio club. It also teaches such topics as space, science and technology are a part of the curriculum. Students from age 4 to 12 have participate in related activities such as building models of space stations, using a telescope to explore the night sky, building crystal radios and creating an ARISS Web site for the school. A school that is a true portal to the future in the here and now. (WIA News)

**

RADIO FROM SPACE: PHOENIX MARS LANDER GOES SILENT

Radio signals to Earth from the Phoenix Mars Lander have ceased and NASA has officially brought the mission to a close.

The $428 million exploration of the red planet was originally scheduled to last only three months. NASA was able to give it two extensions before the harsh Martian environment finally claimed it.

During its operational lifetime the Phoenix helped collect data on the northern arctic Martian plains. Among its findings was that some Martian soil is alkaline, and that ice may have melted on the Martian surface in the past.

The last communication from Phoenix was received on Sunday, November 9th. (NASA)

**

RADIO ON-ORBIT: HUBBLE SPACE SCOPE REPAIRED BY RADIO

The Hubble Space Telescope is back in business after a month of problems. But NASA now says that readying replacement equipment and parts to keep the on-orbit observatory running will force NASA to delay its final servicing mission beyond February.

In late October the pace agency released an image taken by the telescope's Wide Field Planetary Camera. It was Hubble's first picture radioed back to Earth since a computer problem shut down science operations in September. The photo showed a pair of gravitationally locked galaxies, located more than 400 million light years away in the constellation Cetus. (NASA)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: DXCC HONOR ROLL LISTINGS DUE

A DXCC 'End of Year' reminder from Bill Moore, NC1L. Moore is the ARRL DXCC Manager and he says that that the end of the DXCC calendar year is rapidly approaching. In order to appear in the printed 'Annual and Honor Roll' listings your submission must be postmarked on or by Wednesday, December 31, 2008.

The DXCC Honor Roll list is scheduled for publication in August 2009 QST. For the 2008 calendar year the minimum requirement to appear in the Honor Roll list is 329 current entities. The Top of the Honor Roll total is 338 for this period. Remember, deleted entities do not count towards the Honor Roll. Moore says to direct comments or questions to dxcc (at) arrl (dot) org. (ARRL)

**

ON THE AIR: RADIO ST. HELENA ON THE AIR

While a bit short in notification time, Radio St Helena Day is set for Saturday, November 15th. The event will be broadcast on 11092.5kHz USB with transmissions to Europe between 2100 and 2230 UTC. The QSL address is: Radio St Helena, PO Box 93, Jamestown, St. Helena, STHL 1ZZ, South Atlantic Ocean. (GB2RS)

**

ON THE AIR: COMMEMORATING THE SINKING OF THE TIRPITZ

Special Event station GB617SQN will be on the air until November 27th. This,to commemorate the 64th Anniversary of the sinking of the World War 2 German battleship Tirpitz..

The Tirpitz was the largest battleship ever built in Europe, with dimensions slightly exceeding those of her sister ship the Bismarck. The raid on November 12th 1944 that sunk the Tirpiz was conducted by Lancaster bombers from the Roy Air Force 617th squadron.

The commemorative station marking the anniversary of her sinking will be on all bands and various modes. QSL information for GB617SQN will be given during the event. (Modern DX)

**

RADIOSPORTS: 2008 CQ WORLD WIDE CONTEST CW

Turning to radiosports news, the 2008 C Q World Wide DX CW Contest is slated to begin at 0000 U-T-C on November 29th. The contests runs for 24 hours ending at 0000 U-T-C on November 30th.

This on the air event has long been considered to be one of the premier global contesting activities. Many consider it to be a particular test of skill and endurance for the international contesting community. A complete set of contest Rules and other operating information is on line at www dot cqww dot com. (CQ)

**

DX

In D-X, word that four French hams plan to be active from the Kingdom of Bhutan. This through November 25 as part of that nations 100th anniversary. They will use the special call A-5100-A and will be activated from three different locations in the south of Bhutan. QSL via F9DK.

JA7GAX will be operating November 15th to the to 20th from the Daito Islands. QSL his operation direct or via the bureau.

DJ4SO will be on the air portable V5 from Namibia until December 4th. His activity will be mostly on CW, RTTY and PSK 31 on 160 through 10 meters. QSL direct or via the bureau.

G3YBY will be on from Brunei as V8FKT from through November 21st. He works mainly SSB and RTTY on 40 through 10 meters running 100 watts into verticals. QSL via G3YBY, through the bureau or via Logbook to the World.

Lastly, listen out for DL3PS operating portable 4X through December 5th. Franz is on a business trip in Israel and will try to hit the airwaves as using SSB, CW and some digital modes on 10 throgh 80 meters during his spare time. QSL direct or via bureau to HB9EHQ.

(Above from various DX news sources.)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: HAM RADIO HONORS LAST LIVING WW1 VET

And finally this week, ham radio paused on Tuesday, November 11th to honor the last living veteran of World War 1 and all others who have served in the United States armed forces over the years. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, reflects on Veterans Day, 2008:

--

Courtesy of NBC 25 in Hagerstown, Maryland, that's Frank himself, making a brief contact with the help of a member of the group operating the special event. And, here's more of what was going out over the air.

--

Actuality audio: Hear it in the MP3 version of this newscast at www.arnewsline.org

--

The group set up on Buckles' Charles Town farm for the one-day event. They made contact with more than 200 operators on that day from as far west as Montana and as far as south as the Carribbean. Buckles, during his interview with NBC 25, spoke of his unique accomplishment.

--

Actuality audio: Hear it in the MP3 version of this newscast at www.arnewsline.org

--

Buckles was 17 when all sides signed the Armistice that ended World War I, dubbed the war to end all wars.

Pat Fowler, presidnet of the EPARC, says he was especially ratified by the response of those who made contact with the special event station.

He said many vets as well as non-vets passed along a special salute to Frank for his service.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V in Philadelphia.

--

And to Frank Woodruff Buckles, we wish him many more years of happiness and good health as he continues as the last standard bearer of the veterans for World War 1.

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is

newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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1076. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 45 (Friday, November 14, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-14 21:44:41 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20081114214259.A8FF530CF3@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2347
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 45
November 14, 2008
****

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Hurricane Nets, WX4NHC Activate as Hurricane Paloma Batters Cayman Islands and Cuba
* + ARRL Sweepstakes Celebrates Diamond Anniversary this Weekend
* + IBM Teams up with BPL Provider to Offer Service in Seven States
* + Spectrum Defense: The ARRL's Primary Mission
* + ARRL Says "Thank You" to Veterans
* + Satellite Serving as Voice Repeater Expected to Go QRT by Year's End

* ARRL to Offer Self-Study Course on Digital Technology for Emergency Communications
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ ARRL HQ to Close for Thanksgiving
+ WorldRadio to Cease Print Publication

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, <k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========

==> HURRICANE NETS, WX4NHC ACTIVATE AS HURRICANE PALOMA BATTERS CAYMAN ISLANDS AND CUBA

As Hurricane Paloma -- a Category 4 storm at its peak --threatened the Cayman Islands and Cuba this past weekend, the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN), the VoIP Hurricane Net (VOIPWX) and WX4NHC -- the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) -- were active and standing by to take and relay reports from the affected areas.

WX4NHC and the various hurricane Nets were active beginning at 4 PM EST on Friday, November 7, going through the evening and overnight hours

into Saturday morning. Later that afternoon, hams reactivated the Nets, keeping them open through Saturday night to gather more information from Cuba.

Arnie Coro, CO2KK, was active with Cuban Emergency Nets on 40 meters. He relayed reports of widespread communication outages; at least one communications tower was blown down in Santa Cruz Del Sur. In the province of Camaguey, sustained winds of 95 MPH and gusts to 155 MPH were recorded.

"We had to go through two different relays on 40 meters to gather those reports from Arnie, as propagation -- which is normally good between WX4NHC and Cuba -- was poor," said Assistant WX4NHC Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R. "Arnie's reports were also used in official advisory statements issued by the NHC."

The Cayman Islands also saw their share of the storm. "Through a variety of contacts that we were able to make [in the area], we learned of hurricane force wind gusts measured as high as 100 MPH on Grand Cayman Island," said VoIP Hurricane Net Director of Operations Rob Macedo, KD1CY. "There was significant damage, particularly over Little Cayman and Cayman Brac. We received a relayed unofficial report of a 155 MPH wind gust on Cayman Brac. Roofs were blown off homes and significant damage was reported at resort locations on Cayman Brac."

Ripoll said that the NHC used many of the reports received from the Nets in the official advisory statements issued by NHC forecasters. A complete list of reports received from various sources can be seen on the VoIP Hurricane Net Report Viewer <http://report.voipwx.net/qilan/nhcwx/list_VOIP_records?auth=OK>.

"The efforts of the VoIP Hurricane Net were very helpful, especially during Paloma's track through the Cayman Islands," said Ripoll. "The information relayed by the Nets gave the Hurricane Center forecasters additional insight of what Cayman residents were actually going through. The multi-tasking, multi-mode methods of combining EchoLink, IRLP, VoIP, HF monitoring, Internet Web blogs and direct e-mail is a great example of information gathering without limitations. These hybrid communications efforts -- before and during the hurricane -- to contact hams and non-hams were successful in promoting awareness that people had alternate means of sending and receiving hurricane information during the event. Some of these new contacts will now be better prepared for future storms."

==> ARRL SWEEPSTAKES CELEBRATES DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEKEND

Fans of domestic contesting will take to the airwaves this weekend for the 75th running of the ARRL November SSB Sweepstakes. According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, the event started back in 1929 as a competition for handling formal traffic messages and is one of the oldest traditions in Amateur Radio. A complete primer by ARRL Contributing Editor H. Ward Silver, N0AX, on how to participate in

Sweepstakes can be found in the Radiosport supplement in the October 2008 issue of QST.

Kutzko said that the CW Sweepstakes two weeks ago netted some of the highest on-air participation in years: "For the bottom of the sunspot cycle, band conditions were stellar two weeks ago. We've already received almost 1000 logs for the CW portion. I hope conditions will be as good this weekend for the SSB Sweepstakes."

To commemorate this diamond anniversary, the ARRL is offering special prizes. All stations that submit a log with 75 of the 80 ARRL and RAC Sections worked will receive a special free magnet. As in previous years, those who submit logs with at least 100 contacts will be able to purchase Participation Pins.

The major challenge in Sweepstakes is to work a "Clean Sweep," or all 80 ARRL/RAC Sections. "We were concerned that Clean Sweeps would be tough to come by for the CW portion, but thanks to many hams who trekked out to activate some of the rarer Sections, there were many Clean Sweeps," Kutzko said. "We anticipate many more stations on the air for the Phone portion of Sweepstakes -- with a little bit of effort, you too can get a Clean Sweep."

Kutzko said this year's Sweepstakes is offering a special incentive. "This year, we will be awarding a Clean Sweep whisk broom to all stations that make a Clean Sweep," Kutzko said. "Brooms were last available in 1983, the 50th running of Sweepstakes. In addition to the free brooms, Clean Sweep coffee mugs will also be available for purchase. This year's mug will be fine etched glass and will truly be a collector's item."

Thanks to ICOM America, the Principal Awards Sponsor of the November Sweepstakes, certificates will be awarded for first place in each of the 80 ARRL/RAC Sections for all six entry categories; plaques will be available to the overall winners in each entry category, as well as the winners in each Division. "ICOM has provided plaques and certificates for Sweepstakes winners since 2005, and we are grateful for their support over the years," Kutzko said.

As with the CW Sweepstakes, Kutzko is encouraging stations in rare ARRL/RAC sections to get on the air and hand out their section. "Being on the other side of the pileup is tremendous fun. If you live in a rare section like North Dakota, Newfoundland/Labrador, Manitoba or several others, the QSOs you make will be greatly appreciated by everyone you work. If you live in one of these places, this is a golden opportunity for you to be the 'rare DX.' Stations in these Sections get to hear 'Thanks for the Sweep!' more than once during the weekend. Even if your station is modest, your effort to put a rare Section on the air during Sweepstakes will be appreciated by every single station that works you."

Whether you want to go for a Top 10 finish, or simply get on the air to hand out a few QSOs or work on your Worked All States Award (WAS)

<http://www.arrl.org/awards/was/>, Kutzko said the November SSB Sweepstakes is guaranteed fun and excitement. Don't forget to submit your log to Logbook of The World, too! Be sure to check out the complete rules and entry forms <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/novss.html>. Come be a part of one of Amateur Radio's finest traditions.

==> IBM TEAMS UP WITH BPL PROVIDER TO OFFER SERVICE IN SEVEN STATES

On November 12, IBM announced that it has signed a $9.6 million deal with International Broadband Electric Communications (IBEC) to install equipment and provide BPL service to almost 350,000 homes in Alabama, Indiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. According to the Associated Press, IBEC Chief Executive Scott Lee said the network, which will be funded by $70 million in low-interest federal loans from the Department of Agriculture, should be in place in about two years. IBEC currently provides broadband to only about 1400 customers, most of them beginning to receive service in the past 18 months.

"IBEC's equipment doesn't use the ham bands," said ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, "making it less likely that they will have any interference complaints from amateurs. Their equipment, however, does interfere with shortwave broadcast and other spectrum, but in the US, not many users have complained. IBM has been in the BPL business for a few years now, so this venture is nothing new for them." IBEC staff member Brent Zitting, KB4SL, serves as a member of ARRL's EMC Committee.

IBM is the first major systems integrator to enter the market. According to an IBEC press release announcing the joint venture, IBM will provide overall project management, oversight and training of the line crews who will be installing the BPL equipment. IBEC will provide the BPL technology and equipment and serve as the Internet Service Provider (ISP) to these rural residents.

A 2006 FCC study reported that fewer than 5000 homes receive their Internet connections via power lines. IBM and IBEC's joint plan, Lee said, will serve residents, of whom about 86 percent have no cable or DSL access, in the seven states.

According to reports, IBEC's strategy is to sign up electric cooperatives that provide power to sparsely populated areas across the eastern United States. Rather than compete toe-to-toe with large, entrenched cable or DSL providers, IBEC is looking for customers that have been largely left out of the move to high-speed Internet.

"Although the BPL industry is making progress on the EMC issues," Hare explained, "this process will not be complete until it supports regulations and industry standards that reflect its successful models. At recent meetings of the IEEE P1775 BPL EMC standards committee -- although utility and radiocommunications stakeholders wanted to include an informative annex on the ways to address BPL interference, as well as

a procedure to address complaints -- some in the BPL industry, including the representative from IBEC, blocked moving the EMC standard to IEEE ballot with the annex included."

==> SPECTRUM DEFENSE: THE ARRL'S PRIMARY MISSION

Defending and enhancing access to the Amateur Radio spectrum is the primary mission of the ARRL. According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, the League has not only protected the bands, but has also added several new ones, despite exponential growth in the variety and number of radio frequency devices in the hands of consumers and businesses. "Even our most disappointing defeat -- the loss of the bottom 40 percent of the 220 MHz band some two decades ago -- gave us upgraded status, from shared to exclusive, in the remaining 60 percent of the band," he said.

Sumner said that amateurs will soon have cause to celebrate: March 29, 2009 marks the date that high-powered international broadcasting stations will be removed from the heart of the 40 meter band. "We are working with the broadcasters to make sure the change takes place as agreed at the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC)," Sumner said. "While it's probably too much to expect 100 percent instant compliance, we know that the responsible broadcasters are preparing to move out of the 7100-7200 kHz segment -- doubling the size of the worldwide 40 meter band and making this popular band more useful than it's been in 70 years."

At the WRC in 2007, the Amateur Radio Service earned its first low-frequency (LF) allocation, 135.7-137.8 kHz; however, here in the United States, amateurs will not gain access to this new band automatically when the Final Acts of the conference take effect on January 1, 2009. "We must petition the FCC to implement the allocation, and we know the petition will not be granted without an argument -- because we've been down this road before," Sumner explained. "Twice in the past, the ARRL has sought an LF allocation. Both times our request was opposed by the Utilities Telecom Council (UTC) -- the same organization that has opposed our efforts to protect radio services from Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/> interference."

Sumner recounted that the ARRL's fight against BPL interference has been going on for six years. "Last year, in the wake of Federal Communications Commission decisions that did not adequately protect licensed radiocommunication services from interference from BPL systems, the ARRL even went to court to challenge the FCC and won!" he said <http://pacer.cadc.uscourts.gov/common/opinions/200804/06-1343-1112979.pdf>. "On April 25, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit confirmed what the ARRL has been saying for years about how the FCC was handling the BPL interference issue: FCC prejudice tainted the rulemaking process."

On July 9, the Court went one step further, ordering the FCC to pay the ARRL more than $6000 toward the League's costs in pursuing the appeal. "While this is a tiny fraction of our total investment," Sumner said, "the award affirmed that -- contrary to the 'spin' the FCC had been trying to give to the Court's decision -- the ARRL substantially prevailed in its appeal."

Calling the Court's decision "a tremendous victory for radio amateurs and other licensed users of the radio spectrum -- indeed, for anyone who cares about the federal administrative process," Sumner said that the remand does not guarantee that the FCC will correct its errors. "We face another round of technical arguments," he said. "No doubt the FCC's technical staff, many of whom want to do the right thing, will remain under heavy pressure to ignore the laws of physics and give preference to wishful thinking once again. When the FCC reopens the BPL proceeding as the Court has ordered, we must leave no room for these technical issues to be settled on anything other than technical grounds. There's more work to do. It is only through the support of thousands of ARRL members and friends that we have managed to come this far. But it took great effort, including our frontal assault on the flawed FCC proceedings, to get their attention. Together we can celebrate all that we have accomplished on the BPL front over the past six years!"

BPL is not the only challenge facing the League, Sumner said, pointing out that preparations for the upcoming WRC in 2011 are already underway.

The key WRC-11 issues for Amateur Radio are:
* A possible allocation near 500 kHz. This would provide amateurs' first access to the lower part of the medium frequency (MF) band. Sumner said a "600 meter" band offers exciting possibilities for reliable groundwave communication through the application of digital signal processing techniques to a portion of the spectrum that is as old as radio itself.
* Defense against a push to allocate spectrum between 3 and 50 MHz for oceanographic radar applications.
* Support of an initiative to provide better protection for radio services against interference from short-range radio devices.
* Consideration of regulatory measures for software-defined radio and cognitive radio systems, which offer both opportunities and threats to existing radio services.
* Selection of agenda items for the WRC to follow (tentatively planned for 2015).

"ARRL staff and volunteers are hard at work on your behalf, teaming up with International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) volunteers from around the globe to build the strongest possible case for Amateur Radio at WRC-11," he said, calling on all amateurs to help protect Amateur Radio's precious spectrum. "Once again, your financial commitment to spectrum defense is vital to our ability to protect your access to radio spectrum. Your contribution to the 2009 Spectrum Defense Fund will provide the financial resources required for us to represent you at WRC-11, and to respond when the FCC reacts to the BPL remand decision. Contributions to the 2009 Spectrum Defense Fund are coming in, but the

goal of raising $300,000 to support ARRL's representation of members by November 30 is an uphill climb. We cannot reach our goal without contributions from ARRL members."

To help in the ARRL's ongoing mission to protect our valuable spectrum, please visit the Spectrum Defense area on the ARRL Web site <https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/>. You can also reach ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, at 860-594-0397 or via e-mail <k1mmh@arrl.org>. New special gifts are being offered for contributions, including a new 2009 mug and pin. More details on thank you gifts can be found on the donation form for the Spectrum Defense Fund.

==> ARRL SAYS "THANK YOU" TO VETERANS

On Tuesday, November 11, Veterans Day -- called Remembrance Day or Armistice Day outside the US -- was celebrated all over the world. This day -- marking the end of World War I, the "War to end all Wars" -- has been set aside to honor all who have served their country. It was on November 11, 1918 -- on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month -- that Germany signed the Armistice, formally ending the hostilities that had been ongoing since 1914.

The ARRL would like to take this opportunity to thank our service veterans. Whether they served on active duty or reserve, during peace time or time of conflict, they served their county with honor. We also would be remiss if we did not remember the families of those veterans who kept the homefires burning bright; without their love and support, our veterans would have indeed been alone.

ARRL Headquarters has its share of service veterans: Contributing Editor Al Brogdon, W1AB (Army); Publications Sales Associate Mark Dzamba, KB1FMY (Air Force); Assistant VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O (Army); Volunteer Archivist Charles Griffen, W1GYR (Air Force); Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR (Army); News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA (Coast Guard); DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L (Army); Reprints Specialist Tony Nesta, AA1RZ (Navy); Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N (Navy); Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI (Army); Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA (Army); Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG (Air Force); Education & Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME (Air Force), and Archivist Perry Williams, W1UED (Air Force).

Thank you for your service -- your sacrifice and the sacrifice of your fellow service members is not forgotten.

==> SATELLITE SERVING AS VOICE REPEATER EXPECTED TO GO QRT BY END OF YEAR

Launched in January 1990, AMSAT-OSCAR 16 (AO-16) -- a digital satellite -- has been operating as a voice repeater since January 2008, using FM voice on the uplink and transmitting DSB voice on the downlink (best received on SSB) <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/01/23/100/>. But according to the satellite's command team, the satellite's orbit might

force this to end sometime before the end of the year.

According to Mark Hammond, N8MH, a member of the AO-16 command team, AO-16 has a hardware/watchdog timer that resets the satellite and shuts the transmitter down. This timer in AO-16 will fire -- and cannot be reset -- when the satellite's temperature is 15 degrees Celsius or cooler. When the timer "fires," it shuts down the transmitter. "When the bird's temperature is more than 15 degrees Celsius," Hammond said, "the hardware timer behaves and continuous operations are sustained."

The satellite's temperature depends upon solar illumination. Hammond said that the "magic number" is around 85 percent of the orbit in sunlight: If the orbit provides AO-16 with less than 85 percent illumination, the spacecraft's temperature falls below 15 degrees and the hardware timer fires. "Illumination projections, as well as subsequent temperature predictions, suggest that we might be able to sustain operations until sometime in the window of November 22 until December 4, 2008," Hammond predicted. "So if you want to make some AO-16 contacts, you had better get them as soon as possible!"

Hammond said that long term-orbital projections suggest that if the satellite hardware remains fundamentally unchanged -- such as no deterioration of on-board components -- "it will be nearly 10 years before AO-16 receives sufficient illumination to warm up the spacecraft enough to again support sustained operations."

It is possible that the transmitter on AO-16 will turn off sometime in the next few days or weeks, Hammond said. "This requires some commanding to get it running again, meaning a pass over the eastern coast of the United States is required for a change in operational status. We expect that as the spacecraft cools down, transmitter shutdowns will become more frequent. You can be sure that we'll continue to probe the craft with commands, in hopes that we something will change in a good way that will allow us to use the bird for operations of some sort."

AMSAT Vice President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, said the satellite hears very well; the reduced bandwidth by using either USB or LSB on the ground station receiver "allows for a very robust downlink. Tuning the downlink is just like on a linear transponder, meaning it is tight and with fast Doppler. Uplink tuning is not required, just as with the FM mode V/U satellites. My personal observations include being able to access and hear the satellite within one degree of the horizon, much lower than any other current bird for my location [in Florida]. This should be an easy satellite with omni antennas and a 70 cm preamp."

AO-16's uplink is 145.9200 MHz FM; the downlink is 437.0260 MHz SSB. Users are asked to restrict their uplink power to a reasonable power level, and not to transmit without being able to hear the downlink; all general single-channel guidelines apply. "Enjoy this grand old bird while you can!" said Hammond.

==> ARRL TO OFFER SELF-STUDY COURSE ON DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

With digital technology becoming an integral part of Amateur Radio, hams interested in Emergency Communications now have a new tool to help them take advantage of emerging modes such as Packet Radio APRS, Winlink 2000, IRLP, EchoLink and WIRES-II, D-STAR, APCO25, HF sound card modes and Automatic Link Establishment (ALE). "The ARRL Digital Technology for Emergency Communications Course" will introduce hams to all of the ways Amateur Radio operators are using digital technology as a valuable emergency communications tool <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1247>.

Written by ARRL Publications Manager and QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, this self-study CD-ROM will answer such questions as:
* Can you transfer supply lists or personnel assignments between emergency operations sites?
* Can you get critical e-mails to the Internet if a connection goes down?
* Can you relay digital images of damage at specific locations?
* Can you track the locations of emergency personnel and display them on computer maps?

Illustrations, screenshots, Internet links and audio files are used to demonstrate transmission modes and equipment configurations. Bite-sized learning units and interactive knowledge checks make learning interesting and fun!
"This course is a great starting point for anyone interested in the public service applications of digital communications technology," said Ford. "The ARRL Digital Technology for Emergency Communications Course" is available from the ARRL for only $49.95.

Minimum System Requirements for CD-ROM -- Microsoft Windows Vista/XP/2000/NT/98/95 or Apple OS X; 200 MHz processor; 32 MB RAM; sound card and speakers; 4-speed CD-ROM drive or higher. Requires Web browser -- Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0, Mozilla Firefox 2.0, Apple Safari 3.0 or later versions. Some documents require Adobe Reader.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: We soon may be talking about a day or two without sunspots as the norm, perhaps when looking at a preceding month -- quite the opposite of noting the few days with sunspots. It seems like a long time ago because of the long strings of spotless days. We saw eight days in a row with visible sunspots around mid-October, followed by another eight days around the start of November, then after just three days of no spots. By the end of today -- Friday, November 14 -- we may see five straight days, possibly followed by more. Sunspot numbers for November 6-12 were 11, 0, 0, 0, 16, 18 and 21 with a mean of 9.4. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.6, 67.8, 68.3, 68.4, 69.3, 71.4 and 70.9 with a mean of 69.2. The estimated planetary A indices were 1, 8, 14, 12, 3, 1 and 2 with a mean of 5.9. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 0, 7, 11, 10, 3, 1 and 4 with a mean of 5.1. For more information concerning radio

propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae's "In Flanders Field" <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.net/flanders.htm>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week is the ARRL EME Contest on November 15-16 and the 75th running of the ARRL Sweepstakes Contest (SSB) on November 15-17. The NCCC Sprint is November 14.The JT Hamradio-50 Anniversary DX Contest and the Feld Hell Sprint are November 15. The SARL Field Day Contest, the All Austrian 160 Meter Contest and the RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest (CW) are November 15-16. The EU PSK63 QSO Party is November 16, the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is November 17 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is November 20. Next week, the YO International PSK31 Contest is November 21. The LZ DX Contest is November 22-23. The SKCC Sprint and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Sprint (CW) are both on November 26. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, November 23, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, December 5, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 (EC-001), Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006), Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009), Technician License Course (EC-010), Analog Electronics (EC-012) and Digital Electronics (EC-013). Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

* ARRL HQ to Close for Thanksgiving: ARRL Headquarters will be closed Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28 in observance of

Thanksgiving. There will be no W1AW bulletins or code practice transmissions those days. The ARRL Letter will be published on Wednesday, November 26, but there will be no ARRL Audio News on Friday, November 28. ARRL Headquarters will reopen Monday, December 1 at 8 AM Eastern Standard Time. We wish everyone a safe and bounteous Thanksgiving holiday.

* WorldRadio to Cease Print Publication: In a joint statement, WorldRadio Publisher Armond Noble, N6WR, and CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, announced that WorldRadio magazine will no longer be published as a print magazine. According to the announcement, CQ Communications Inc has acquired WorldRadio and plans to continue it as an online publication on CQ's Web site. WorldRadio subscribers will have their subscriptions transferred to CQ magazine. Readers will be notified of details as plans are finalized.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including

delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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1077. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-15 07:00:03 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1226732401@panix.com>
Source record: 2348
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

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Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.6 2008/10/04 03:18:51
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

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1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
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promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. Crossposts of regular discussion articles between rec.radio.amateur.moderated and other discussion newsgroups are not permitted.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/ announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers, and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header, containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the moderators if one is not already provided.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

Mentions of small amounts of free items for giveaway will be permitted on an occasional basis from casual, non-commercial owners, and at the discretion of the moderators. The items should be free except for reasonable direct costs such as shipping, must be directly amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable condition, and be practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is intended as a common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, provided that it doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion newsgroup with classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in salvage condition.

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2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly commercial press releases, advertisements, or other public relations campaigns, are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or

members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should

not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Due to Usenet newgroup access being eliminated at many ISP's, including | MSN, AOL, RoadRunner, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast, we are starting | to receive many article submissions asking about free or low-cost | alternatives for accessing Usenet newsgroups such as ours. We initially | permitted this topic in light of the significant impact to many of our | readers due to this loss of access through their ISP's. However, this | subject is arguably off-topic for our newsgroup, is better answered by | other sources, and better discussed in other venues. Because of this, | we will no longer approve submissions that request or suggest where to | obtain access to Usenet newsgroups. For more information about this | topic, please consult the following: |

- The last approved thread of discussion about this topic on our |
newsgroup from October 2008: |

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/19770b88ec
527aff/8dcee92de293f615?hl=en#8dcee92de293f615 |

- A list of Public News Servers at the Open Directory Project: |

http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Usenet/Public_News_Servers/ |

- An article with links and reader suggestions at Broadband Reports: |

http://www.broadbandreports.com/shownews/96318 |

- Google Groups: |

http://groups.google.com |

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team does not endorse or |
recommend any particular News Service Provider (NSP). We encourage our |
readers to choose the free or subscription service that best meets their |
own personal needs based on their own evaluation of the available |
alternatives. |

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article
to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

1078. TH-F6A No Audio with SMC-34 Speaker Mic

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-17 19:10:27 UTC
From: me@privacy.net
Message-ID: <gfsfeq02v2i@news4.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2349

When I plug in the speaker mic to the TH-F6A I can transmit but no one can hear audio from my radio. I have checked option 9 and sp.mic is selected as the option for the speaker mic jack. Anyone have any ideas what the problem could be?

1079. Re: TH-F6A No Audio with SMC-34 Speaker Mic

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-17 20:09:05 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <n3i3i4940crv1t2a3f0qug6efabjqdml80@4ax.com>
Source record: 2350

On Mon, 17 Nov 2008 14:10:27 EST, me@privacy.net wrote:

> When I plug in the speaker mic to the TH-F6A I can transmit but no one can
>hear audio from my radio. I have checked option 9 and sp.mic is selected as
>the option for the speaker mic jack. Anyone have any ideas what the problem
>could be?

That is the correct setting for option 9 for using a speaker-mike. That's the setting on my TH-F6A when I use Kenwood's earbud speaker-mike, and it transmits fine provided I move the mike/PTT up to my lips instead of leaving it clipped to my shirt pocket.

Maybe the microphone is defective.

Maybe there is a broken wire in the cord of your speaker-mike.

Does it transmit properly with a new or different speaker-mike?

Dick, AC7EL
73 de Dick, AC7EL

1080. Sweepstakes

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-18 00:11:32 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <gfsrut$jg2$1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2251

http://www.radio-sport.net/ss08ssb_post1.htm

Holy cow, why did I click that link?

"Leading the single operators at this point is Dan Handa W7WA, who chalked up 2,200 contacts for 352,000 points."

He doubled the 1102 Q's I was so proud of, without even working me!

73, de Hans, K0HB

1081. Re: Sweepstakes

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-18 19:18:43 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <f21e5ed1-ec03-4395-965e-de0a3fa8ac45@d36g2000prf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2252

On Nov 17, 6:11 pm, Kï¿½HB <kzer...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
> "Leading the single operators at this point is Dan Handa W7WA, who chalke
d
> up 2,200 contacts for 352,000 points."
>
> He doubled the 1102 Q's I was so proud of, without even working me!

I'm impressed with 1102 Q's myself. Last field day the club worked
for 24 hours and got less Q's with about 8 operators. Of course we
where not seriously trying to score, but it was a lot of work (and
fun).

There will always be somebody pushing the limits with better antennas,
higher towers, more power, mountain top shacks and other things I
don't have and cannot afford. The fun is in the attempt and the
reward is that my skills get better. You are doing great!

-= Bob =-

1082. Re: Sweepstakes

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-19 00:15:02 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <db697d85-699a-40b0-a03f-723b23f114a3@s9g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2253

On Nov 17, 7:11 pm, Kï¿½HB <kzer...@gmail.com> wrote:
> "W7WA, who chalked up 2,200 contacts for 352,000 points."

At the bottom of the sunspot cycle. With a single operator. Plus a clean sweep (which isn't always a given no matter how many QSOs are made).

Works out to just under 92 QSOs per hour, every hour, for the entire 24. One QSO every 39.2727...seconds.

Plus they are all different stations.

Now *THAT'S* impressive!

73 de Jim, N2EY

..who has made a lot more than 2200 SS contacts - it just took several Sweepstakes to do it!...

1083. Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1632 - November 21, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-21 14:06:49 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20081121022836.01685c70@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2254
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1632 - November 21, 2008

SPECIAL NOTICE: DUE TO OUR COVERAGE OF THE CALIFORNIA FIRETORMS AND OTHER BREAKING NEWS THIS WEEKS AUDIO NEWSCAST RUNS 34 MINUTES AND CONTAINS THREE BREAKS.

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1632 with a release date of Friday, November 21st, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Hams respond to the Southern California firestorms, C-Q calls on the FCC to appoint a replacement for rules enforcer Riley Hollingsworth, more tower problems for hams in the U-S and the case of the booby-trapped repeater jammer in the UK. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline" report number 1632 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESCUE RADIO: THE CALIFORNIA FIRESTORMS

Ham radio was quick to respond when a series of wind-driven firestorms erupted across southern-California. The first of these brushfires was spotted in the north-east corner of Los Angeles San Fernando Valley in the town of Sylmar. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom where you can still smell the smoke.

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The first of these brushfires was the Sayre fire spotted in the north end of the town of Sylmar. That's at the north-east corner of Los Angeles well known San Fernando Valley and literally 7 miles and one mountain south of the Newsline studio.

And as the fire widened and intensified, hams associated with Los Angeles A-R-E-S were called out to provide communications support to Olive View Hospital which experienced a power and telephone outage at a time when flames were approaching and patient evacuation was imminent.

Marty Woll, N6VI and Tom Turner KI6CCW were immediately dispatched to the scene. Olester Santos Ki6RWR, Jim Curio, KI6FGV, Wyatt Underwood, K6LZL and District Emergency Coordinator David Greenhut, N6HD, provided net or operational support. The net continued until approximately 7:20 on the morning of November 15th but the fire continued to rage on.

The battle against this fire continued throughout the weekend with many road closures. At times ham radio operators found themselves advising one another on which roads were open passable and which were not:

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Unknown ham operator: "The 118 to the 405, the 118 to the 210, the 210 to San Fernando Road..."

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Early on Saturday morning, November 15th ARES activated a net is over the Disaster Amateur Radio Network repeater system. The net exchanged fire observations and kept its ears open for both communications and power outage in and around Los Angeles County. All licensed amateur radio operators were encouraged to provide observation and participate.

Meantime, in Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties brush fires also sprang up. Thousands were evacuated and many homes were damaged or destroyed by the flames. Gordon West, WB6NOA, was at a Red Cross evacuation center when he filed this report:

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WB6NOA: "Here in Orange County, southern California, our local Red Cross ham radio communications team was taking part in an early Saturday morning RACES drill when the fire hit. At the conclusion of the training, we hear a ham radio operator call on 2 meters: "&this is not a drill message. We have a wildfire "

Within an hour this small Chino Hills wildfire was a raging inferno, fanned ny 50 MPH winds associated with our Southern California Santa Ana high pressure system.

Our 60-member communications team out of Orange County was dispatched to provide communications at evacuation centers in shelters along with other hams, but we had to keep moving shelters because the flames kept coming closer and closer. Ultimately, two shelter with ham radio Red Cross communicators were set up for four days of communications handling messages in and out between the shelter and our local Orange County chapter. Many of our clients in the shelters lost everything and they appreciated everything that ham radio operators were doing.

211 homes (in the area) were damaged or destroyed. Huge spot fires got as far as five miles away were reported by ham operators. The bamnds were flooded -- 2 meters and 440 -- with orderly ham radio communications supporting those local served agencies.

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The firestorm also lead a southern California hospital to evacuate and ham radio helped coordinate the operation. Amateur Radio Newsline's Joe Moell. K0OV, has the details:

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Shortly before noon on Saturday, November 15, a wildfire broke out northeast of Brea-Olinda High School. It became part of the Freeway Complex firestorm that has burned over 28,000 acres and damaged or destroyed over 250 homes in Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. At the time, members of the Orange County Hospital Disaster Support Communications System, an ARES group best known as HDSCS, were participating in an annual messaging drill with city and county RACES groups and the Red Cross. News of the fire terminated the drill and HDSCS established a net to determine which members could respond to hospitals if needed. There was concern that this new fire could threaten Kindred Hospital in Brea if it jumped westward over the 57 freeway.

When the fire did jump ten freeway lanes about 12:45 PM, Net Control sent five members to this hospital so that they could get there before traffic became too congested. At 2:45 PM, as the operators were in place at Kindred and in communication with the net, a page was received from St. Jude hospital in Fullerton and a call came in from Placentia-Linda hospital in Placentia, also requesting Amateur Radio operators in accordance with pre-established procedures. St. Jude was receiving heavy smoke and its Emergency Department had gone on diversion status. Placentia-Linda had been advised that it might receive chronic pulmonary patients from nearby skilled nursing facilities. HDSCS members were immediately sent from the net to these facilities. A member was also sent to Orange County Emergency Medical Services Agency operations center in Santa Ana.

At 3:15 PM, the decision was made to close and evacuate the Kindred Brea hospital, as reported by Reid Green KF6LOK to Net Control April Moell WA6OPS.

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WA6OPS: "What we understand is that all 37 are going to other Kindred facilities, correct?"

KF6LOK: "That is confirmed. Kindred Brea is on full evacuation."

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Clearing the facility required the movement of all patients by ambulance to four other Kindred hospitals in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. Ten of these patients were fully dependent on ventilators. HDSCS operators assisted with communications throughout the evacuation. The HDSCS net also kept officials at the Emergency Medical Services Agency fully informed of the situation. All patients were under way by 6 PM. Ham radio support continued at Placentia Linda Hospital until that evening and at St. Jude hospital through Saturday night and into Sunday afternoon.

There's no doubt that having ham radio at these facilities to provide additional communications paths and back up the overloaded telephone lines was a godsend to harried members of the hospital staff and administration during this difficult time.

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According to K0OV, in addition to the evacuation of Kindred Brea hospital his group also provided communications assistance to two other hospitals during the firestorm emergency.

Last but by no means least, ham radio participation in the firestorm emergency relief effort caused one event to be cancelled. That one was to be a training session for hams involved in disaster communications:

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KG6DNY: "The CERT refresher scheduled for tomorrow at Fire station 88 has been cancelled due to the brush fires. End of QST. Thanks for the frequency guys. KG6DNY clear."

--

As this report is recorded on Thursday, November 20th, most of the fires are contained or controlled but they are still fresh on everyone's mind. All you have to do is step outside and take a deep breath to know what happened only a few days ago.

In the newsroom, not far from the remnant of the Sayre fire, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

As we go to air, all of the southern California firestorms have been contained, but tinder dry conditions remain across the region. This means that all first responders and the hams that back them up remain on high alert. (ARNewsline" with input from KA6GSE, WB6NOA, K0OV, others.)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N9MCS repeater serving Rockford Illinois.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: THE BIG CALIFORNIA SHAKEOUT

Ironically, the first of the southern California firestorms hit only hours after hams across the region had taken part in one of the biggest state-wide disaster drills ever held. Called the Big Shakeout, the scenario for the exercise focused on a mock 7.8 magnitude earthquake which would have the potential to devastate the region. In Orange County, some of the same hams who would later volunteer for fire communications duty took part. Again, Joe Moell, K0OV:

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In Orange County, ham radio operators were drilling side-by-side with hospital staff members. The Hospital Disaster Support Communications

System, an ARES group, fielded the largest number of members to help the largest number of hospitals of any single-day drill in its 28-year history.

Forty-four HDSCS members went into 32 hospitals. The emphasis was a realistic near-real-time response using the group's automatic response procedures. Instead of members going inside the hospitals and setting up prior to the simulated shaker, these responders pre-staged nearby and were dispatched by Net Control into the facilities during the chaos after the temblor. This taught them what it is really like to enter, get to the Hospital Command Centers and get on the air with their portable equipment under these difficult conditions.

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WA6OPS: "Copy W7KTS we'll get to you in a minute. WD8ICK what is your location?"

WD8ICK: "I am away from home at Brookhurst and Talbert in Fountain Valley."

WA6OPS: OK, we don't have anybody yet at Orange Coast Hospital, so please proceed there. Your tactical call will be Orange Coast. Copy?"

WD8ICK: "QSL, this is WD8ICK."

--

Members received their assignments just a few hours before the event. For training purposes, they were not told in advance which hospitals would be simulating evacuations and which would be receiving simulated evacuees. The hams got that information, and all the other message traffic to be handled, as they worked shoulder-to-shoulder with the Incident Commander, the Liaison Officer, and other staff members in Hospital Incident Command System positions. Messages sent and received included requests for ambulances to move evacuated victims, including Neonatal Intensive Care Unit infants. They also passed simulated orders for oxygen tanks and for pharmaceuticals such as Cipro and morphine.

The Great Shakeout wasn't the only time that Orange County hams have drilled with their hospital counterparts recently. It was actually the sixth time so far in 2008 in which HDSCS members have participated directly with hospital staff members in drills that the hospitals must perform to maintain their accreditation.

From Orange County, California, this is Joe Moell K-zero-O-V for Amateur Radio Newsline.

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This exercise was the largest ever to take place in the country and involved the participation of millions of California residents and a large number of ham radio communications volunteers. The ham radio group in Orange County was just one of many. (ARNewsline", K0OV)

**

ENFORCEMENT: CQ TO THE FCC - NAME A SUCCESSOR TO RILEY - NOW

CQ magazine is calling on FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief Kris Monteith to move swiftly to name a successor to Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, as Special Counsel for Amateur Radio, and to bring FCC enforcement back to the ham bands.

Writing in his "Zero Bias" editorial in the December 2008 issue, CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, noted that the Commission not only has failed to name a successor to Hollingsworth, but that not a single amateur enforcement action has been taken since his retirement this past July. At that time, the editorial notes, the amateur radio community was assured that the Commission's dedication to enforcement in the Amateur Service would remain strong. But Moseson says that the FCC's total inaction since July suggests otherwise:

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Moseson: This is deeply disturbing and of grave concern. It would be a tragedy, and a travesty, if the FCC were to go back on its promise to be there for us and allowed amateur enforcement to once again drop off the radar."

--

The need for continuing amateur enforcement was reinforced after the December issue was went to press. Thats when CQ was informed of an outburst of racist diatribes on 20 meters, including the transmission of recordings of a Hitler rally and of Nazi marching songs.

Moseson notes that this type of behavior was all too common before Hollingsworth became the rules enforcer a decade ago. Most of it quickly disappeared once it became obvious that someone in authority was paying attention. But now, only a matter of months since Hollingsworth retired from public service it has become obvious to the hams wanting to reek havoc that they are once again free to do whatever they please without fear of any consequences:

--

Moseson: "The FCC must get back into the amateur enforcement business, and it must do so quickly before the situation once again gets out of control. Enforcement Bureau Chief Monteith must act promptly to name a successor to Riley Hollingsworth and assure amateurs that they have not once again been abandoned by the Commission."

--

You may recall that in his pre-retirement comments that Riley Hollingsworth urged the ham radio community to not let the FCC abandon ham radio enforcement. The CQ decision to pressure the FCC to name a successor to Hollingsworth kind of echos his words. The full text of Rich Moseson's editorial is on-line at www.cq-amateur-radio.com, linked from the December issue highlights. (CQ)

**

RADIO LAW: ANOTHER APPEAL IN THE PA TOWER CASE

A Pennsylvania ham is facing yet another appeals board hearing. This after a neighbor of Charles Mills, W3YNI, says that he is not happy with the latest decision the zoning commission rendered in the case. Mark Abramovich, NT3V, reports:

--

W3YNI would like it to end soon.

The southwestern Pennsylvania amateur just can't seem to satisfy neighbors who don't want the emergency coordinator for his community to have a 53-foot-tower on his property.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the story, Charles Mills has been battling for many months to satisfy the township zoning hearing board and neighbor complaints that his tower doesn't meet requirements.

Mills' biggest adversary it turns out is neighbor John Ducar, who has made it clear he doesn't want a tower right near his property.

The Pittsburgh Tribune Review newspaper, quoted Ducar as saying at the Nov. 13 hearing:

"This is a major eyesore. This is a major aesthetic nuisance."

That's the crux of his dispute with Mills. The trees that that neighbor insisted Mills put up as part of a plan to screen the tower simply were not enough.

Ducar wants Mills to move the tower, but Mills has said that's not possible given the size of his property and the contour of the land.

So now, Ducar wants the township to revoke the permit it granted to Mills in August to put up the tower.

Mills' attorney, Mike Lazaroff, K3AIR, worked closely with Mills and the township to satisfy all its requirements. And Mills says he'd rather work with the community than take the matter to court.

All of this may be mute next month when a new law regarding regulation of amateur radio towers goes into effect in Pennsylvania.

The law, dubbed Pennsylvania's PRB-1 basically tells municipal governments they must reasonably accommodate amateur radio service communications and, quoting the law here, "shall impose only the minimum regulations necessary to accomplish the legitimate purpose of the municipality."

Now, legitimate purposes, according to the law, known as Act 88 of 2008, shall include a clearly defined health, safety or aesthetic objective of a municipality such as preserving a historical or an architectural district.

And, while there is discussion in the law of ensuring safety requirements of a tower structure, it also stipulates, quoting here: "No ordinance, regulation, plan or any other action shall restrict amateur radio antenna

height to less than 65 feet above ground level."

There have been lots of posts on the ham radio boards about Mills' situation. And, there is overwhelming support for his cause.

Lazaroff, K3AIR, gave the zoning board 12 letters from neighbors supporting Mills. He also gave them a petition signed by 47 township residents who support Mills.

Perhaps Melinda Young, one of those who composed a letter to support Mills, said it best when she wrote:

"I have great piece of mind knowing that Charles Mills has a tower so that if and when there is another disaster such as 9-11 or something worse, God forbid, we have someone in our township that we can count on to communicate and coordinate our emergency efforts."

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

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The board is expected to render a decision when it meets December 11th. We'll let you know what they decide. (ARNewsline")

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RADIO LAW: SAN DIEGO PROPOSES TOWER RESTRICTIONS

The City of San Diego , California, seems poised to try to violate the states PRB One type law and impose some severe tower and antenna restrictions on its ham radio community.

Back in 2003 then Governor Gray Davis signed into law a measure that assures California hams that their tower and antenna needs would be reasonably accommodated. Now it appears as if San Diego is ignoring that state-wide edict as it prepares to enact a set of regulations that would require an expensive site development permit. Not only that, but it would also direct that a tower retracts when not in use and that the a tower and its antenna be located in the least visible location from adjacent public rights of-way and adjacent properties. Last and by no means least that it be removed if not used for 2 years.

Hams in the area are more than a bit appalled at the actions of the areas legislators, especially in a time of a very severe city budget shortfall. Also, the city admits that it gets only one or two tower permit requests from hams every year.

The hams of San Diego say that the proposed new regulation is not needed. Also that it runs afoul of state law. They say that they will fight to keep the proposal from becoming a city ordinance. If it does, look for it to be challenged by the San Diego ham community, in the courts. (WA6ILQ, others)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESTRUCTURING: CANADA TO GIVE HAMS EXPERIMENTAL 600 METER BAND

Some Canadian hams will soon have access to the 600 meter very low frequency band. This after telecommunications regulator Industry Canada accepts a Radio Amateurs of Canada proposal that will permit selected Canadian radio amateurs to operate in the vicinity of 500 kHz.

Industry Canada has authorized Radio Amateurs of Canada to recommend which hams who would be licensed to operate in the 504 to 509 kHz band. Power output would be a maximum of 20 watts ERP and bandwidth up to 1 kHz. Stations operating in this band would be technically operating under Special Developmental Licenses although they would all be radio amateurs. Distinct call signs would be used and the licenses would be renewable annually subject to the amateur demonstrating the research he has carried out.

Hams taking part in these operations would support Canada's efforts to action a proposal on the agenda of the 2011 World Radio Conference for a new amateur allocation in the 600-meter band. More information will follow in upcoming Radio Amateurs of Canada bulletins. (RAC)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: ALE AT 500 DAYS

The Global Automatic Link Establishment or A-L-E High Frequency Network believes it is the first net to operate continuously for more than 500 days. This, on all international amateur radio shortwave bands simultaneously.

The main purpose of the network is to provide efficient emergency and disaster relief communications to remote areas of the world. Beginning with a core group of 6 North American radio operators in June 2007, the net rapidly expanded to cover large areas of the planet with 24 hour a day, 7 day a week digital communications.

Relying on radio communications, the net is a system of interconnected base stations scans the various radio bands from 3.5 Megahertz to 28 Megahertz every 10 seconds. Using this system net members are connected with each other and can send internet email or cell phone mobile text messages from the field. More about A-L-E is on line at hflink.net. (HFLink release)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: YL DXER NEEDED

Bill Horner, VK4FW, a member of the Oceania Amateur Radio DX Group says that one more Y L is needed to participate in the upcoming VK9LA operation. He says that there are currently 5 YL's on the team but only 2 are operators. A third experienced female ham is needed. If you are interested in going on this operation please e-mail vk4fw(at) westnet (dot) com (dot) au for more information. (Southgate)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: 6TH IDXC CONVENTION IN APRIL 2009

Turning to the ham radio social calendar, word that Italy's 6th International DX Convention will be held April 18th tp the 19th, 2009. Organized by the Strange Radio Team the venue is the city of Paestum near Salerno. More details will be forthcoming in January and posted at www.strangeradioteam.com. (OPDX)

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DAYTON HAMVENTION 2009: AWARDS NOMINATIONS SOUGHT

The Dayton Hamvention now is accepting nominations for its 2009 Radio Amateur of the Year, Special Achievement, and Technical Excellence awards. The Radio Amateur of the Year Award is presented to an individual who has made a long-term, outstanding commitment to the advancement of Amateur Radio. The Technical Excellence Award is for the person who has made an outstanding technical advancement in the field of Amateur Radio. The Special Achievement Award honors someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Amateur Radio by spearheading at least one significant project.

All amateur radio operators are eligible. The Hamvention Awards Committee makes the decision on all awards based in part upon the information it receives and not on the number of nominations submitted for a given individual. Documentation that informs the Awards Committee of a candidate's accomplishments may include magazine articles, newsletters, newspaper clippings, and even videos. These materials become the property of Hamvention and cannot not be returned.

The deadline for nominations is February 18, 2009 with the winners recognized nest May at the Hamvention. Additional details on these awards and a nomination form are available on the Dayton Hamvention Web site at www.hamvention.org. Nominations also are accepted via U-S mail to Dayton Hamvention Awards, PO Box 964, Dayton, Ohio, 45401. (DARA)

**

BREAK 3

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

OLD TIME RADIO: THE CHICAGO WLS STORY BY W9CHI

Scott Childers, W9CHI, has authored a new book titled Chicago's WLS Radio. Childers tome is an illustrated history of the station known as the windy city's Big 89. It takes you from the stations inception in the 1920's by Sears Roebuck in all the way to last year's Big 89 Rewind special. W9CHI tells Newsline that it was a book that he wanted to do:

--

W9CHI audio here. Talks about the eay the station connects with its audience. Hear it in the MO3 version of this newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

--

Many well-known celebrities, like Gene Autry, owe their careers to the Big 89, through the famous Saturday night program The National Barn Dance. And some rather famous air personalities such as Dick Biondi, Larry Lujack, and John Records Landecker became household names thanks to the stations incredible influence on the Chicago broadcast scene.

Chicago's WLS Radio is part of the Images Of America series by Arcadia Press. More information is at W9CHI's website at WLS History dot com. (ARNewsline")

**

OLD TIME RADIO: W9CHI ON THE RAIN REPORT

Also, you can learn more about Scott Childers, W9CHI, and his book on W-L-S over the next two weeks on the Chicago-based RAIN Report. You can hear it over the phone at 773-358-7845 or on-line at www dot therainreport dot com. And therainreport is spelled as one word. (RAIN)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: KGO RADIO GOES GREEN

San Francisco station KGO AM says that it has gone partially green. According to its website, on October 30th KGO became the first major commercial broadcast media outlet in California to reach its listeners by harnessing the power of the sun to reduce its dependence on the regions power system.

The KGO solar energy program began last winter. The now completed solar panel installation is located at the stations transmitter site near San Francisco's Dumbarton Bridge. Not only does it reduce KGO's daily load on the power grid, but it will serve as an ongoing test facility for emerging solar technology. You can see the construction of the solar power system as it progressed from 2008 to now http://dynamic.kgoradio.com/solar.php. (RW)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: LEONID METEOR STORM A HAM RADIO SUCCESS

This years Leonid meteor shower peaked on November 17th and 18th much to the delight of weak signal scatter enthusiasts world-wide. Peak rates of 20 to 100 meteors had been anticipated during the early hours of the 17th and again during the waning hours of the 18th at around 21:30 UTC.

While the rather bright moonlight probably spoil the show for star gazers, ham were reportedly thrilled with the pings, hits and QSO'sthey had during the storm. This, by bouncing their signals off the ionized trails of meteors burning up in the Earths atmosphere.

Researchers who study the comet Tempel-Tuttle say that it is the source of the annual Leonid meteor swarm. (VHF Reflector)

**

WORLDBEAT - HOLLAND: RADIO NETHERLANDS GLOBAL PANEL WANTS YOU

Hams tend have strong opinions on world events and issues. If you are one who does then Radio Netherlands Worldwide may have something to interest you.

According to Media Network, the station is looking for people to join its Global Panel in English. If you join you will be regularly invited to give your opinion about current topics. The results of the surveys will be published on the Radio Netherlands Web site and will be used in the programs of Radio Netherlands Worldwide.

If you're interested, go to www dot globalpanel.nl to sign up. (Media Network)

**

WORLDBEAT - UK: CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LOUIS BRAILLE

On the air, listen out for GM3WUX will be operating GB2HLB, from December 26th of this year through January 22nd 2009. This, to celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of inventor Louis Braille whose tactile language for the sightless has been adapted world-wide.

In dedication to the Braille bicentenary each QSO made by GB2HLB will receive a special QSL card depicting Braille and raising awareness of the the United Kingdom's Royal National Institute of Blind People. A fund raising web page for the group can be found at www.justgiving.com/louisbraille. (GB2RS)

**

WORLDBEAT - INDIA: INDIA'S HAMS CELEBRATE BOSE

Be on the lookout for several stations in India to sign with the AU2 prefix between now and December 8th. This, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sir Jagadeesh Chandra Bose. That nation considers Bose as the father of radio communications in India. (E-mail)

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ON THE AIR: COMMEMORATING THE ARECIBO OBSERVATORY

Operation of special event station KP4AO commemorating Puerto Rico's Arecibo Observatory's 45th anniversary has been postponed to Sunday, November 23rd. This due to Angel Vazquez, WP3R, involvement in this past weekend's ARRL SSB Sweepstakes. The Arecibo operation will be on 20 meter SSB only. It will run from 1300 to 2000 UTC and those that make contact with KP4AO will receive a certificate via W3HNK. (WP3GW)

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DX

In DX, word that G3RWF is in Kenya through November 24th using the callsign 5Z4LS. Between November 25th and December 2nd he will be in Uganda as 5X1NH. QSL via his home call.

5R8IC will be active from Ile Sainte Marie, Madagascar through the 14th of December. His operation is CW only on 30 through 10 meters. QSL direct to F6ICX.

ON4JM will be on the air portable O-D-5 until the end of December. He in Lebanon working with the United Nations. QSL to his home call.

And listen out for OP0DL on from Patriot Hills in Antarctica until around December 25th. He's there on work a assignment and on the air as time permits. QSL vis ON5XX.

Lastly, DJ4SO will be on the air portable V 5 in Namibia until December 4th. His activity will be mostly on CW, RTTY and PSK31. He will be on 160 through 10 meters. QSL as directed on the air.

(Above DX news from RSGB and various other DX news sources.)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE BOOBY-TRAP REPEATER JAMMER

And finally this week, the rather bizarre video showing the discovery of a repeater jamming device with a booby-trap attached. That's the story from the United Kingdom told in an item that first aired on ITV news and is now posted to a video sharing website. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, has the rest of this rather strange tale now coming to the attention of hams world wide:

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The accidental find of the booby trapped jamming unit apparently took place in the United Kingdom in late 2007. According to an early 2008 report by Erika Barnes of ITV News and only recently discovered on the YouTube dot com video website, the device was accidentally discovered in Buckinghamshere by the caretaker of the property.

Mike Harrison is the manager of Wolton Estate. Thats a tiny in-land island in Englands south end. He told Barnes that in the course of his regular duties that he unearthed some top soil and found a white box. He was suspicious and decided to not go near it. After turning it over using a long stick he noticed a battery attached to something that he suspected

might be an explosive and decided to back away.

Authorities found it to be a radio jamming device intended to interfere with ham radio relay communications to a repeater located on a tower near a location known as Brill. Authorities say that the device was also designed harm and possibly kill anyone who might have found it and try to turn it off. Thankfully for Harrison he moved it with the stick and even more thankfully the device failed to detonate.

At the time the report aired that there was at least one more jamming device in the area. The ITV story warned that anyone who might find it to not tamper with it. Instead, that they should notify the local police. No word if it was ever located and disarmed.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF.

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Talk about carrying repeater jamming to a new low. As far as we have been able to determine, the person or persons who planted the booby trapped jamming devices is still at large. You cam see the story yourself at www.youtube.com/watch?v=OT11HFigbxk&feature=related (ARNewsline")

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline". Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's" only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline", P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, saying 73 from Reno, Nevada, and we thank you for listening.

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1084. The ARRL Letter, No 27, Vol 46 (Friday, November 21, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-21 22:00:28 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20081121215931.05A5A30C0C@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2255
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 46
November 21, 2008
****

IN THIS EDITION:

* + ARRL Delta Division Gets New Leadership; Great Lakes Division Remains Unchanged
* + Section Manager Election Results Announced
* + Weather Spotters Receive Award as Severe Weather Comes Calling
* + Leonard Award Nominations Due December 8
* + New Basic Antenna Book Available from ARRL
* + Global Emergency Network Marks Record
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ ARRL HQ to Close for Thanksgiving
+ Canadian Amateurs Receive Limited 500 kHz Privileges
Tom Jednacz, W7QF (SK)

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, The ARRL Letter will be published next week on Wednesday, November 26. There will be no ARRL Audio News next week. The ARRL Letter and the ARRL Audio News will resume their regular schedule the week of December 1.

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, <k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> ARRL DELTA DIVISION GETS NEW LEADERSHIP; GREAT LAKES DIVISION REMAINS UNCHANGED

On Friday, November 21, ARRL staff members started opening ballots for the Director and Vice Director races in the Delta Division and the Vice Director race in the Great Lakes Division. ARRL Chief Financial Officer Barry Shelley, N1VXY; Dakota Division Director Jay Bellows, W0QB;

Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, and a representative from an independent auditor looked on; Sarratt is also a member of the League's Ethics and Elections Committee. After all the ballots were counted, the Delta Division gained a new Director and Vice Director, while hams in the Great Lakes Division voted to keep their Vice Director. The leadership team in the Atlantic, Dakota and Midwest Divisions will remain the same. Terms for Directors and Vice Directors begin at noon on January 1, 2009 and run for three years.

The following ran unopposed and were declared the winner of their elections by the League's Ethics and Elections Committee: Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, and Vice Director Tom Abernethy, W3TOM; Dakota Division Director Jay Bellows, K0QB, and Vice Director Greg Widin, K0GW; Midwest Division Director Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, and Vice Director Cliff Ahrens, K0CA; and Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE. The rules state that if a candidate is running unopposed, he or she shall be declared the winner without balloting.

Incumbent ARRL Delta Division Director -- Henry Leggette, WD4Q, of Memphis, Tennessee -- did not seek re-election this term. Two candidates, current Vice Director Karl Bullock, WA5TMC, of Ripley, Mississippi, and former Louisiana Section Manager Mickey Cox, K5MC, of West Monroe, were nominated for this seat. With 1148 votes, Cox was declared the new Delta Division Director; Bullock received 993 votes.

With Bullock seeking the Director position, this left the Vice Director position open, with Ariel Elam, K4AAL, of Antioch, Tennessee, and Arkansas Section Manager David Norris, K5UZ, of Batesville, in the hunt for this post. Norris won the seat with 1399 votes, Elam received 746 votes.

Three people were nominated for the position of Vice Director in the Great Lakes Division: Incumbent Gary Johnston, KI4LA, of Edgewood, Kentucky; former Kentucky Section Manager John Meyers, NB4K, of Butler, and Michigan Section Affiliated Club Coordinator Daniel Romanchik, KB6NU, of Ann Arbor. Johnston will keep his seat, as he garnered 1218 votes in a very close race. Myers received 1205 votes and Romanchik received 1155 votes.

"I'm happy to be a part of this election process," said Sarratt. "I would like to thank everyone for running and also thank the ARRL members in the Delta and Great Lakes Division who participated. The big turnout shows the high level of interest our members have in Amateur Radio."

"It is great to see such an interest on the part of members in this election," Bellows said. "These close races do indeed show that every vote counts and how very important it is to participate."

The next scheduled Division elections are next fall for the Central, Hudson, New England, Northwestern and Roanoke ARRL Divisions. In accordance with League's Bylaws <http://www.arrl.org/aabl.html>, ballots will be counted on November 20, 2009.

==> SECTION MANAGER ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

There were nine Section Manager races this fall, four of which saw no opposition. Election ballots were counted and verified on Tuesday, November 18 at ARRL Headquarters for the remaining five races. Terms of office for these new Section Managers will begin on January 1, 2009.

In Nebraska, Art Zygielbaum, K0AIZ, defeated two other candidates in a very close race, receiving 124 votes. Opponents Jeff Beiermann, WB0M, of Omaha, received 118 votes while incumbent Section Manager Matthew Anderson, KA0BOJ, of Ashland, received 74 votes. Zygielbaum, who lives in Lincoln, was first licensed in 1961; he is presently vice president of the Lincoln Amateur Radio Club. He is active in emergency and public service communications, contesting, DXing, satellite, digital modes and QRP operation.

Incumbent New York City/Long Island Section Manager Tom Carrubba, KA2D, of West Babylon, decided not to run for another term, so two other hams stepped up to run for the position: Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, of Brooklyn, and Robert Biamonte, WB2OMW, of Levittown. Lisenco was declared the winner with 468 votes; Biamonte received 134 votes. Lisenco presently serves as Assistant Section Manager and Section Emergency Coordinator. Prior to those appointments, he was the District Emergency Coordinator for New York City. Lisenco is an avid DXer and contester and has previously served as vice president of the Kings County Radio Club.

In the Eastern Massachusetts election, Mike Neilsen, W1MPN, of Hudson, defeated incumbent Section Manager Art Greenberg, K1GBX, of Georgetown. Neilsen received 660 votes to Greenberg's 224. Neilsen served as Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager from January 2005-December 2006. Just prior to his first term as Section Manager, he served as the Section Emergency Coordinator for the Section from September 2001-January 2005.

Section Manager of the Southern New Jersey Section since 1997, Jean Priestley, KA2YKN, of Pennsauken, decided not to run for another term of office. George Strayline, N3GZ, of Villas, and Rick Stoneking, W2RDS, of Lumberton, sought the post. With 236 votes, Strayline was declared the winner; Stoneking received 209 votes. Strayline is a founding member of the Jersey Cape D-Star User Group (JCDUG). He is also a member of the Cape May County Amateur Radio Club and an active ARRL Accredited Volunteer Examiner and Official Observer. He enjoys high speed CW, DX and home brewing.

Indiana will also have a new Section Manager starting in January, since incumbent Section Manager Jim Sellers, K9ZBM, of Middlebury, decided not to run for another term. Sellers has served as Section Manager since July 2002. Raymond Andrews, K9DUR, of West Terre Haute, and John Poindexter, W3ML, of Knox, were candidates for the open seat. Andrews received 531 votes and Poindexter received 261 votes.

After ballots had already been mailed out to ARRL members in the Indiana Section, Andrews wrote to ARRL Headquarters withdrawing his candidacy due to health concerns. As such, the Section Manager's position for the

new term starting in January was considered vacant because Andrews won the majority of votes.

According to the Rules and Regulations of the Field Organization, vacancies in the office of Section Manager shall be filled by appointment by the ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager, in consultation with the respective Section's Director. After ARRL MVP Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, consulted with ARRL Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG, John Poindexter, W3ML, was appointed Indiana Section Manager with a term to begin January 1, 2009. Poindexter's term of office will be for 18 months -- instead of two years -- because this new term of office in Indiana had to be resolicited.

Poindexter has been a radio amateur since 1979 and has held appointments as an Assistant Emergency Coordinator and has served as president of the Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Club and the Starke County Amateur Radio Club. He is active in public service communications, DXing and contesting.

The following incumbent ARRL Section Managers did not face opposition and were declared elected for their next terms of office starting January 1, 2009: Dale Bagley, K0KY (Missouri); Jim Boehner, N2ZZ (South Carolina); Dee Turner, N4GD (West Central Florida), and John Rodgers, N3MSE (Western Pennsylvania).

Since there were no Section Manager nominations received for the next term of office in Northern New York, nominations will be resolicited in the January 2009 issue of QST.

==> WEATHER SPOTTERS RECEIVE AWARD AS SEVERE WEATHER COMES CALLING

On November 15, Amateur Radio operators who serve the National Weather Service in Taunton, Massachusetts received an award from the NWS weather forecasters citing excellence in service and "tireless service" to the NWS and to the people of Southern New England. Presented at a SKYWARN coordinators meeting, the award was accepted by Rob Macedo, KD1CY, on behalf of the more than 24 hams present. Macedo is the ARES SKYWARN Coordinator for the NWS's Taunton office and is the ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator.

The award reads: "Presented to NWS-Taunton Amateur Radio Team WX1BOX. With sincere appreciation for your long-standing commitment to the National Weather Service and the people of southern New England and with particular recognition for your tireless support during the unusual 2008 severe weather season."

Members of the Taunton SKYWARN Amateur Radio Club, WX1BOX, assist forecasters at the Taunton office. This office serves portions of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Hampshire. NWS Taunton forecasters Bob Thompson, Glenn Field, Bill Babcock and Eleanor Vallier-Talbot presented the award to the group.

"Today was a special meeting," Macedo said. "I wasn't expecting the trophy that's sitting on top of the power supply here at the station. I was surprised. Very well done, I must say. It is a tribute to the team effort exhibited by Amateur Radio operators and SKYWARN spotters across the four-state region."

Macedo said that the award meant "even more to the Amateur Radio team since it was funded not by NOAA, but rather by the forecasters at the station. They paid for it out of their own pockets."

According to Macedo, the 2008 summer severe weather season in Southern New England featured 974 local storm reports. Of those, 917 -- or 94 percent -- came from the Amateur Radio SKYWARN Spotter Network. There were a total of 50 SKYWARN activations recorded over the summer of 2008. "This has been the most active year in the 13 years I've been involved in the SKYWARN program. We hope next year will be calmer in terms of severe weather," Macedo said.

Later that evening, the NWS posted a tornado watch for much of Southern New England, lasting until 2 AM Sunday. Strong winds ahead of a cold front resulted in pockets of tree and power line damage across Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Some minor structural damage was also reported, as wind gusts of 50-70 MPH were reported; a wind gust of 67 MPH was recorded at the Blue Hill Observatory in Milton, Massachusetts.

"While the line of severe thunderstorms that were capable of damaging winds and the possibility of tornadoes fell apart as it moved toward the region, strong straightline winds out ahead of the storm were the story of the event. This resulted in pockets of wind damage across the region, including several reports of trees falling on cars and homes. A couple of weakened roofs on old structures were blown off due to the strong winds in Boston, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island," Macedo said. "Somehow, given such an active year in 2008 for severe weather, it is no surprise that we had a wind damage event on the evening of our coordinators' meeting. We hope this is the end of the active stretch."

==> LEONARD AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE DECEMBER 8

Here's your chance to say "thank you" to the reporter who released the best stories about Amateur Radio between December 3, 2007 and December 8, 2008 -- nominate them for the Leonard Award! This annual ARRL award honors a professional journalist whose outstanding coverage in TV, radio, print or multimedia best reflects the enjoyment, importance and public service value of Amateur Radio.

Nominations are judged by members of the League's PR Committee; the final decision is made during the ARRL Board meeting in January. The winner receives an engraved plaque and a cash award of $500. The Leonard Award was created as a tribute to the late CBS News President Bill Leonard, W2SKE. He was an avid Amateur Radio operator, and most active on the air during the 1960s and 1970s.

The recipient will receive the award based on a print story, photo essay, audio or video (including broadcast) or multimedia presentation that covers the topic of Amateur Radio. The scope of the work nominated may be a single story or series in a commercially published book, a recognized general-circulation (non-trade) daily or weekly newspaper, a general or special-interest magazine (except publications predominantly about Amateur Radio), a commercial or public radio or television broadcast, a Web site operated by a generally recognized journalistic organization (such as a newspaper, magazine, broadcast station or network) or multimedia format (a CD-ROM, for example). The story must be truthful, clear and accurate, reflecting high journalistic standards.

Only one submission per entrant will be accepted; a group award will count as a single entry. Nomination packets must include a complete application plus appropriate work sample:
* Print article: Submit original tear sheets plus one photocopy on 8.5 x 11 inch paper. If there are multiple pages, write the author's name on the back of each sheet.
* Radio: Submit one copy of script on 8.5 x 11 paper plus one standard audio CD or MP3 file.
* Television: Submit one copy of script on 8.5 x 11 paper plus one DVD or MP4 file.
* Multimedia: Submit a photocopy of each screen or Web page and/or CD ROM or DVD diskette(s) as appropriate.

For more information, please see page 62 of the November 2008 issue of QST or contact ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP <w1agp@arrl.org>. Pitts advises that some news organizations prohibit journalists from entering contests that offer monetary awards, so check with your potential nominee ahead of time.

==> NEW BASIC ANTENNA BOOK AVAILABLE FROM ARRL

For something that is often so simple to make, an antenna is remarkably difficult for many people to understand. The antenna is one of your shack's most important elements and can make your radio system a success. Now available from ARRL, "Basic Antennas: Understanding Practical Antennas and Design" <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9994> is a comprehensive introduction to antennas -- basic concepts, practical designs and details of easy-to-build antennas. You'll learn how to make antennas that really work. This book will provide a foundation in antenna theory and design necessary for anyone undertaking more advanced topics and projects such as those presented in "The ARRL Antenna Book" <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9876>.

Written by ARRL Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, this new book includes an introduction to antennas, as well as sections on dipole antennas, antenna impedance, transmission lines, practical two element arrays, wideband and multiband antennas, monopole antennas, reflector antennas, Yagis for HF and VHF loop antennas, antennas for microwave applications, vehicle antennas, antenna measurements and an introduction to antenna modeling

"Most people involved in the radio arts come from a background in the circuitry required to define radio equipment," Hallas said, "and many have difficulty making the transition to the electromagnetic side of radio. 'Basic Antennas' is intended to assist those with a basic knowledge of radio technology in making that important leap from the circuit domain to the antenna domain." Hallas said the technology presented in the book is developed using the "minimum of mathematical concepts to allow introduction of basic principles in an easy to read manner." Upon completion of this book, readers should have enough understanding of the basic principles of antenna systems to be able to make decisions about selecting antennas for their applications or using more advanced antenna materials properly.

Joel Hallas, W1ZR, earned his BS and MS degrees in electrical engineering. He has been a radar and telecommunications systems engineer, engineering manager, telecommunications executive and college teacher. Now QST Technical Editor, he is also the author of "Basic Radio -- Understanding the Key Building Blocks" <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9558>.

==> GLOBAL EMERGENCY NETWORK MARKS RECORD

The Global ALE High Frequency Network (HFN) <http://hflink.net/> -- an international Amateur Radio Service organization of ham operators dedicated to emergency/relief radio communications -- has become the first network to operate continuously for more than 500 days on all international Amateur Radio shortwave bands simultaneously.

According to HFN International ALE Coordinator Bonnie Crystal, KQ6XA, the main purpose of the Network is to provide efficient emergency and disaster relief communications to remote areas of the world. "Beginning with a core group of six North American radio operators in June 2007, HFN rapidly expanded to cover large areas of the planet with 24/7 digital communications," she said."HFN was designed to be an open framework for global Amateur Radio emergency services to interoperate on HF using the Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) system." <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/ale.html>

Relying on ionospheric radio communications, interconnected HFN base stations scan the radio bands every 10 seconds, from 3.5 MHz-28.0 MHz. Through this Net, Crystal said, ham operators stay connected with each other at all hours of the day or night in any mode of operation, and can send Internet e-mail or cell phone mobile text messages from the field.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The Sun and moon get crossed, but they never touch" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: The latest sunspot appearance lasted eight days; the spot passed from view after Monday, November 17. Geomagnetic indices have remained nice and quiet. If you look here for recent geomagnetic data <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/indices/quar_DGD.txt>, you will notice certain times which were extremely quiet with many zeroes in the K index. One of those periods is the days after November 16. You won't

see quiet conditions like this once we get greater solar activity. The next time we see unsettled geomagnetic conditions should be November 25. Sunspot numbers for November 13-19 were 16, 12, 11, 11, 11, 0 and 0 with a mean of 8.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.1, 68.3, 68.2, 67.7, 67.7, 69.8 and 69.4 with a mean of 68.6. The estimated planetary A indices were 1, 1, 6, 8, 2, 1 and 1 with a mean of 2.9. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 1, 3, 7, 2, 0 and 1 with a mean of 2.3. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Robert Frost's "On Looking Up by Chance at the Constellations" <http://www.poeticportal.net/content/view/775/29/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the YO International PSK31 Contest is November 21. The LZ DX Contest is November 22-23. The SKCC Sprint and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Sprint (CW) are both on November 26. Next week, look for the CQ Worldwide DX Contest (CW) on November 29- 30 and the ARCI Topband Sprint on December 4. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, December 7, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, December 19, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2; Antenna Modeling; HF Digital Communications; and Radio Frequency Propagation. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

* ARRL HQ to Close for Thanksgiving: ARRL Headquarters will be closed Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28 in observance of Thanksgiving. There will be no W1AW bulletins or code practice transmissions those days. The ARRL Letter will be distributed on Wednesday, November 26, but there will be no ARRL Audio News on Friday, November 28. ARRL Headquarters will reopen Monday, December 1 at 8 AM Eastern Standard Time. We wish everyone a safe and bountiful Thanksgiving holiday.

* Canadian Amateurs Receive Limited 500 kHz Privileges: On November 10, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) announced that Industry Canada, which regulates Amateur Radio in that country, has accepted an RAC proposal for selected Canadian radio amateurs to operate in the vicinity of 500 kHz. The proposal states that RAC would recommend amateurs who would be licensed to operate in the 504-509 kHz band with a maximum power of 20 W ERP and bandwidth up to 1 kHz. Stations operating in this band would be technically operating under Special Developmental Licenses, although they would all be radio amateurs. Distinct call signs would be used and the licenses would be renewable on an annual basis, subject to the amateur demonstrating the research he has carried out. According to the RAC, these amateur operations would support Canada's efforts to place a proposal on the agenda of the 2011 World Radio Conference (WRC-11), which, if adopted, would create an amateur allocation in the 600 meter band. The US, under the auspices of the ARRL's 500 kHz Experimental Station, WD2XSH, is also conducting research in this band. Canada is the eighth country to do experimentation on 55 kHz; along with the US and Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Romania are also participating. More information on the Canadian proposal will be posted to the RAC Web site as it becomes available.

* Tom Jednacz, W7QF (SK): Thomas C. Jednacz, W7QF, of Dunnellon, Florida, passed away November 17 from complications from lupus. He was 68. An ARRL member and an avid DXer and contester, Jednacz founded the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society (ARLS) with Jim Weidner, K2JXW, in 2000 <http://www.arlhs.com/>. The purposes of the ARLHS are to promote public awareness of ham radio and lighthouses, to preserve lights that are in danger of extinction and to pay tribute to the role that hams and lighthouse keepers have played in contributing to maritime safety. Professionally, Jednacz was a vice president of an engineering division at Philips Electronics and a member of IEEE. While at Philips, he was on a team credited with the invention of a building management system utilizing packet hopping communication.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news

updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call
860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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1085. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-22 07:00:04 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1227337201@panix.com>
Source record: 2256
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

1086. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-22 07:05:01 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1227337500@panix.com>
Source record: 2257
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

1087. The ARRL Letter, No 27, Vol 47 (Wednesday, November 26, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-26 22:37:49 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20081126222803.1583030B2E@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2258
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

****
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 47
November 26, 2008
****

IN THIS EDITION:

* ARRL President Emeritus George Wilson, W4OYI (SK)
* IARU Region 1 Meets in Croatia
* Dates Set for DXpedition to Desecheo Island
* ARRL HQ to Close for Thanksgiving
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Weekend on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
Corrections

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
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<k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> ARRL PRESIDENT EMERITUS GEORGE WILSON, W4OYI (SK)

George S. Wilson III, W4OYI, of Owensboro, Kentucky, passed away at his home on November 25. He was 76. Wilson served as the ARRL's 11th President from January 1992-July 1995. He resigned from the position after a stroke in 1995. Wilson's tenure in ARRL leadership included positions as Kentucky Section Emergency Coordinator, Kentucky Section Communications Manager, Vice Director and Director of the Great Lakes Division, as well as Vice President and First Vice President, eventually culminating in the position of ARRL President. Upon retirement from the League's top position, Wilson was named President Emeritus based on his lifelong commitment to Amateur Radio and the League -- one of only four people granted this honor. He also served as an Assistant Director in the Great Lakes Division.

After his stroke, which left him completely paralyzed on his left side, Wilson stepped down after serving just over three years in the League's top volunteer position. He told the ARRL Board of Directors that while he felt had made progress in rehabilitation, his medical condition

prevented him from travelling and from devoting the energy required to perform the demanding duties of the office. He expressed his appreciation to the members of the Board for the opportunity to serve.

Wilson told the Board's July 1995 meeting that "The League has my undying love and support." To honor Wilson's service to the ARRL and to Amateur Radio as a whole, the Board named him ARRL President Emeritus. His legacy includes a near lifelong involvement in the League's emergency and public service communications programs. He remained active in public service and emergency communication until his death.

Then-ARRL First Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD (ex KB6ZV), moved up to fill Wilson's shoes. Upon taking the position, Stafford said that Wilson "believe[d] in team building, in getting people involved and keeping them informed. That the ARRL was able to function so seamlessly while George was incapacitated is a testimony to his own management style."

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, Wilson suffered his stroke in February 1995 while on ARRL business in Washington, DC. "The stroke left George physically limited," Sumner said, "but he remained mentally active and stayed in touch with his friends, mainly by e-mail and some CW operating. The history of the ARRL is highlighted -- indeed, our history has been made possible -- by the extraordinary contributions of many volunteers. With George's death, we've lost one of the great ones."

"George was a personable individual who preferred to look at things from a simple perspective," said current ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN. "When I attended my first ARRL Board meeting as a young 28 year old Director, George was elected Vice President. During time on the Board afterward, he provided me with some valuable experience that allowed me to be an effective Director working within the great democratic process that we benefit from. After he experienced his terrible medical situation while serving as ARRL President, he displayed great resilience in moving forward; Amateur Radio not only played a part in his recovery, but a major part of his life afterward. His involvement in Amateur Radio will be missed, but his impact will remain. It is a sad loss."

A lawyer by profession, Wilson, according to Sumner, "played the role of a simple small-town lawyer disarmingly well when he debated, right up to the point where he skewered his opponent with surgical precision. It was great fun to watch as long as you weren't the one being skewered!"

Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, fondly remembered Wilson, recalling a meeting he had with the ARRL President in the early 1990s: "I was seated at a table at the Findlay Hamfest in Ohio. I had ARRL President George Wilson, W4OYI, on one side of me and then-Great Lakes Division Director Al Severson, AB8P (SK) on the other. They were discussing problems within the ARRL. I was impressed at the depth of their concern for the future of the ARRL. Al left and George stayed behind; he gave me a quick lesson on ARRL service to the membership. He

taught me the meaning of constituency service to the membership when you wore an ARRL leadership badge. I had only recently been appointed Ohio Section Public Information Coordinator and I never gave membership service any real thought. George Wilson redirected my thinking that morning. He was a real giant in ARRL leadership, with his greatest accomplishment being an inspiration to others. He was particularly effective because he had that 'plain old guy' appearance, while working with a keen mind and impressive spirit. I will miss him."

In 2004, Wilson received the Special Achievement Award, sponsored by the Dayton Hamvention. Nominated by current ARRL Great Lakes Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA; former ARRL First Vice President Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, and Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, they noted that Wilson "spent his entire ham radio career in devoted service to his community, to his country, to his hobby and in service with its only national representative body. He has given of himself because that's his nature."

Johnston, Mendelsohn and Pasternak said that "those of us close to George knew [that resigning as ARRL President] was not an easy decision for him to make, but one that he had to face. He had so many ideas and plans for making ham radio a hobby and service to be shared with the world. Yet he knew that his physical condition was such that he must devote his every waking moment to 'rehab' if he would at some later date again be able to contribute to the service that he loved so much."

The nomination continued: "When he took office [as ARRL President], George Wilson made it clear that he would do all he could to preserve our ham bands and make them more pleasant to operate. He has been at the forefront of efforts in both areas. The results can be seen in several areas of the hobby including the creation of the vanity call sign program and a major victory in retaining Amateur Radio access in the 902-928 MHz [33 cm] band."

His nomination recounted Wilson's beginnings as a radio amateur. Licensed at 16, Wilson took to 40 meters with a home-brew transmitter consisting of a 6L6 oscillator tube driving an 807 running about 30 W of power, a simple receiver and wire antenna. "His first exposure to the world of emergency service communications came [when he was only 17] in December 1949 when the Green River overflowed its banks and flooded the town of Calhoun [Kentucky]," the application stated. "As the emergency crystallized, relief workers found stranded residents calling in for evacuation. Ferry boats would go get them, only to have to turn around [and] go right back because the next door neighbor had since also requested evacuation. What was needed was communications between the relief agency in Owensboro and the boats involved in the rescues. As there were no cellular telephones, 2 meter [handheld transceivers] or repeaters in that era, George and his comrades installed CW rigs on the two ferries and one at the local courthouse to act as a 'dispatch.' The system worked flawlessly and made rescue of those stranded by the flooding more efficient. In reality, it most likely saved lives. The die

was cast and George Wilson, W4OYI, was hooked on public service."

In the years since his stroke, Wilson used a wheelchair, making travel to hamfests and conventions a bit difficult. As a result, his ham radio public service activities were limited to those he could do from or near his home. As such, Wilson devoted much of his time to monitoring the local repeater for those in need of assistance and was active in the Owensboro Amateur Radio Club and ARES.

In 2003, amateurs in the Great Lakes Division created the George S. Wilson Lifetime Achievement Award. This annual award is presented to a Division member who has "contributed greatly to the overall vitality of the Amateur Radio Service."

Wilson was a member of the ARRL's A-1 Operator Club <http://www.arrl.org/awards/a1-op/> and held DXCC (CW and Mixed) with 200 countries confirmed on each <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>.

In addition to his wife Marian (of 51 years) and his children Berry and Jennifer, Wilson is also survived by two grandchildren, Meghan and Rachel. Visitation will take place Friday, November 28 from 2-7 PM at the James H. Davis Funeral Home in Owensboro; an online guestbook is available <http://davisfuneralhome.com/>. Services will be at 10 AM at the funeral home the following day. Wilson will be interred at Elmwood Cemetery, also in Owensboro. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in Wilson's name be made to the American Red Cross.

==> IARU REGION 1 MEETS IN CROATIA

Earlier this month, IARY Region 1 held its triennial conference in Cavtat, Croatia. Forty IARU Member Societies were present, with another 12 Member Societies represented via proxy. IARU Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, also attended the conference <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/CT08_Cavtat_Final_plenary_minutes.pdf>.

Sunday, November 16, marked the opening of the five day conference that was hosted by. Hrvatski Radioamaterski Savez (HRS), Croatia's IARU Member Society <http://www.hamradio.hr/>. HRS President Kreso Kovarik, 9A5K, welcomed local and national officials and conferees. Kovarik said he was pleased that that the IARU chose to have the 2008 conference in Croatia, and expressed his view that this would be of great value to Croatia and to the HRS.

Ellam spoke next, relaying greetings from IARU President Larry Price, W4RA, who was unable to attend. Ellam took this opportunity to briefly review the work done by IARU over recent years and said he "looked forward to WRC 11." He thanked Region 1 and the HRS for their excellent organizational arrangements for the conference. Region 1 President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, echoed Ellam's good wishes and noted that there were 50 delegations present for this conference, either in person or by proxy.

The conference was formally opened by Kreso Antonovic, Director of Electronic Communications and Postal Service Directorate, Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, Croatia. A postage stamp commemorating the conference was unveiled at a recption for heads of delegations and invited guests that followed.

One of the highlights of the conference was the election of new officers. With 41 out of 49 votes cast, Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, of the Netherlands, was elected President. Mustapha Diop, 6W1KI, of Senegal, was unanimously elected Vice President. Dennis Green, ZS4BS, of South Africa, was elected Secretary and Andreas Thiemann, HB9JOE, of Switzerland, was elected Treasurer. Rounding out the Region 1 Executive Committee are Hani Raad, OD5TE, of Lebanon; Betty Magnon, F6IOC, of France; Nikola Percin, 9A5W, of Croatia; Panayot Danev, LZ1US, of Bulgaria, and Colin Thomas, G3PSM, of Great Britain.

In preparation for the expansion of 40 meters in Region 1 on March 29, 2009, the HF Committee debated a band plan to incorporate the change from 7.000-7.100 to 7.000-7.200 MHz. The conference adopeted the following plan:
* 7.000-7.025 MHz, CW, contest preferred (200 Hz maximum bandwidth)
* 7.025-7.040 MHz, CQ, QRP Center of Activity to be 7.030 MHz (200 Hz maximum bandwidth)
* 7.040-7.047 MHz, Narrow band modes (digimodes) (500 Hz maximum bandwidth)
* 7.047-7.050 MHz, Narrow band modes (digimodes, unattended automatically controlled data stations) (500 Hz maximum bandwidth)
* 7.050-7.053 MHz, All modes (digimodes, unattended automatically controlled data stations) (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
* 7.053-7.060 MHz, All modes (digimodes) (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
* 7.060-7.100 MHz, All modes, digital voice 7070, SSB QRP Center of Activity to be 7.090 MHz, SSB contest preferred (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
* 7.100-7.130 MHz, All modes, Region 1 Center of Activity to be 7.110 MHz (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
* 7.130-7.200 MHz, All modes, SSB contest preferred, Image Center of Activity to be 7.165 MHz (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)
* 7.175-7.200 MHz, All modes, priority for intercontinental operation (2700 Hz maximum bandwidth)

The conference had an eye to both new and young radio amateurs. Delegates agreed unanimously to recommend to Member Societies the importance of the annual Jamboree on the Air and encouraged the organizations to assist Scouts with the event. By doing so, the delegates said, this will promote Amateur Radio to Scouts to where they will get their Amateur Radio license and become active on the air.

The delegates also recommended that an additional category be introduced to Amateur Radio contests "wherever possible." Details for the "Youngsters and Newcomers" category will be left to individual contest organizers to develop. Delegates also encouraged contest organizers to replace signal strength reports required in contests with "some other

less predictable exchange, so as to enhance the skill requirements of contest operators."

Delegates had three choices for the next conference: South Africa, Spain or England. Sun City, South Africa was chosen as the venue for the 2011 meeting.

==> DATES SET FOR DXPEDITION TO DESECHEO ISLAND

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has notified a group of hams led by veteran DXpeditioners Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, that they will be able to mount a DXpedition to Desecheo Island (KP5, IOTA NA-095), February 12-26, 2009 <http://www.kp5.us/>. Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on the Most Wanted list, kept by "DX Magazine." Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the western coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the USFWS's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR).

Per USFWS rules, only 15 operators will be allowed on the island at one time. "We have arranged with USFWS to allow a shift change about half way through the DXpedition," Allphin told the ARRL. "This has allowed a number of hams on our waiting list an opportunity to participate in this DXpedition."

Johnson said the team will be running CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-6 meters. "We've had tremendous support from DX organizations all over the world and from numerous equipment and antenna manufacturers," he told the ARRL. "We are diligently working on the propagation studies to reach our hard to work areas of Asia and Europe. This and with our planned antennas, we should knock Desecheo off of the Most Wanted List for a long time to come." Desecheo is the second most-wanted DXCC entity in Asia and third most-wanted in Europe.

According to DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the lack of amateur activity on Desecheo is due to the USFWS not issuing the needed Special Use permits. "The USFWS has always claimed safety concerns as a reason to not issue the permits," he said. "Since the island was used as a bombing range, there is the possibility that unexploded, live munitions are still on the island. It is always a good thing when an entity that had activation difficulties in the past gets on the air again."

On Friday, December 19, three DXpedition team members, USFWS personnel and an unexploded ordnance (UXO) expert will go out to Desecheo to sweep and clear the assigned area of unexploded ordnance and other hazards. "We are uniquely fortunate for a 'sneak preview' of our operating site the week before Christmas," Johnson said. "We will spend a day on Desecheo clearing hazards from our operating sites. Rarely does such a most-wanted entity have an opportunity for a sneak peak to optimally plan logistics, stations and antennas." There will be no radio operations on this trip.

The KP5 DXpedition team will assemble in Puerto Rico on Sunday, February 8 for mandatory UXO training. They will spend the next few days training, preparing and staging the several tons of equipment for transport to the site and set out for Desecheo on February 12. Allphin said that as soon as they land on Desecheo, two stations will be "immediately activated. Stations will continue to operate until the final moments of departure on February 26."

Allphin is an experienced DXer, having visited 80 DXCC entities and operated from 40, including Peter I Island, Howland Island, Kingman Reef, the South Sandwich Islands and South Georgia Island. Allphin and Johnson have both participated in DXpeditions to Heard Island and Bhutan.

"For a team leader, the challenges are pretty much the same for Desecheo as they were for Peter I and other remote DXpeditions," Allphin told the ARRL. "Take logistics -- you still must make sure everything you need gets there. Although there is a Radio Shack 20 miles away, the boat trip is $1000! The team must be selected on compatibility, experience and operating skills; that never changes. The difference this time is that Glenn and I have been inundated with requests to join the team. The close proximity makes it look like an easy DXpedition, I guess!"

ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager and experienced DXpeditioner Dave Patton, NN1N, said that both Desecheo and Navassa Islands (currently third on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list) saw frequent operations in the late 1970s through late '80s, but operations from the islands have been very limited since then. With the islands under the control of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, combined with decaying "infrastructure" on Navassa, there are more issues that must be dealt with than there were 25 years ago.

"A well-organized and lengthy operation from Desecheo will be a nice treat for the world's DXers," Patton said. "With W0GJ and K4UEE leading the operation, I think we can all count on a first class effort that will give maximum exposure to Asia/Oceania and Europe where KP5 is most needed. I also think that Glenn and Bob can demonstrate to the Fish and Wildlife Service that a DXpedition can take place and not damage the environment or cause big problems amongst other hams or for other agencies. I hope hams will be invited back to Desecheo more frequently in the future and expand the places where hams may operate."

In 1979, upon the recommendation of the DX Advisory Committee, Desecheo Island was added to the DXCC list for contacts made after March 1 of that year. KP4AM/D -- with operators N4EA, KP4Q, N4ZC, KP4DSD, KV4KV (now KP2A) and KP4AM (now W4DN) -- made the first DXpedition to Desecheo in March 1979. Various groups have made their way to Desecheo since the first trip, but other than a brief operation in December 2005, there has been no activity from the island since 1994. "It is so exciting that our DXpedition to Desecheo coincides almost exactly 30 years to the day of the first operation from Desecheo," Johnson told the ARRL.

In June of this year, CNWR invited written proposals from hams who had previously made inquiries about an Amateur Radio operation from Desecheo; CNWR indicated that they would allow one group to activate the island. After reviewing the proposals, CNWR would then select a group and prepare to issue a Special Permit to the successful party, limiting the group to no more than 15 people staying no longer than 14 days. Applicants had 45 days to prepare and submit their proposals. According to Allphin, seven groups submitted proposals.

"A panel of three Fish and Wildlife Service employees, from areas within the Service outside of the Caribbean refuge, spent September 24 and 25 reviewing and evaluating the [seven] proposals," Allphin said. "The selection criteria used were those outlined in the proposal invitation letter and points were awarded for how well criteria were addressed for thoroughness and documentation."

"It was truly an honor to have our proposal and team selected from the stiff competition," Johnson told the ARRL. "This has been a true team effort on our part from the start. We look forward to activating an entity in the Top 10 Most Wanted that is located in our own back yard!We are most grateful to the USFWS for giving us this opportunity to activate this rare entity."

==> ARRL HQ TO CLOSE FOR THANKSGIVING

ARRL Headquarters will be closed Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28 in observance of Thanksgiving. There will be no W1AW bulletins or code practice transmissions those days. The ARRL Letter will be distributed on Wednesday, November 26. There will be no ARRL Audio News on Friday, November 28. ARRL Headquarters will reopen Monday, December 1 at 8 AM Eastern Standard Time. We wish everyone a safe and bountiful Thanksgiving holiday.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The Sun hath shed its kindly light, Our harvesting is gladly o'er" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: This is an early bulletin for the Thanksgiving holiday, as ARRL is closed on Friday, the regular day for release of this bulletin. We plan another brief regular propagation bulletin on Monday, December 1 that will contain the propagation numbers for November 20-26 in the regular format that normally appears at the end of the bulletin. On Friday, December 5, the propagation bulletin will be back on regular schedule, at least into spring 2009. We had our last glimpse of sunspot group 1008 as it was about to slip over our Sun's western horizon on November 18. No sunspots have emerged since then, but it seems a reasonable assumption that we will see more Solar Cycle 24 spots, but we do not know when. There is a prediction from USAF/NOAA that shows solar flux rising to 70 on December 8-9. This is just tracking a possible reappearance of the region that birthed sunspot group 1007 that we saw in the Sun's southern hemisphere from October 30 through November 6. Tonight ,high latitude regions may see some aurora caused by another solar wind stream from a coronal hole. But that same USAF/NOAA forecast mentioned earlier shows a planetary A index of just

12 for today, dropping to 8 on Thursday, then 5 (a very quiet level) until December 4-6 when they expect a planetary A index of 8, 15 and 10. The planetary A index is calculated with data from a collection of mid-latitude and higher magnetometers around the world, and 12 is a drop from Tuesday's (November 25) planetary A index of 17, when aurora was observed in Polar Regions. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Paul Laurence Dunbar's "A Thanksgiving Poem" <http://www.paullaurencedunbar.net/athanksgivingpoem.html>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the SKCC Sprint and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Sprint (CW) are both on November 26. The CQ Worldwide DX Contest (CW) is November 29-30 and the ARCI Topband Sprint is December 4. Next weekend is the ARRL 160-Meter Contest on December 5-7. The TARA RTTY Melee and the Wake-Up! QRP Sprint are December 6. The TOPS Activity Contest is December 6-7 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is December 10. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, December 7, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, December 19, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2; Antenna Modeling; HF Digital Communications; and Radio Frequency Propagation. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

* Corrections: In last week's ARRL Letter, the vote tallies for Great Lakes Division Vice Director runners-up John Meyers, NB4K, and Daniel

Romanchik, KB6NU, were reversed. Romanchik received 1205 votes and Meyers received 1155 votes. The outcome of the election was reported accurately. In addition, Canada is the eighth country to do experimentation on 500 kHz, not 55 kHz.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

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ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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1088. 600 meter band

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-26 23:48:32 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <ggctc2miv1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2259

Help me understand what is "experimental" about the 500kHz neighborhood?

It's not like this is some newly discovered spectrum, never used before.

Yet the FCC issues "experimental" licenses to operate there, and now I see the Canadians are doing the same. What are hams going to learn that isn't already well known from the nearly-100-years or so of previous use? (I wish I had a dime for every 15-18/45-48 silent period I logged as observed!)

73, de Hans, K0HB

1089. Re: 600 meter band

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-27 03:51:13 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <PN2dnTL9UclHhbPUnZ2dnUVZ_tjinZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2260

Kï¿½HB wrote:
> Help me understand what is "experimental" about the 500kHz neighborhood
?
>
> It's not like this is some newly discovered spectrum, never used before
.
>
> Yet the FCC issues "experimental" licenses to operate there, and now I
> see the Canadians are doing the same. What are hams going to learn tha
t
> isn't already well known from the nearly-100-years or so of previous
> use? (I wish I had a dime for every 15-18/45-48 silent period I logged

> as observed!)
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB

Hans,

The FCC issues Experimental licenses for hams to operate on 600 meters
because that's the only vehicle they have for authorizing such use.

While 600 meters may not be newly discovered, it's new for hams:
explorers have already been to the South Pole, but there is still a lot
to be learned by going there, and while I've already seen DisneyWorld, I
don't begrudge my neighbor the chance to go.

From your mention of Silent Periods, I infer that you were a maritime
or shore station operator, and so you know a lot more about the band
than I do. That said, I can't help but wonder if what is "already known"
may not be all there is to know: after all, operating multi-kw
transmitters and long-wire antennas over salt water is a lot different
than using 20 watts erp from backyard antennas over lossy earth.

In any case, shipboard distress traffic goes by satellite now, and the
Coast Guard no longer monitors 500 KHz. If there's a chance for hams to
get a new band, and to learn about operating low power with highly
reactive antennas while keeping the art of Morse Code alive, I feel we
should move forward and make use of it.

73,

Bill, W1AC

--
(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

1090. Re: 600 meter band

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-27 08:38:23 UTC
From: jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com
Message-ID: <olo106-q6c.ln1@mail.specsol.com>
Source record: 2261

KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote:
> Help me understand what is "experimental" about the 500kHz neighborhood
?
>
> It's not like this is some newly discovered spectrum, never used before.
>
> Yet the FCC issues "experimental" licenses to operate there, and now I
see
> the Canadians are doing the same. What are hams going to learn that is
n't
> already well known from the nearly-100-years or so of previous use? (I
wish
> I had a dime for every 15-18/45-48 silent period I logged as observed!)
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB

Well, since the broadcast band is just above 500 kHz and navigation
beacons are just below 500 kHz, I highly doubt there is much that
isn't already known about the frequency region.

As far as I can see, the only reason for the experimental license is
that is the only way to authorize hams to use the frequency without
a rules change.

--
Jim Pennino

Remove .spam.sux to reply.

1091. Re: 600 meter band

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-27 15:39:58 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <6p7t1lF6qucgU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2262

In news:olo106-q6c.ln1@mail.specsol.com,
jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com <jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com> typed, for some
strange, unexplained reason:

[snip]

: As far as I can see, the only reason for the experimental license is
: that is the only way to authorize hams to use the frequency without
: a rules change.

So change the rules..! Or is that too simple..?

73 Ivor G6URP

1092. Re: 600 meter band

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-27 18:46:35 UTC
From: jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com
Message-ID: <oe4306-dms.ln1@mail.specsol.com>
Source record: 2263

Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote:
> In news:olo106-q6c.ln1@mail.specsol.com,
> jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com <jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com> typed, for some
> strange, unexplained reason:
>
> [snip]
>
> : As far as I can see, the only reason for the experimental license is
> : that is the only way to authorize hams to use the frequency without
> : a rules change.
>
> So change the rules..! Or is that too simple..?
>
> 73 Ivor G6URP

I take it you've never dealt with a national government agency.

Getting an experimental license takes weeks to months.

A rules change can take years.

I would imagine that the next time the FCC changes the rules for some
other reason, 500 kHz will get thrown in.

--
Jim Pennino

Remove .spam.sux to reply.

1093. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1633 - November 28, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-27 20:16:26 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20081127121622.016d1488@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2264
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1633 - November 28, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1633 with a release date of
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The following is a QST. Lots of repeaters could loose their homes down
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his devotion to the hobby. Find out the details on this Thanksgiving Day
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right now

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

REPEATER NEWS: AUSTRALIAN REPEATERS COULD LOOSE SITES OVER NEW FEES

Repeater owners in the Australian state of New South Wales are not happy
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On the other hand, larger well resourced clubs may welcome the opportunity to enter into an agreement which guarantees secure tenure for their repeater sites located on Crown Land.

I'm Graham Kemp, VK4BB in Brisbane, Australia, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Amateur radio clubs with repeaters in the region have a choice to make. Its pay up or go Q-R-T. That's because failure to enter into a rental agreement
when asked to do so by the New South Wales Department of Lands may result in eviction from a Crown Land site. (WIA News)

**

DX PROPAGATION: SCIENTISTS AY THAT THE NEW SUNSPOTS ARE HERE

Improved band may soon be on their way. Scientists say that after more than two years of few sunspots, even fewer solar flares, the sun is finally showing signs of life.

David Hathaway is a sunspot forecaster of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville Alabama. In his opinion the solar minimum is behind us. He said that in October scientists counted five sunspot groups,. Hathaway says that this may not sound like much, but in a year with record-low numbers of sunspots and long stretches of spotlessness, five is significant.

Even more significant is the fact that four of the five sunspot groups belonged to Solar Cycle 24. That's the new and long-awaited next installment of the sun's 11 year solar cycle. Hathaway says that October was the first time sunspots from new Solar Cycle 24 outnumbered spots from old Solar Cycle 23.

Hathaway adds that this is a good sign that the new cycle is taking off. This will be welcome news to the ears of hams who have waited a long time to work some new and possibly rare DX. (NASA)

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BREAKING DX NEWS: DESECHO TO BE ON IN FEBRUARY

The Desecheo Island DXpedition is now officially on for early next year. This as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service notifies the team that February 12th to the 26th 2009, will be the dates allocated for the radio operation.

These dates are coordinated with other Fish and Wildlife Service research activities scheduled on other parts of Desecheo. It also handles the scheduling security personnel for the camp.

Only fifteen operators will be allowed on the island at any given time. A total of 6 to 8 stations will be operational on the High Frequency bands including 160 and 6 meters.

Desecheo Island is #2 on the worlds Most Wanted DX List. For the latest news, please go to the team's website. Its in cyberspace at www.kp5us (Wï¿½GJ, K4UEE)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: SPRATLEY OPERATION ON HOLD

Meantime, hams who have waited a long time to make contact with the Spratley Island group will have to be patient a bit longer. This as its announced that a planned operation has been put on hold. Amateur Radio Newslines's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, has more:

--

The long awaited 9M0 DXpedition to the Spratley Islands has been postponed. A team of six operators was expectedto activate Pulau Layang Layang Island in the Spratly group in March 2009.

Now, an according to their Web page dated November 14th puts the operation in to a state of delay. It says that due to a combination of personal and logistical reasons that it has been necessary to postpone the operation to a later date.

The announcement goes on to sat that its is hoped that the DXpedition will go ahead at a later date but none was announced. The posting notes that donations will be returned to those sponsors who made contributions to the proposed operation. More is on-line at www.spratly2009.com

Im Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

--

We will have more DX related items later on in this weeks Newsline report. (E-Mail)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Pentucket Radio Club repeater serving Groveland Massachusetts

(5 sec pause here)

**

ENFORCEMENT: EVEN BROADCASTERS CANNOT INTERFERE

A broadcasters who interfered with other broadcaster has been fined by the FCC. This as Florida's Black Crow Radio, LLC gets hit with a $18,400 monetary forfeiture that's being paid in two parts. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, explains:

--

The fine issued to Black Crow Radio is actually marked down from $23,000 and more than half of it has already been paid. Here's the story.

The forfeiture is based on allegations that Black Crow Radio's station WNDB AM, in Daytona Beach, Florida failed to ensure that emissions removed by 60 kHz to 75 kHz from the fundamental frequency of 1150 kHz are attenuated 65 dB below the unmodulated carrier level. Its also charged with failure to maintain effective locked fences around the bases of two of its antenna towers.

According to the November 13th notice, this past February 26, the agency began investigating a complaint that WNDB was causing interference to stations on 1070 kHz and 1230 kHz . Also that it was the source of general interference up and down the AM band. Agents from the Commission's Tampa Office monitored WNDB on its licensed frequency of 1150 kHz using a standard car radio and readily observed that the station could be heard up and down the AM band. The agents also heard WNDB's signal intermittently interfering with broadcast operations on 1070 and 1230 kHz.

On September 24th the Tampa Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture to Black Crow in the amount of $23,000 for the rules violations. Black Crow admitted part of the violation notice and submitted a payment in the amount of $12,000 for those violations. However it requested cancellation or reduction of the remaining $11,000 proposed forfeiture.

In its response the FCC said that due to its compliance for the 13 years WNDB had been on the air that it would reduce the remaining amount of the fine to $6400. However, it would not dismiss it entirely.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

Black Crow Radio LLC was given the customary 30 days to pay the outstanding remainder of the fine or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: WHAT A DIFFERENCE 140 FEET CAN MAKE

Here's one for the record books, and we mean literally. The FCC's San Francisco field office has cited United States Cellular Corporation for having one of its towers a rather small distance from where it was supposed to have been put up. Or is it at the correct location and is the FCC wrong? Here's the rest of this rather strange story.

According to a Notice of Violation released on October 10th, the FCC said that an August 28th inspection showed the tower in question to be approximately 140 feet from its registered location. Note that the violation is for an approximate rather than verified distance from the registration site. That's leading a lot of engineers to question by what legal authority the FCC can guess at a location and issue a citation based on this guesswork.

None the less, the FCC gave United States Cellular 20 days from the issuance of the Notice to submit a written statement concerning this matter. The response was to fully explain why each violation occurred, contain a statement of the specific actions taken to correct each violation and preclude recurrence, and include a time line for completion of pending corrective actions.

You can read the entire Notice of Violation at: http://www.fcc.gov/eb/FieldNotices/2003/DOC-286437A1.html) (FCC, CGC)

**

RADIO POLITICS: WATCH THE FCC CHANGE

According to news reports, while FCC Chairman Kevin Martin says that he is in no hurry to leave his post, we could see a three-member FCC for a while. This, depending on how long it takes President-elect Barack Obama's transition team to determine who the new Commission chairman will be.

Assuming Republican Commissioner Deborah Tate leaves because her term is up and that Martin leaves after the inauguration, there could be a 2 to 1 FCC for a while. The assumption is that one of the Democrats currently serving as a Commissioner will be named as interim chairman. This would mean that Michael Copps and Jonathan Adelstein along with Robert McDowell would make up the Commissioners for a while.

Several names that have surfaced as possibilities for FCC chairman. These include Julius Genachowski and Don Gips. Both are former FCC staffers under President Bill Clinton. (RW)

**

RADIO LAW: SENATORS LOOKING AT NEW FAIRNESS DOCTRINE

Democrats in the Congress are pushing for the reinstatement of the so-called "Fairness Doctrine" which forced broadcasters to offer equal time to both sides of controversial issues. According to the trade newspaper the Hollywood Reporter, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and such influential Democratic senators as Barbara Boxer and Charles Schumer are pushing for its return, or something like it.

The Fairness Doctrine was abolished in 1987, paving the way for the type of talk radio that seems to dominate the A.M. broadcast band these days. With most talk radio dominated by conservatives. Now with President Elect Barack Obama moving into the White House in January of 2009, talk on Capital Hill about reinstating or even broadening the scope of a new Fairness Doctrine has again begun to surface once again. (NAB News)

**

COMMUNICATIONS LAW: MUSIC INDUSTRY CHALLANGED ON DIGITAL MUSIC SHARING

The music industry's litigation of private citizens who share songs via the Internet is coming under constitutional challenge. This with word that a Harvard Law School professor has launched a constitutional assault against

a federal copyright law at the heart of the industry's aggressive tactic which has brought in monetary payments from thousands of music file swappers since 2003.

According to news reports law professor Charles Nesson has come to the defense of a Boston University graduate student targeted in one of the music industry's lawsuits. He argues that the Digital Theft Deterrence and Copyright Damages Improvement Act of 1999 is unconstitutional because it effectively lets the Recording Industry Association of America which is a private organization to carry out civil enforcement of a criminal law. He also says the music industry group has abused the legal process by threatening the possibility of lengthy and costly lawsuits in an effort to intimidate people into settling cases out of court.

Charles Nesson is the founder of Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet and Society. He says that his goal is to stop the courts from allowing themselves to be used as a collection agency for the music industry. By taking on the case, Nesson hopes to challenge the basis for the music industry's suit, and all others like it. His challenge against the music industry was filed in the U.S. District Court in Boston, and is considered by many legal experts one of the most determined attempts to derail the industry's ongoing litigation against those who download and swap music files on-line. (Published news reports)

**

HAM RADIO ON THE NET: QRZ ACTS AGAINST SPAMMERS

The QRZ.com website as introduced new measures to prevent its users e-mail addresses from being harvested by spammers and their robot programs. Up until now the solution to this problem has been to display the address as a graphic image instead of plain text. While this works reasonably well to stop spammers, it also caused problems for many of our vision impaired

Wanting to serve all of its users, the website has now installed new javascript browser code that leaves the email encoded on the page until the user initiates a mouse action to display the address. The address displayed is in plain text, and is clickable to make sending off to other members e-mails easier. But as a safeguard against spammers QRZ has also installed code that only will enable the display of e-mail addresses only to other ham members of QRZ. In other words, you can see all the other information simply by doing a search but to see an e-mail address you must first log in

The managers of QRZ.com want to thank Jeff Iddings, W4GPL, for some great suggestions that helped develop this solution. (QRZ)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: LA MARATHON MOVES TO MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Some news for hams who are involved in the Los Angeles Marathon. Word that the event which was till now held the first Sunday in March, will move to

Memorial Day beginning in 2009.

Organizers said runners who registered for next year's race will be automatically signed up for the May 25, 2009 date. Those who already have paid the entry fee will be reimbursed in full if they are unable to participate. Volunteers such as ham radio communicators will likely be contacted by their supervisory personnel in regard to the date change.

More than 25,000 people competed in the 2008 Los Angeles Marathon earlier this year. (Published news reports)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: NCDXF ANNOUNCES ELECTION RESULTS

Some names in the news. Len Geraldi, K6ANP, is the first up. He's been selected as President of the famed Northern California DX Foundation.

The election took place at the organizations Board of Directors meeting on November 18th in Albany, California. Filling the other offices are Vice President Al Burnham K6RIM, Secretary Tom McShane NW6P and Treasurer Bruce Butler W6OSP.

The big surprise was the announcement by Rusty Epps, W6OAT, to retire from the organizations board of directors. This following 35 years of service to the group. More information about the Northern California DX Foundation is on-line at www.ncdxf.org. (NCDXF)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: ARRL ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF DIVISIONAL RACES

The ARRL Delta Division has a new Director and Vice Director, while hams in the Great Lakes Division voted to keep their incumbent Vice Director.

On Friday, November 21, ARRL staff members opened ballots for the Director and Vice Director races in the Delta Division and the Vice Director race in the Great Lakes Division. After all the ballots were counted, Gary Johnston, KI4LA, of Edgewood, Kentucky, was elected to keep his seat as Vice Director of the Great Lakes Division.

Delta Division Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, of Memphis, Tennessee, did not seek re-election this term. Former Louisiana Section Manager Mickey Cox, K5MC, of West Monroe, with 1148 votes, was declared the new Delta Division Director. Arkansas Section Manager David Norris, K5UZ, won the Vice Directors seat.

In all other races, those running unopposed were elected or re-elected. Terms for Directors and Vice Directors begin at noon on January 1, 2009 and run for three years. (ARRL)

**

BREAK 2

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving from the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: WSPR SETS NEW DX RECORDS

A newly developed digital mode is breaking all sorts of QRP records. Its called the Weak Signal Propagation Reporter. It was developed by the man who gave us WSJT: Joe Taylor, W1SJT. Taylor calls it WSPR. Justin Giles-Clark, VK7TW, is in South Hobart, Tasmania, is here to tell us of the of the distance records broken and other that have been set:

--

Back on Friday, 31 Oct, Bob VK7KRW had a two way contact with Richard, N2JR, in Virginia, USA. on the 80M band, over a distance of 16300Kms and both stations were running 2watts, yes, only 2 watts!

Bob's antenna is an Inverted V dipole and Richard was using a Butternut ground mounted vertical. The SNR at that stage was around -25dB.

Bob VK7KRW has been recently experimenting with WSPR on the HF bands (15, 17, 20, 30, 40 & 80M) and he has had a number of QRP contacts into the UK, EU, JA, USA, Canada and ZL.

Bob mentioned that he reduced power to 1W and he was still received by Richard but unfortunately heard nothing in return at that power level.

Later that evening Bob received an email from Pat, F6IRF, who runs the WSPR net, confirming that we had set a new world distance record for a two way QRP contact on the 80M band. Bob mentioned that stations in the Northern hemisphere are desperately looking for more stations in the southern regions so if people want something to experiment with, try WSPR.

A call went out on the VK7 Regional News and records started to tumble with Dick VK7DIK making a bilateral contact with Joe Taylor K1JT over a distance of 23352km on 40m with just 5 watts.

Congratulation to Bob, Richard, Dick and Joe.

The powers just keep reducing and distances just keep increasing. Larry WB3ANQ was able to get through to VK6DI using just 5mW (+7dBm) over a distance 18615Km.

WSPRnet.org has all the information required and links to the software. The URL is: http://wsprnet.org/drupal/

Cheers from Justin VK7TW.

--

Again, the URL to get the WSPR software is WWW.wsprnet.org/drupal. With it, QRPDX seems to be a breeze. (WIA News)

**

WORLDBEAT - THE NETHERLANDS: HOLLAND ADOPTS AMBER ALERTS

Turning to news from around the globe, police in the Netherlands have started using Amber Alerts to notify the public of missing or abducted children. The Dutch system will incorporate pop-ups on personal computers, large digital advertising screens, e-mail, SMS text, instant messenger, RSS news feeds and Web site alerts via Flash. No word if hams in that nation plan to connect their repeaters to the system as has been done elsewhere.

The Netherlands Police Agency expects to issue an Amber Alert between five and 10 times a year. Amber Alerts began in the United States in the late 1990's as a tribute to a Texas 9 year old named Amber Hagerman who was abducted and slain. Since then several other nations around the world now have created similar systems. (RW)

**

DX

In DX, word that Bill Tackett, KN4N, is reportedly looking for operators for a Gunatanamo Bay, Cuba based operation to take place next spring or sooner. Conditions include that he or she must be active duty or retired military, hold a General class or higher license be in good health and preferably a non-smoker. If you know anyone interested in joining such an operation have that person contact kn4n (at) comcast (dot) net

And IV3YIM, is active as portable OD5/from Lebanon. He will be there until April 2009 and is active mostly in SSB/RTTY on 80 through 10 meters. Also listen out for him on CW and SK. QSL direct or via the bureau to his home call.

Lastly, keep on the lookout for Zimbabwe as 7Z1HB, comes on as Z21LS. He will operate mostly in SSB on 20 meters between November 30th and December 9th QSL this one direct to 7Z1HB or to DE1ZHB via the bureau.

(Above from various DX news sources).

**

A FINAL REMEMBERENCE: CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF ARRL PRESIDENT EMERITUS GEORGE WILSON W4OYI

And lastly this week we say a final 73 to a friend of many years. This with the word of the passing of ARRL President Emeritus George S. Wilson, W4OYI, early on Tuesday, November 25th.

George's death hits very close to home because for many years he was a member of the committee that judges our Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award and a very close personal friend to all of us. Mark Abramowicz, NT-V, heads that committee. Please join Mark as he takes a

look at the life of the man who lead the ARRL in what some may say were among the organizations most glorious days and left a legacy of accomplishment that few hams will likely ever match:

--

I have not had the pleasure to speak directly with George Wilson W4OYI., but his e-mails and input have been invaluable over the years I've served as chairman of Amateur Radio Newsline's Young Ham of the Year award committee.

He was one of our special judges and his insights into the candidates were very much appreciated by the committee.

George's loss is truly difficult for his family and the amateur radio community who knew and loved him. But his legacy is one that, I think we can safely say, is unmatched by any ARRL president in recent times.

George Wilson served as president of the organization from 1992 until he suffered a stroke in 1995 while in Washington D.C. representing the ARRL.

Up until the time of his death, George was president emeritus of the American Radio Relay League, one of only a handful of people ever granted this honor.

During his time as ARRL president, he was instrumental in a number of initiatives including helping to bring about the vanity call sign program and preserving access to sections of the 900 Mhz band for amateur radio.

And, it was in 1993 that George Wilson who used his legal skills as an attorney to argue an amateur radio case in federal court, which, in part, led to the famous PRB-1 rule from the FCC which solidifies ham radio tower privileges.

In 2004, George Wilson was presented the Special Achievement Award from the Dayton Amateur Radio Association for his outstanding record of service.

George is one of the few hams who came through the ranks, so to speak, to achieve the ARRL presidency and the other recognition he so richly deserved.

It was 1948 when 16-year-old George Wilson was first licensed by the FCC. He rode the bus from his home in Owensboro, Kentucky to Nashville, Tennessee to take that test.

He waited seven months to learn he had passed the FCC's Class B test and he was assigned the call sign W4OYI, which he kept for his entire life.

George's first contact was on 40 meter CW with a home-brew rig. It was 1949 when George got his first taste for public service when the Green River flooded the community of Calhoun.

That was in the days before 2-meter HTs and cell phones. George and his fellow hams used CW rigs on two ferries and one installed at the courthouse to dispatch rescue crews to help those stranded in the flooding. It's believed those actions saved many lives.

George also is responsible for coming up with a special drill for emergency communicators in the 1960s. It was called the envelope drill and it was described this way in a 1962 article in QST.

"Groups of radio amateurs meet to hold an emergency drill. A net control station is set up and teams go out in their cars to specific locations. Each team carries with it a few sealed envelopes. Once established at their locations, they open the envelopes containing an emergency scenario and check in with the net control who offers further instructions and awaits additional messages and traffic."

It became a popular way to train emergency communicators and it was George Wilson who devised it.

W4OYI has served as an assistant emergency coordinator and official relay station in the ARRL's Radio Emergency Corp, the predecessor to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. He also served as a Section Emergency Coordinator and later Section Communications Manager in Kentucky.

It was George who worked with local officials in his community to convince that the National Weather Service during the mid-1970s to install an early warning radio system. This happened after a twister had hit nearby Brandenburg, Kentucky.

The Owensboro Hydroplane Races - the ones featuring those big, high-speed boats racing up and down the Ohio River - they had George Wilson to thank for overseeing communications for the event for many years.

And, it was George Wilson who fostered use of Amateur Television technology to monitor the boats from the center of the Owensboro Ohio River Bridge.

W4OYI later became a vice director and later division director. He was elected to a vice president's post in the ARRL and later became first vice president. When the incumbent ARRL President Larry Price,W4RA, announced he would not run for another term, George Wilson was elected to succeed him.

Although confined to a wheelchair in his last years, W4OYI was active on the ham bands and monitored his local repeater for those in need of information or a simple chat.

He is survived by his wife, Marian. They were married for 51 years. He also has a son, Berry, and a daughter, Jennifer, and two grandchildren.

Marian has asked Amateur Radio Newsline to tell all of George's fellow hams that they can remember him by making a donation to the American Red Cross.

For the final time: "W4OYI, this is NT3V, saying 73 on behalf of all of us who have benefited from your generous contributions to the amateur radio service."

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

--

George Wilson, W4OYI, was one of the true good guys of ham radio. As such he would not want us to mourn his passing. Knowing George as I did he

would only want us all to carry on the traditions that have made amateur radio the great service to mankind that it is. And his dedication to it will never be forgotten. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, wishing everyone a great start to a wonderful holiday season, I'm
Bill Pasternak WA6ITF, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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1094. Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1633 - November 28, 2008 REFEED

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-27 21:41:41 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20081127133948.01697f30@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2265
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Note: This refeed is from the proofed version with the coorrect call for Joe K1JT. Thanks to Dennis Motschenbacher K7BV for catching this. -- WA6ITF

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(Billboard Cart Here)

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Repeater owners in the Australian state of New South Wales are not happy over a government decision to raise site rental fees and it could cause a number of them to go QRT. Graham Kemp, VK4BB, of the WIA News, explains what has transpired:

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Phil Wait VK2DKN in a news posting to wia.org.au says that the Director General of the NSW Department of Lands has written to the WIA upholding the Departments decision to impose a $367 (Australian) fee for each amateur radio facility located on NSW Crown Land.

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On the other hand, larger well resourced clubs may welcome the opportunity to enter into an agreement which guarantees secure tenure for their repeater sites located on Crown Land.

I'm Graham Kemp, VK4BB in Brisbane, Australia, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Amateur radio clubs with repeaters in the region have a choice to make. Its pay up or go Q-R-T. That's because failure to enter into a rental agreement when asked to do so by the New South Wales Department of Lands may result in eviction from a Crown Land site. (WIA News)

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DX PROPAGATION: SCIENTISTS AY THAT THE NEW SUNSPOTS ARE HERE

Improved band may soon be on their way. Scientists say that after more than two years of few sunspots, even fewer solar flares, the sun is finally showing signs of life.

David Hathaway is a sunspot forecaster of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville Alabama. In his opinion the solar minimum is behind us. He said that in October scientists counted five sunspot groups,. Hathaway says that this may not sound like much, but in a year with record-low numbers of sunspots and long stretches of spotlessness, five is significant.

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Hathaway adds that this is a good sign that the new cycle is taking off. This will be welcome news to the ears of hams who have waited a long time to work some new and possibly rare DX. (NASA)

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These dates are coordinated with other Fish and Wildlife Service research activities scheduled on other parts of Desecheo. It also handles the scheduling security personnel for the camp.

Only fifteen operators will be allowed on the island at any given time. A total of 6 to 8 stations will be operational on the High Frequency bands including 160 and 6 meters.

Desecheo Island is #2 on the worlds Most Wanted DX List. For the latest news, please go to the team's website. Its in cyberspace at www.kp5us (Wï¿½GJ, K4UEE)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: SPRATLEY OPERATION ON HOLD

Meantime, hams who have waited a long time to make contact with the Spratley Island group will have to be patient a bit longer. This as its announced that a planned operation has been put on hold. Amateur Radio Newslines's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, has more:

--

The long awaited 9M0 DXpedition to the Spratley Islands has been postponed. A team of six operators was expectedto activate Pulau Layang Layang Island in the Spratly group in March 2009.

Now, an according to their Web page dated November 14th puts the operation in to a state of delay. It says that due to a combination of personal and logistical reasons that it has been necessary to postpone the operation to a later date.

The announcement goes on to sat that its is hoped that the DXpedition will go ahead at a later date but none was announced. The posting notes that donations will be returned to those sponsors who made contributions to the proposed operation. More is on-line at www.spratly2009.com

Im Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

--

We will have more DX related items later on in this weeks Newsline report. (E-Mail)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Pentucket Radio Club repeater serving Groveland Massachusetts

(5 sec pause here)

**

ENFORCEMENT: EVEN BROADCASTERS CANNOT INTERFERE

A broadcasters who interfered with other broadcaster has been fined by the FCC. This as Florida's Black Crow Radio, LLC gets hit with a $18,400 monetary forfeiture that's being paid in two parts. Amateur Radio

Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, explains:

--

The fine issued to Black Crow Radio is actually marked down from $23,000 and more than half of it has already been paid. Here's the story.

The forfeiture is based on allegations that Black Crow Radio's station WNDB AM, in Daytona Beach, Florida failed to ensure that emissions removed by 60 kHz to 75 kHz from the fundamental frequency of 1150 kHz are attenuated 65 dB below the unmodulated carrier level. Its also charged with failure to maintain effective locked fences around the bases of two of its antenna towers.

According to the November 13th notice, this past February 26, the agency began investigating a complaint that WNDB was causing interference to stations on 1070 kHz and 1230 kHz . Also that it was the source of general interference up and down the AM band. Agents from the Commission's Tampa Office monitored WNDB on its licensed frequency of 1150 kHz using a standard car radio and readily observed that the station could be heard up and down the AM band. The agents also heard WNDB's signal intermittently interfering with broadcast operations on 1070 and 1230 kHz.

On September 24th the Tampa Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture to Black Crow in the amount of $23,000 for the rules violations. Black Crow admitted part of the violation notice and submitted a payment in the amount of $12,000 for those violations. However it requested cancellation or reduction of the remaining $11,000 proposed forfeiture.

In its response the FCC said that due to its compliance for the 13 years WNDB had been on the air that it would reduce the remaining amount of the fine to $6400. However, it would not dismiss it entirely.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

Black Crow Radio LLC was given the customary 30 days to pay the outstanding remainder of the fine or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: WHAT A DIFFERENCE 140 FEET CAN MAKE

Here's one for the record books, and we mean literally. The FCC's San Francisco field office has cited United States Cellular Corporation for having one of its towers a rather small distance from where it was supposed to have been put up. Or is it at the correct location and is the FCC wrong? Here's the rest of this rather strange story.

According to a Notice of Violation released on October 10th, the FCC said that an August 28th inspection showed the tower in question to be approximately 140 feet from its registered location. Note that the

violation is for an approximate rather than verified distance from the registration site. That's leading a lot of engineers to question by what legal authority the FCC can guess at a location and issue a citation based on this guesswork.

None the less, the FCC gave United States Cellular 20 days from the issuance of the Notice to submit a written statement concerning this matter. The response was to fully explain why each violation occurred, contain a statement of the specific actions taken to correct each violation and preclude recurrence, and include a time line for completion of pending corrective actions.

You can read the entire Notice of Violation at: http://www.fcc.gov/eb/FieldNotices/2003/DOC-286437A1.html) (FCC, CGC)

**

RADIO POLITICS: WATCH THE FCC CHANGE

According to news reports, while FCC Chairman Kevin Martin says that he is in no hurry to leave his post, we could see a three-member FCC for a while. This, depending on how long it takes President-elect Barack Obama's transition team to determine who the new Commission chairman will be.

Assuming Republican Commissioner Deborah Tate leaves because her term is up and that Martin leaves after the inauguration, there could be a 2 to 1 FCC for a while. The assumption is that one of the Democrats currently serving as a Commissioner will be named as interim chairman. This would mean that Michael Copps and Jonathan Adelstein along with Robert McDowell would make up the Commissioners for a while.

Several names that have surfaced as possibilities for FCC chairman. These include Julius Genachowski and Don Gips. Both are former FCC staffers under President Bill Clinton. (RW)

**

RADIO LAW: SENATORS LOOKING AT NEW FAIRNESS DOCTRINE

Democrats in the Congress are pushing for the reinstatement of the so-called "Fairness Doctrine" which forced broadcasters to offer equal time to both sides of controversial issues. According to the trade newspaper the Hollywood Reporter, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and such influential Democratic senators as Barbara Boxer and Charles Schumer are pushing for its return, or something like it.

The Fairness Doctrine was abolished in 1987, paving the way for the type of talk radio that seems to dominate the A.M. broadcast band these days. With most talk radio dominated by conservatives. Now with President Elect Barack Obama moving into the White House in January of 2009, talk on Capital Hill about reinstating or even broadening the scope of a new Fairness Doctrine has again begun to surface once again. (NAB News)

**

COMMUNICATIONS LAW: MUSIC INDUSTRY CHALLENGED ON DIGITAL MUSIC SHARING

The music industry's litigation of private citizens who share songs via the Internet is coming under constitutional challenge. This with word that a Harvard Law School professor has launched a constitutional assault against a federal copyright law at the heart of the industry's aggressive tactic which has brought in monetary payments from thousands of music file swappers since 2003.

According to news reports law professor Charles Nesson has come to the defense of a Boston University graduate student targeted in one of the music industry's lawsuits. He argues that the Digital Theft Deterrence and Copyright Damages Improvement Act of 1999 is unconstitutional because it effectively lets the Recording Industry Association of America which is a private organization to carry out civil enforcement of a criminal law. He also says the music industry group has abused the legal process by threatening the possibility of lengthy and costly lawsuits in an effort to intimidate people into settling cases out of court.

Charles Nesson is the founder of Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet and Society. He says that his goal is to stop the courts from allowing themselves to be used as a collection agency for the music industry. By taking on the case, Nesson hopes to challenge the basis for the music industry's suit, and all others like it. His challenge against the music industry was filed in the U.S. District Court in Boston, and is considered by many legal experts one of the most determined attempts to derail the industry's ongoing litigation against those who download and swap music files on-line. (Published news reports)

**

HAM RADIO ON THE NET: QRZ ACTS AGAINST SPAMMERS

The QRZ.com website as introduced new measures to prevent its users e-mail addresses from being harvested by spammers and their robot programs. Up until now the solution to this problem has been to display the address as a graphic image instead of plain text. While this works reasonably well to stop spammers, it also caused problems for many of our vision impaired

Wanting to serve all of its users, the website has now installed new javascript browser code that leaves the email encoded on the page until the user initiates a mouse action to display the address. The address displayed is in plain text, and is clickable to make sending off to other members e-mails easier. But as a safeguard against spammers QRZ has also installed code that only will enable the display of e-mail addresses only to other ham members of QRZ. In other words, you can see all the other information simply by doing a search but to see an e-mail address you must first log in

The managers of QRZ.com want to thank Jeff Iddings, W4GPL, for some great suggestions that helped develop this solution. (QRZ)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: LA MARATHON MOVES TO MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Some news for hams who are involved in the Los Angeles Marathon. Word that the event which was till now held the first Sunday in March, will move to Memorial Day beginning in 2009.

Organizers said runners who registered for next year's race will be automatically signed up for the May 25, 2009 date. Those who already have paid the entry fee will be reimbursed in full if they are unable to participate. Volunteers such as ham radio communicators will likely be contacted by their supervisory personnel in regard to the date change.

More than 25,000 people competed in the 2008 Los Angeles Marathon earlier this year. (Published news reports)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: NCDXF ANNOUNCES ELECTION RESULTS

Some names in the news. Len Geraldi, K6ANP, is the first up. He's been selected as President of the famed Northern California DX Foundation.

The election took place at the organizations Board of Directors meeting on November 18th in Albany, California. Filling the other offices are Vice President Al Burnham K6RIM, Secretary Tom McShane NW6P and Treasurer Bruce Butler W6OSP.

The big surprise was the announcement by Rusty Epps, W6OAT, to retire from the organizations board of directors. This following 35 years of service to the group. More information about the Northern California DX Foundation is on-line at www.ncdxf.org. (NCDXF)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: ARRL ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF DIVISIONAL RACES

The ARRL Delta Division has a new Director and Vice Director, while hams in the Great Lakes Division voted to keep their incumbent Vice Director.

On Friday, November 21, ARRL staff members opened ballots for the Director and Vice Director races in the Delta Division and the Vice Director race in the Great Lakes Division. After all the ballots were counted, Gary Johnston, KI4LA, of Edgewood, Kentucky, was elected to keep his seat as Vice Director of the Great Lakes Division.

Delta Division Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, of Memphis, Tennessee, did not seek re-election this term. Former Louisiana Section Manager Mickey Cox, K5MC, of West Monroe, with 1148 votes, was declared the new Delta Division Director. Arkansas Section Manager David Norris, K5UZ, won the Vice Directors seat.

In all other races, those running unopposed were elected or re-elected. Terms for Directors and Vice Directors begin at noon on January 1, 2009 and run for three years. (ARRL)

**

BREAK 2

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving from the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: WSPR SETS NEW DX RECORDS

A newly developed digital mode is breaking all sorts of QRP records. Its called the Weak Signal Propagation Reporter. It was developed by the man who gave us WSJT: Joe Taylor, K1JT. Taylor calls it WSPR. Justin Giles-Clark, VK7TW, is in South Hobart, Tasmania, is here to tell us of the of the distance records broken and other that have been set:

--

Back on Friday, 31 Oct, Bob VK7KRW had a two way contact with Richard, N2JR, in Virginia, USA. on the 80M band, over a distance of 16300Kms and both stations were running 2watts, yes, only 2 watts!

Bob's antenna is an Inverted V dipole and Richard was using a Butternut ground mounted vertical. The SNR at that stage was around -25dB.

Bob VK7KRW has been recently experimenting with WSPR on the HF bands (15, 17, 20, 30, 40 & 80M) and he has had a number of QRP contacts into the UK, EU, JA, USA, Canada and ZL.

Bob mentioned that he reduced power to 1W and he was still received by Richard but unfortunately heard nothing in return at that power level.

Later that evening Bob received an email from Pat, F6IRF, who runs the WSPR net, confirming that we had set a new world distance record for a two way QRP contact on the 80M band. Bob mentioned that stations in the Northern hemisphere are desperately looking for more stations in the southern regions so if people want something to experiment with, try WSPR.

A call went out on the VK7 Regional News and records started to tumble with Dick VK7DIK making a bilateral contact with Joe Taylor K1JT over a distance of 23352km on 40m with just 5 watts.

Congratulation to Bob, Richard, Dick and Joe.

The powers just keep reducing and distances just keep increasing. Larry WB3ANQ was able to get through to VK6DI using just 5mW (+7dBm) over a distance 18615Km.

WSPRnet.org has all the information required and links to the software. The URL is: http://wsprnet.org/drupal/

Cheers from Justin VK7TW.

--

Again, the URL to get the WSPR software is WWW.wsprnet.org/drupal. With it, QRPDX seems to be a breeze. (WIA News)

**

WORLDBEAT - THE NETHERLANDS: HOLLAND ADOPTS AMBER ALERTS

Turning to news from around the globe, police in the Netherlands have started using Amber Alerts to notify the public of missing or abducted children. The Dutch system will incorporate pop-ups on personal computers, large digital advertising screens, e-mail, SMS text, instant messenger, RSS news feeds and Web site alerts via Flash. No word if hams in that nation plan to connect their repeaters to the system as has been done elsewhere.

The Netherlands Police Agency expects to issue an Amber Alert between five and 10 times a year. Amber Alerts began in the United States in the late 1990's as a tribute to a Texas 9 year old named Amber Hagerman who was abducted and slain. Since then several other nations around the world now have created similar systems. (RW)

**

DX

In DX, word that Bill Tackett, KN4N, is reportedly looking for operators for a Gunatanamo Bay, Cuba based operation to take place next spring or sooner. Conditions include that he or she must be active duty or retired military, hold a General class or higher license be in good health and preferably a non-smoker. If you know anyone interested in joining such an operation have that person contact kn4n (at) comcast (dot) net

And IV3YIM, is active as portable OD5/from Lebanon. He will be there until April 2009 and is active mostly in SSB/RTTY on 80 through 10 meters. Also listen out for him on CW and SK. QSL direct or via the bureau to his home call.

Lastly, keep on the lookout for Zimbabwe as 7Z1HB, comes on as Z21LS. He will operate mostly in SSB on 20 meters between November 30th and December 9th QSL this one direct to 7Z1HB or to DE1ZHB via the bureau.

(Above from various DX news sources).

**

A FINAL REMEMBRANCE: CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF ARRL PRESIDENT EMERITUS GEORGE WILSON W4OYI

And lastly this week we say a final 73 to a friend of many years. This with the word of the passing of ARRL President Emeritus George S. Wilson, W4OYI, early on Tuesday, November 25th.

George's death hits very close to home because for many years he was a member of the committee that judges our Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award and a very close personal friend to all of us. Mark Abramowicz, NT-V, heads that committee. Please join Mark as he takes a

look at the life of the man who lead the ARRL in what some may say were among the organizations most glorious days and left a legacy of accomplishment that few hams will likely ever match:

--

I have not had the pleasure to speak directly with George Wilson W4OYI., but his e-mails and input have been invaluable over the years I've served as chairman of Amateur Radio Newsline's Young Ham of the Year award committee.

He was one of our special judges and his insights into the candidates were very much appreciated by the committee.

George's loss is truly difficult for his family and the amateur radio community who knew and loved him. But his legacy is one that, I think we can safely say, is unmatched by any ARRL president in recent times.

George Wilson served as president of the organization from 1992 until he suffered a stroke in 1995 while in Washington D.C. representing the ARRL.

Up until the time of his death, George was president emeritus of the American Radio Relay League, one of only a handful of people ever granted this honor.

During his time as ARRL president, he was instrumental in a number of initiatives including helping to bring about the vanity call sign program and preserving access to sections of the 900 Mhz band for amateur radio.

And, it was in 1993 that George Wilson who used his legal skills as an attorney to argue an amateur radio case in federal court, which, in part, led to the famous PRB-1 rule from the FCC which solidifies ham radio tower privileges.

In 2004, George Wilson was presented the Special Achievement Award from the Dayton Amateur Radio Association for his outstanding record of service.

George is one of the few hams who came through the ranks, so to speak, to achieve the ARRL presidency and the other recognition he so richly deserved.

It was 1948 when 16-year-old George Wilson was first licensed by the FCC. He rode the bus from his home in Owensboro, Kentucky to Nashville, Tennessee to take that test.

He waited seven months to learn he had passed the FCC's Class B test and he was assigned the call sign W4OYI, which he kept for his entire life.

George's first contact was on 40 meter CW with a home-brew rig. It was 1949 when George got his first taste for public service when the Green River flooded the community of Calhoun.

That was in the days before 2-meter HTs and cell phones. George and his fellow hams used CW rigs on two ferries and one installed at the courthouse to dispatch rescue crews to help those stranded in the flooding. It's believed those actions saved many lives.

George also is responsible for coming up with a special drill for emergency communicators in the 1960s. It was called the envelope drill and it was described this way in a 1962 article in QST.

"Groups of radio amateurs meet to hold an emergency drill. A net control station is set up and teams go out in their cars to specific locations. Each team carries with it a few sealed envelopes. Once established at their locations, they open the envelopes containing an emergency scenario and check in with the net control who offers further instructions and awaits additional messages and traffic."

It became a popular way to train emergency communicators and it was George Wilson who devised it.

W4OYI has served as an assistant emergency coordinator and official relay station in the ARRL's Radio Emergency Corp, the predecessor to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. He also served as a Section Emergency Coordinator and later Section Communications Manager in Kentucky.

It was George who worked with local officials in his community to convince that the National Weather Service during the mid-1970s to install an early warning radio system. This happened after a twister had hit nearby Brandenburg, Kentucky.

The Owensboro Hydroplane Races - the ones featuring those big, high-speed boats racing up and down the Ohio River - they had George Wilson to thank for overseeing communications for the event for many years.

And, it was George Wilson who fostered use of Amateur Television technology to monitor the boats from the center of the Owensboro Ohio River Bridge.

W4OYI later became a vice director and later division director. He was elected to a vice president's post in the ARRL and later became first vice president. When the incumbent ARRL President Larry Price,W4RA, announced he would not run for another term, George Wilson was elected to succeed him.

Although confined to a wheelchair in his last years, W4OYI was active on the ham bands and monitored his local repeater for those in need of information or a simple chat.

He is survived by his wife, Marian. They were married for 51 years. He also has a son, Berry, and a daughter, Jennifer, and two grandchildren.

Marian has asked Amateur Radio Newsline to tell all of George's fellow hams that they can remember him by making a donation to the American Red Cross.

For the final time: "W4OYI, this is NT3V, saying 73 on behalf of all of us who have benefited from your generous contributions to the amateur radio service."

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

--

George Wilson, W4OYI, was one of the true good guys of ham radio. As such he would not want us to mourn his passing. Knowing George as I did he

would only want us all to carry on the traditions that have made amateur radio the great service to mankind that it is. And his dedication to it will never be forgotten. (ARNewsline")

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline". Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's" only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline", P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, wishing everyone a great start to a wonderful holiday season, I'm Bill Pasternak WA6ITF, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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1095. The future of TVI

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-30 16:30:50 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <ggud2o$8h5$1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2266

Spent yesterday doing my usual Saturday-after-thanksgiving stint of CQWWCW at the W0AIH superstation. Paul keeps a TV in the "shack" so we can keep up to date on college football scores during the slack periods on our band. (You can see the TV at http://www.rarexpo.org/files/u1/chaletpano1.jpg near the center of the photo on top of the amplifier rack). As you can imagine, surrounded with 8 or 9 legal-limit stations in the same room with three big amps directly underfoot, reception from an "off-the-air" antenna in a rural location isn't exactly studio quality. Over the years it's been nice to be able to read the scores on the bottom-screen "scroll" as we search for that next elusive multiplier. Needless to say however, actually "watching" the game, or even a particular play is out of the question due to continuous interference on the screen.

Until this weekend.

Paul retired the old analog set and installed a new digital receiver fed by the same old small TV yagi that's been up for many years. The difference is phenomenal..... the DTV set seemed almost completely unaware of the RF-rich environment in which it sat, only >>very<< occasionally showed any glitch at all, usually a temporary bit of pixilation. This isn't a specially selected set, but only what was "cheap at WalMart".

Maybe TVI has been relegated to the ham radio past, like spark, paper logs, and Morse tests in front of a stern government employee.

73, de Hans, K0HB

1096. Re: The future of TVI

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-11-30 20:02:01 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <ebk5j4hjcj0175heopocj579kooklpf314@4ax.com>
Source record: 2267

On Sun, 30 Nov 2008 11:30:50 EST, Kï¿½HB <kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote:

>Spent yesterday doing my usual Saturday-after-thanksgiving stint of CQWW
CW
>at the W0AIH superstation. Paul keeps a TV in the "shack" so we can kee
p up
>to date on college football scores during the slack periods on our band.

>(You can see the TV at http://www.rarexpo.org/files/u1/chaletpano1.jpg n
ear
>the center of the photo on top of the amplifier rack). As you can imagin
e,
>surrounded with 8 or 9 legal-limit stations in the same room with three
big
>amps directly underfoot, reception from an "off-the-air" antenna in a ru
ral
>location isn't exactly studio quality. Over the years it's been nice to
be
>able to read the scores on the bottom-screen "scroll" as we search for t
hat
>next elusive multiplier. Needless to say however, actually "watching" t
he
>game, or even a particular play is out of the question due to continuous

>interference on the screen.
>
>Until this weekend.
>
>Paul retired the old analog set and installed a new digital receiver fed
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>the same old small TV yagi that's been up for many years. The differenc
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>phenomenal..... the DTV set seemed almost completely unaware of the
>RF-rich environment in which it sat, only >>very<< occasionally showed a
ny
>glitch at all, usually a temporary bit of pixilation. This isn't a
>specially selected set, but only what was "cheap at WalMart".
>
>Maybe TVI has been relegated to the ham radio past, like spark, paper lo
gs,
>and Morse tests in front of a stern government employee.
>
>73, de Hans, K0HB

What about the inverse interference problem: from these new digital TVs *
into*
our ham equipment. I have heard (sorry, I don't have any references) tha
t
plasma TVs generate lots of interference.
73 de Dick, AC7EL

1097. Re: The future of TVI

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-01 03:18:52 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <ggv990$nm4$1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2268

"Dick Grady AC7EL" <rng@richbonnie.com> wrote in message
news:ebk5j4hjcj0175heopocj579kooklpf314@4ax.com...
>
> What about the inverse interference problem: from these new digital TVs
> *into* our ham equipment.

I have two DTV's in the house and one in the RV. One is LCD, the other two
are plasma. None seem to generate any objectionable levels of noise on HF.

73, de Hans, K0HB

1098. Re: 600 meter band

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-01 15:02:06 UTC
From: Michael Coslo <mjc5@psu.edu>
Message-ID: <gh0qnp$17o8$1@f04n12.cac.psu.edu>
Source record: 2269

jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com wrote:
> KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote:
>> Help me understand what is "experimental" about the 500kHz neighborhood
> ?
>> It's not like this is some newly discovered spectrum, never used before.
>>
>> Yet the FCC issues "experimental" licenses to operate there, and now I
> see
>> the Canadians are doing the same. What are hams going to learn that is
> n't
>> already well known from the nearly-100-years or so of previous use? (I
> wish
>> I had a dime for every 15-18/45-48 silent period I logged as observed!)
>>
>> 73, de Hans, K0HB
>
> Well, since the broadcast band is just above 500 kHz and navigation
> beacons are just below 500 kHz, I highly doubt there is much that
> isn't already known about the frequency region.

While there is knowledge in the world about those frequencies, a good argument can be made for keeping it. Without users who can learn the characteristics of communication on those frequencies, and put it to some use, the knowledge can be lost. Witness BPL, where a group of digital literate but HF illiterate workers tried to impose their idea of "what should work" in an area they didn't have knowledge.

Yet as a person who now has experience in both areas, it was obvious to me from the moment I heard of the concept that it wouldn't work. And a lot of other people too.

But back to the subject at hand...

I think that there is the mistaken impression that Hams are always going to discover something new, something unknown. This is nice when it happens, but it isn't the only thing we are here for. Let us take propagation for example. Different groups of frequencies have strikingly different modes and effects of propagation.

One can either read about it in a book - after all, a lot is known about propagation - or one can learn about it first hand by trying to talk DX on 80 meters during the daytime, or 10 meters during the sunspot minimum, and so on.

This is a great chance for some hands-on learning. It may also be the chance to get a "foot in the door", where me might be able to get an

allocation in the future.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

1099. Re: The future of TVI

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-02 00:53:07 UTC
From: Bill Beeman <bbeeman@beemangroup.com>
Message-ID: <493485f1$0$95541$742ec2ed@news.sonic.net>
Source record: 2270

"K�HB" <kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:ggud2o$8h5$1@news.motzarella.org...

> Paul retired the old analog set and installed a new digital receiver fed
> by the same old small TV yagi that's been up for many years. The
> difference is phenomenal..... the DTV set seemed almost completely
> unaware of the RF-rich environment in which it sat, only >>very<<
> occasionally showed any glitch at all, usually a temporary bit of
> pixilation. This isn't a specially selected set, but only what was "cheap
> at WalMart".
>
> Maybe TVI has been relegated to the ham radio past, like spark, paper
> logs, and Morse tests in front of a stern government employee.
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB
>
>
I'm not sure it's going to work that way....

If you are in a really strong signal area for the DTV, the problem should be significantly less.

However, as you approach weaker DTV signals the problem of the 'digital cliff' appears. What seems to be a perfect signal to the neighbor's signal may just vanish when the interfering signal is added, and I'd expect the TV viewer to be much more offended by that than by a little herringbone. This is based on putting in the first digital transmitter in the SF Bay area in the late '90s.

73, de Bill, KB0RF

1100. Re: The future of TVI

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-04 02:20:58 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <860a101b-46b2-474b-b29f-c8f37d840948@l39g2000yqn.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2271

> However, as you approach weaker DTV signals the problem of the 'digital
> cliff' appears. What seems to be a perfect signal to the neighbor's si
gnal
> may just vanish when the interfering signal is added, and I'd expect the
TV
> viewer to be much more offended by that than by a little herringbone.

Ahhh Such is the nature of "digital" transmissions. They are great
until you reach a SNR where the error rates start increasing and data
gets lost. A local ham station could easily lower the SNR seen at the
DTV receiver and produce a degraded TV watching experience. Given the
normal duty cycle of ham radio, I wonder how often this will be
noticed.

I think that the DTV switch will generally lower TVI for most
situations and make it much more difficult to diagnose when it is a
problem. However, I don't have *any* technical justification for
this... Yet.... It sure will be ineresting to watch this unfold
though.

-= Bob =-

1101. Re: The future of TVI

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-05 02:58:43 UTC
From: Doug Smith <joe@somewhere.invalid>
Message-ID: <Xo-dnfwDGqOtH6XUnZ2dnUVZ_tTinZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2272

On Mon, 01 Dec 2008 19:53:07 -0500, Bill Beeman wrote:
> I'm not sure it's going to work that way....
>
> If you are in a really strong signal area for the DTV, the problem
> should be significantly less.
>
> However, as you approach weaker DTV signals the problem of the 'digital
> cliff' appears. What seems to be a perfect signal to the neighbor's
> signal may just vanish when the interfering signal is added, and I'd
> expect the TV viewer to be much more offended by that than by a little
> herringbone. This is based on putting in the first digital transmitter
> in the SF Bay area in the late '90s.

W0AIH's location, while not completely in the middle of nowhere, isn't
exactly under the towers either. Especially for channels 8 and 13.

I wonder if the typical viewer will ever figure out that the intermittent

disappearance of signal is due to the nearby ham?

--
/home/w9wi/.sig

1102. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1634 - December 5, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-05 09:47:47 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20081205014725.015edc48@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2273
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1634 - December 5, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1634 with a release date of Friday, December 5th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Manned ham radio in space hits year 25. We take you back to the very beginning. Also, a new European 40 meter plan to become effective in March of 2009 and the story of an award based on a famous bird of flight. Find out which one on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1634 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF W5LFL AND STS-9

ARISS -- Amateur Radio on the International Space Station -- is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the first manned ham radio operation from Earth orbit by Owen Garriott, W5LFL. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, was there a quarter of a century ago when he was the Field Producer for the film making team that captured this historic event. Hes here now to take us on a trip back through time:

--

If you were a ham a decade and a half ago you might remember these words:

--

Roy Neal K6DUE: "This is the story of an expedition, the flight of STS-9. The Columbia. And these are the explorers: John Young, the commander; Brewster Shaw the shuttle pilot; and the scientists Dr's Ulf Merbold, Byron Lichtenberg, Robert Parker and Dr. Owen Garriott -- an astronaut who also is amateur radio operator W5LFL. This is an expedition to probe the outer limits of science and amateur radio's newest frontier."

--

That is the late Roy Neal, K6DUE, as he introduced a video titled "Amateur Radio's Newest Frontier." It was the story of the first ham radio operator to take an amateur station to space. That ham radio astronaut -- Owen Garriott, W5LFL.

--

Owen Garriott W5LFL: "I was still in high school and my dad came home from work one day and said that a friend of his at the office was going to be

teaching a code class and would I like to come along with him? So, at that point, having not much to else do in the evenings I began going to code class with my father foe a period of 3 or 4 months at the Enid Amateur Radio Club which is still in existance -- W5 HTK -- in Enid Oklahoma.

And the a few months later he said that this friend is going to be teaching a theory class down at the local high school and would I like to come along to that. So I was still game and my father and I ended up going through both the code and theory classes and getting our licenses just toward the end of World War 2.

--

It was on November 28th, 1983 that Garriott rode the spaceship Columbia to Earth orbit on mission STS 9. A few days later, he became the first ham radio operator to ever come on the air fromspace. This historic moment was also captured for posterity in the "Amateur Radio's Newest Frontier:"

--
Owen Garriott, W5LFL: "This is W5LFL in Columbia. W5LFL in Columbia orbiting the Earth at an altitude of 135 nautical miles and passing over the U.S. west coast calling CQ. Calling CQ North America. This is W5LFL in Columbia."

--

A moment later W5LFL held his first contact on-orbit with Lance Collister, WA1JXN, of Frenchtown, Montana:

--

Lance Collister WA1JXN: "WA1JXN in Frenchtown, Montana, standing by."

Owen Garriott W5LFL: "WA1JXN. Hello WA1JXN, this is W5LFL and I picked up your signal fairly weekly. I think our attitude is not really optimum yet but you're our first contact from orbit."

--

Owen Garriott's ham radio adventures on STS-9 ushered in a host of ham radio in space outreach activities that first evolved into SAREX -- The Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment.

--

Actual audio of early SAREX contact between W0ORE and GW6GW. Hear it in the mp3 version of the newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org.

--

With the commissioning of the International Space Station that mission continues today with ARISS -- the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program. And little more than a month or so ago Owen Garriott's son Richard, W5KWQ, became the first second generation space traveler to hold QSO's with hams here on Earth.

--

Actual ARISS audio of contact between W5KWQ and W4TNJ. Hear it in the mp3 version of the newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org.

--

Now to celebrate 25 years of manned amateur radio operations from space, the ARISS group has planned a set of special event opportunities during the month of December and part of January 2009. A special certificate is being developed for those who communicate with the ISS, either 2-way direct with the crew, through the digipeater, or using the on-orbit cross band repeater. Certificates will also be available for one-way reception of SSTV or voice downlink signals.

Twenty-five years ago, Amateur Radios Newest Frontier ended with these words:

--

Roy Neal, K6DUE: "STS-9 was only a beginning. The communicators off amateur radio are truly on their way to the new frontier of space and no one, no one can predict exactly how far they will go."

--

We still do not know the final answer as to how far ham radio in space will go. Maybe to the moon. To Mars or beyond. What it is safe to say is that in the past 25 years, manned ham radio operations from space have come a long, long, way. And ARISS says that this is the time to celebrate the past and to say thank you to Owen Garriott, W5LFL, for opening the door.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the newsroom in Los Angeles.

--

More information about this 25th anniversary celebration of Owen Garriott, W5LFL, first on-orbit mission is on-line at www dot ariss dot org or www dot rac dot ca slash ariss. Copies of the movie Amateur Radio's Newest Frontier suitable for viewing as a club meeting program should still be available from the American Radio Relay League. (ARNewsline(tm), ARISS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SOUTH AFRICA TO LAUNCH 2ND HAMSAT IN MARCH

Ham radio will soon have another orbiting star in the sky. This with the announcement that South Africa's second satellite carrying a amateur is now scheduled to be launched on March 25th, 2009.

The bird I called SumbandilaSat. The amateur radio portion will be an FM voice repeater on-orbit. Specifically, it's a crossband transponder with an uplink in the 2 meter band and a downlink in the 440 MHz amateur allocation.

Also on board will be a store and forward voice digipeater. This unit acts as a parrot immediately repeating back transmissions beamed to it in the same way a packet digipeater repeats back data.

Last is a rather unique beacon system. It to is voice rather than the more common Morse C-W found on most other ham radio satellites.

But SumbandilaSat will not be totally dedicated to amateur radio. The satellite will also contain a number of scientific experiments. These include a Very Low Frequency radio research project for researchers at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and an architectural radiation experiment for commercial off the shelf devices by the University of Stellenbosch.

Further information on the launch of SumbandilaSat is available at www.amsatsa.org.za. (AMSAT-SA, Southgate)

**

RESTRUCTURING: NEW EUROPEAN 40 METER PLAN IN LATE MARCH

A new 40 meter European bandplan is set to go into effect in the first quarter of 2009. At the recent IARU Region 1 Conference in Croatia, a new advisory band plan was adopted for the 7 MHz band to be effective from March 29th, 2009.

Why March 29th? This is the date by which broadcast stations should have vacated the 7.1 to 7.2MHz segment. It then becomes an amateur primary allocation. This, in accordance with the agreements made at the 2003 World Administrative Radio Conference and agreed to under international treaty. (GB2RS)

**

RADIO RESTRUCTURING: GROUP PROPOSES MOVING THE AM BROADCAST BAND

Here in the USA, a group calling itself the Broadcast Maximization Committee, has recommended the conversion of all AM stations to digital broadcasting and their migration to a new spectrum allocation over an extended period of time. It also proposes relocating the Low Power FM service to a portion of this spectrum.

In a nutshell, the Broadcast Maximization Committee plan would extend the current FM band downward to include frequencies 76.1 to 87.7 MHz with a 100 kHz channel spacing. This would create 117 new channels. The first eight channels from 87.0 to 87.7 MHz would be reserved for non commercial use as they would be contiguous to the current non commercial broadcasting allocation.

The next 100 channels from 77.0 to 86.9 MHz would be used to migrate AM stations to the proposed FM new extended band channels, where they would operate in digital mode. One channel at 76.9 MHz would be set aside for NOAA and other government use nationwide. The last eight channels from 76.1 to 76.8 MHz would be for Low Power FM use. Lastly, the vacated AM band from 540 to 1700 kHz) would open up for multiple uses including an

improved AM broadcast service.

While the policies, standards and priorities for an AM migration would need to be developed, the Broadcast Maximization Committee has offered a technical plan to show that its proposal is possible and to encourage further discussions. What the group has not addressed is what to do about the 10's of millions of people who want to listen to AM radio the way it is on a $5 radio that anyone can afford to own. (RW, BE, others)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WB5RAP repeater serving Purcell, Oklahoma.

(5 sec pause here)

**

ENFORCEMENT: $1500 FINE FOR JAMMING A SCHOOL BUS

The FCC has affirmed a $1500 Forfeiture to Dale Lloyd Allred of Tunnel Hill, Georgia. This, for willful and repeated operation of an unlicensed transmitter and interference with licensed radio communications in nearby Dalton, Georgia. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, says it all revolves around a business contract that was lost:

--

In response to several complaints over last summer of interference to school bus radio operations coming from Dalton Communications, Inc., agents from the Commission's Atlanta Office of the Enforcement Bureau monitored the frequency 157.5675 MHz in Dalton. They observed repeated radio transmissions directly on top of school bus communications, often disrupting the school bus radio transmissions. Using a mobile direction finding vehicle, identified the location of the interfering radio transmissions as the office and radio shop of a company called Tri-County Communications.

The agents conducted an inspection of radio equipment at Tri-County Communications and interviewed Dale Lloyd Allred who they identified as its chief executive officer. Allred admitted that he had intentionally operated a radio transmitter on 157.5675 MHz to cause the interference that day and on other days as well as at other times. Allred told the agents that he was interfering with Dalton Communications' transmissions, because Dalton Communications had taken the school bus communications contract away from his company.

On October 16, 2008, the Atlanta City Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture to Allred in the amount of seventeen thousand dollars. Allred submitted a response to the requesting cancellation or reduction of the proposed forfeiture and at that time changed his

story. He denied that his operation was intentional or that he maliciously caused interference to the school bus communications. Instead he claimed that his equipment was mounted incorrectly in his service vehicle which caused the Push to Talk button to activate when it hit another radio. He also stated that he was intimidated by the police officer who accompanied the agents during the interview and that he would have admitted to anything at the time. He also claimed that a $17,000 fine would produce a financial hardship and provided documentation to back up his claim.

The FCC did not buy his explanation as to how the repeated jamming took place. It noted that Allred does not dispute that transmissions on 157.5675 MHz were sent from his handheld transceiver and sent on more than one day. It says that even assuming that the transmissions were not willful, that he admitted that his operation was repeated. The FCC noted that it need not find his violation of Section 301 of the Act to be willful to assess a forfeiture.

As to the hardship claim? That the FCC did accept. After reviewing the financial documentation that Allred provided, it conclude that a reduction of the forfeiture to $1,500 would be appropriate. It then notified him that he was being assessed that amount.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

Allred was given the usual 30 days to pay the fine or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC FINES LOUISIANA BRIADCASTER $15000 FOR FAILURE TO ID

The FCC has fined a Corinth, Mississippi broadcaster $15,000 for failure to transmit legal ID's. It has also refused to let the licensee to pay the forfeiture in six installment payments.

The station in question is WTKN located in the city of Corinth and owned by Perihelion Global. Its trouble began when the FCC inspector out of the New Orleans office found a large hole in the locked gate around the tower and then couldn't reach anybody at the station. It also failed to do its mandatory top-of-the-hour IDs while the agent was on-site at the transmitter.

In it reply, the station requested that it be permitted to pay the fine in six payments. In denying the request the FCC said that Perihelion Global had failed to provide the requested documentation about ability to pay .

One of the morals of the story: You have to pay attention when the FCC comes to visit. (FCC, "Taylor On Radio" newsletter)

**

RESCUE RADIO: THOSE GOOD VIBRATIONS GET THROUGH

With today's cars and light trucks designed to lock out road and traffic noise, how does an emergency vehicle signal a driver to pull over and let him pass. Maybe some good vibrations are the answer. No, we are not talking about the 1960's Beach Boys tune. This is modern technology as we hear from Jim Linton, VK3PC:

--

Just image driving along the road and your car starts to vibrate? Is it an earthquake you think, a service overdue or are the wheels about to fall off?

No, it will be a blast from the latest low frequency howler being fitted to ambulances to augment their traditional lights and sirens. These send pulses of low frequency tones every eight seconds vibrate cars and other things including pedestrians within range of an ambulance on an emergency dash. This will hopefully alert motorists who may be not concentrating on the driving task, perhaps with their car stereo's turned up too loud, or dare we say ... they're on the mobile phone.

The Emergency Medical Services Authority in Oklahoma is among the first to be installing them in ambulances. If they prove successful in reducing delays and intersection accident collision rates of ambulances then we can expect others to fit this latest technology.

I just can't wait to experience the good vibrations.

I'm Jim Linton VK3PC.

--

This is just one of many ideas that engineers are looking at as a way to clear the roads to make way for emergency vehicles when the situation arises. (WIA News)

**

RADIO EDUCATION: BROADCASTERS TO DEVELOP NEW ENGINEERING POOL

Wisconsin broadcasters are committing money to the future to develop new engineering talent. The announcement is from the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association and the W-B-A Foundation says that a new summer intern program has been created and that it will issue up to 10 grants to stations at $2,500 each. This, to cover engineering internship stipends and expenses.

Separately, Fellowship Grants will provide funding for experienced broadcast engineers at member stations to acquire continuing education. The foundation will award five grants of $1,000 to be used for continuing-ed courses in Information Technology networking, engineering leadership and management as well as electrical or transmission engineering.

In either case the money may not be used for trade shows, but factory training does qualify and travel expenses may be covered. Hopefully, other broadcast groups around the country will follow the Wisconsin broadcasters lead and develop similar programs in their geographic regions. (RW)

**

BROADCAST FUN: WKRP IS ON THE AIR - FOR REAL

WKRP is back on the air in Cincinnati, but this time as a TV station.

Several industry news reports say that a low-power TV station has changed its call letters to WKRP. Those are the same call letters used in the 1970's hit series "WKRP in Cincinnati."

Until recently the station went by the call WBQC television. But changed its call letters to promote its new digital TV signal. General Manager Elliott Block says the new call letters give the station recognition because so many people remember the television sit-com.

The station says that its getting a lot of calls, e-mails and letters asking how people can see this 21st century WKRP. According to its website -- www dot wkrp dot com, that's only possible if you live within 15 to 20 miles of downtown Cincinnati. It also says for optimum reception an outdoor antenna is recommended. (Broadcasting OnLine)

**

RADIO HAPPENINGS: RADIO NETHERLANDS ENDS SHORTWAVE TRANSMISIONS TO NORTH AMERICA

According to the new issue Popular Communications Magazinen now on newsstands, Radio Netherlands has decided to end its shortwave broadcasts beamed to North America. This, after a survey showed a decline in listeners to the service.

Programming that used to come via skywave will now be delivered using more modern means. This includes streaming audio on the Internet, satellite transmissions and over the Sirius subscription service.

PopComm notes that many listeners are upset with the Radio Netherlands decision. They say that they do not want to be shackled to a computer to hear the programs that they have been able hear froma shirt pocket sized receiver for years. The full article and other interesting shortwave listening news is on page 8 of the December issues of the magazine. (PopComm)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: MUNS TO HEAD CQ RTTY CONTESTS

A name in the news. Ed Muns, W0YK, of Los Gatos, California, has been named Director of 'CQ' magazine's RTTY radioteletype contests. Muns succeeds Glenn Vinson, W6OTC, who has been CQ's RTTY Contest Director since 2000. CQ sponsors the world's two most popular annual RTTY competitions. These are the CQ World Wide RTTY WPX Contest each February and the CQ World Wide RTTY DX Contest held every September. (CQ)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: ORLANDO HAMCATION FEB 13 - 15 2009

Turning to the ham radio social scene, 2009 kicks off with the 63rd annual Orlando Hamcation. The dates are February 13th to the 15th.at the Central Florida Fairgrounds in Orlando. Tickets are only $10 at the gate. More information on this winter getaway ham radio treat is on line at www. hamcation.com. (Orlando Hamcation)

**

HAM RADIO ON THE NET: HAMRADIOTUBE.COM

A new website dedicated to ham radio and hobby radio related films is now on line. Called www.hamradiotube.com, the site contains many amateur radio video clips and shows covering the past 70 years. Also there are a large number of videos showing to other aspects of hobby radio including some about 1960's off-shore radio broadcasting. Again the site is www.hamradiotube.com for hours of watching all aspects of hobby radio at its best. (Via e-Mail)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: GENE HARLAN, WB9MMM - SK

The changing of the guard in amateur radio continues with the sad news out of Rockford, Illinois, of the passing of Eugene Harlan, WB9MMM, reportedly from complications of ALS. ALS is better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease..

Eugene Harlan was best known for his work in amateur television. He ran Harlan Technologies which published the ATV Quarterly magazine for amateur television enthusiasts. The company also provided amateur television gear, accessories along with software and name tags.

Harlan's last major public appearance was in May at the Dayton Hamvention ATV Forum. At that event he was using a motorized scooter to get around.

Memorial services for Eugene Harlan, WB9MMM were not announced. He is survived by his wife Sharon, N9SH. (WB9QZB, AG9D, W9XA)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: CQ'S SCRATCHI - GEORGE FLOYD JR., WA4DGA - SK

George H. Floyd, Jr., WA4DGA of Lynchburg, Virginia, has become a silent Key. Floyd, the former W2RYT, spent more than two decades entertaining thousands of his fellow hams writing as a politically incorrect Japanese American ham with fractured English and used contorted spelling.

From 1947 to 1971 Floyd wrote a letter to the editor of CQ magazine unsung the pseudonym Hashafisti Scratchi. He suppodsedly lived in or near Feenix, Arizona -- spelling the city's name FEENIX. He began each column with "Deer Hon. Ed.," and regularly skewered the pomposity and poor operating practices he encountered on the air. He passed away on November 22nd at the age of 91.

Old time CQ readers are invited to submit reminiscences of Scratchi for a tribute in an upcoming issue of the magazine. A special e-mail address has been set up at scratchi@cq-amateur-radio.com. (CQ)

**

WORLDBEAT - EUROPE: PUBLICIZING HAM RADIO TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIMENT

Amateur Radio is being promoted in the European Parliament. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, reports from Nottingham, in the UK:

--

An Amateur Radio 2009 Year Planner has been sent to all 785 Members of the European Parliament along with an introductory letter, co-signed by MEP Fernando Fernandez-Martin, EA8AK and IARU Region 1 EUROCOM Working Group chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF.

The Year Planner was created by RSGB staff and highlights the use of amateur radio in Space and Emergency Communications, amongst other aspects of the hobby.

I'm Jeramy Boot, G4NJH.

--

Hams across Europe appear to favor his approach of bringing the word of radio amateurs directly to the various government administrations that make the rules governing their operations. (GB2RS)

**

WORLDBEAT - UK: SOS RADIO WEEK FUND RAISER

From the U-K comes word that the Royal National Lifeboat Institution S-O-S Radio Week will be held early next year. The event starts at 00.01 on 24th January 2009 and ends at 23.59 on 30th January.

S-O-S Radio Week is part of the organizations SOS Fund Raising Day. To take part all U-K hams need to do is decide whether you want to operate as a team or on your own. Then, get as many sponsors as you can in the lead up to the event. Once S-O-S Radio Week starts, you make as many contacts as you can and then convert the sponsors and contacts made in to money.

Sound confusing? Not really and all you need to know is on-line at www.sosradioweek.org.uk. (RSGB)

**

WORLDBEAT - BANGLADESH: BANGLADESH RESUMES HAM TESTING

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission has resumed amateur radio license testing after a gap of four years. A test session was held on November 27th using a computer based testing system that required 18 correct answers of 33 questions on the exam.

A total of 84 candidates took the exam and 62 passed. This equates to 62 new S 21 prefix stations soon to be on the air. The administration of ham radio exams in Bangladesh had been suspended in 2004. (S21RB)

**

ON THE AIR: NI6IW FROM THE USS MIDWAY DECEMBER 7

On the air, listen out for special Event Station NI6IW operating from the USS Midway Museum Radio Room on December 7th. This, in commemoration of Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The station will be on 1700 to 2359 UTC.using C-W, SSB, PSK, MT63 and RTTY on both 40 and 20 meters. The station will include a D-Star radio, connected to the PAPA System D-Star Gateway which will be linked to San Diego Reflector REF012C and can be heard locally on the 145.615, KI6MGN Palomar Mt. D-Star Repeater.

QSL with a self addresses stamped envelope to the USS Midway CV-41 Museum Radio Room, 910 North Harbor Drive, San Diego CA 92101. (W9EN, D-Star Remailer)

**

ON THE AIR: 75th ANNIVERSARY OF FM RADIO

The Major Edwin H. Armstrong Memorial Radio Club will operate special event stations W2XMN and W2XEA, December 13 and 14. This to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the invention of FM radio by Major Edwin H. Armstrong in 1933. The operation is from 1400 to 2200 UTC each day on 7.270 and 14.270 SSB and 29.600 and 52.525 FM. QSL with a self addressed stamped envelope to the Major EH Armstrong FM Association, PO Box 1584, Loxahatchee, FL 33470. (Press Release)

**

DX

In D-X, word that E51QQQ will be on the air from Manihiki Atoll in the North Cook Islands until December 9th. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and possibly digital modes. QSL to JA1KAJ.

A team of six operators from Brazil will show up as ZV5Z or ZV5V from Paz Island. This, from December 6th to the 13th. QSLs direct via PP5CIT.

EP3SMH, has been on from Iran operating on 20 meters RTTY around 1400 UTC. He has been calling for North America on a regular basis. It is suggested to listen carefully because he likes to operate on his calling frequency.

F4EGX, continues to be active as FT5YI from the French scientific station during his free time. He will be there at least until mid-December and try

to be on the air between 2300z and 0200z for North America on or near 14 point 267 MHz. QSL via F4EGX.

Lastly, ON4JM is once operating portable OD5 from the southern part of Lebanon near the city of Tibnin. He will be there until mid-December as part of the Belgian Army to assist the United Nations Forces. QSL to his home call address.

Above from various DX newsletters and other sources.

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: VK HAM WINS JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL AWARD

And finally this week, a ham down under has won a prestigious award that can be aid is truly for the birds. But for the birds in a very positive way. We have more in this report:

--

At the annual gala dinner of the Australian Radio Communications Industry Association held at the Melbourne Telstra Dome in front of over 500 people, Peter Young VK3MV, a WIA Director, was awarded the Jonathon Livingston Seagull Award and Perpetual Trophy in recognition of his contribution to the
radio industry in Australia.

The concept of the Jonathon Livingstone Seagull award is to recognise someone who has learned more and risen above what would normally be expected of them in their usual role in the Industry, and then contributed back to the industry in a way that doesn't necessarily relate to their own
direct benefit. This could be through additional training, encouragement of other people to benefit themselves, a contribution that is to the benefit of the community, either as a whole in the context of the radio industry, or perhaps
within their own local community in smaller areas.

The WIA congratulates Peter on this industry recognition, and again acknowledges his contribution to the Australian Amateur Radio community in his capacity as a Director on the WIA Board.

--

Now, a bit of history. If the name Jonathan Livingston Seagull is not familiar to you, then you likely have never been near a small airport or have not had the opportunity to fly in a small, light plane. You see, Jonathan Livingston Seagull is the central character in a book written by a pilot and author named Richard Bach. It is a fable about a seagull learning about life and flight, and a lesson about self-perfection.

The book tells the story of Jonathan Livingston Seagull, a bird who is bored with the daily squabbles over food. Instead he has developed a true passion for flight and dedicates himself to learning everything he can

about flying,

Jonathan's refusal to conform results in his expulsion from his flock. Nonetheless, he continues to educate himself and this leads him to a new level of perfection and knowledge in a new higher plane of existence.

But Jonathan is not satisfied. He has a need to share his wisdom and returns to Earth to find others like him. His mission is successful, gathering around him others who have been outcast for not conforming. Ultimately, the very first of his students, Fletcher Lynd Seagull, becomes a teacher of flight as well.

By the end of 1972, over a million copies of Jonathan Livingston Seagull were in print, Reader's Digest had published a condensed version, and the it reached the top of the New York Times Best Seller list. In fact, it remained for 38 weeks. And in 1973, Jonathan Livingston Seagull was turned into a movie produced by Paramount Pictures Corporation that included an original music score and soundtrack by Neil Diamond. Both the book and the movie are still available from retailers worldwide.

And now you know the story behind the story of the award and the imaginary bird that made it possible. (WIA News, ARNewsline)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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1103. Re: The future of TVI

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-05 16:24:50 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <j4ydnUMFla5Mq6TUnZ2dnUVZ_vKdnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2274

Doug Smith wrote:

> I wonder if the typical viewer will ever figure out that the intermittent
> disappearance of signal is due to the nearby ham?

This is an excellent point.

I don't have any objective technical data either, but I also believe that TVI in the digital TV world will be much less of a problem. I don't know how susceptible the converter boxes are to front-end overload, but at least the frequency difference is greater than it is between the 6-meter ham band and TV channel 2.

73, Steve KB9X

1104. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 48 (Friday, December 5, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-05 22:07:34 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20081205215757.65F04310F9@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2275
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 48
November 21, 2008
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IN THIS EDITION:

* + ARISS Celebrates International Education Week
* + ARRL HQ Welcomes New Membership Manager
* + The January Issue of QST Is on Its Way!
* + Get Ready for the ARRL Triple Play WAS Award
* + ARISS to Celebrate 25 Years of Amateur Radio in Space with Special Events
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+ Larry Coyle, K1QW, Wins November QST Cover Plaque Award
+ ARRL DXCC Desk Approves Three Operations

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, <k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> ARISS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

With all the educational opportunities the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program (ARISS) provides <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm>, it's no wonder that the organization has captured the attention of the US Department of Education (ED). According to ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, the ED has been tracking ARISS's activities for a long time: "The Department of Education invited ARISS to help celebrate the ninth annual International Education Week (IEW) by coordinating three contacts with the International Space Station (ISS) during IEW, November 17-21 <http://www.iew.state.gov/>. How could we say no?" International

Education Week is a joint initiative of the US Department of Education and US Department of State.

To go along with the theme of this year's IEW -- International Education: Fostering Global Responsibility and Leadership -- White explained that the Department of Education requested ARISS's participation through NASA. "Late last spring, JoAnne Livingston from the Department of Education asked NASA if the ARISS Team could support an ARISS radio contact in conjunction with IEW. The trick for the ARISS Team was to have a successful QSO that tied together three school communities from spots all over the globe into one 10 minute radio contact."

The ED took the initiative of selecting three schools to participate in the contact. Eventually, Enloe Magnet High School in Raleigh, North Carolina, Poolesville High School in Poolesville, Maryland and Academia Cotopaxi, an all-grade school in Quito, Ecuador, were chosen as the three participating schools. "Because of orbital mechanics," White said, "the radio contact was slated for Friday, November 14 at 15:02 UTC as the 'curtain opener' for IEW."

To get these schools ready for their QSO, White looked over the ARRL Affiliated Club roster, searching for clubs to help out the selected schools. "I invited the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society to help support the Enloe Magnet High School. The Goddard Amateur Radio Club, which has many ARISS volunteers, agreed to assist the Poolesville High School." With the help of ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, White searched for active Ecuadorian hams to assist with the contact with the school there.

"The ARISS QSO is always the headliner for all ARISS activities," White said. "The QSO, via WH6PN, the ARISS telebridge station in Hawaii, allowed students to interview astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, the current ISS commander. As community leaders and school administrators watched, the radio contact occurred without a hitch, with students walking on air as the day ended. In addition to attracting the eyes and ears of educational organizations, three TV stations were on hand at the Poolesville school to tell their ARISS/IEW story." A video, produced by Gary Pearce KN4AQ, of Amateur Radio//Video News, is also available <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6d3D66DbBEo>.

White said that due to the IEW, the three school communities got an education treat: "On November 18, students from all three schools tied in to a videoconference activity held at the US Department of Education auditorium. Students asked questions round-robin style to a panel of experts from around the world. The panel was made up of astronaut Don Thomas, KC5FVF; ARISS Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, and other ARISS worldwide volunteers and science leaders. Top-level staff from the Departments of Education and State, as well as representatives from educational associations such as the Sally Ride Science Club and the head of NASA Education watched the proceedings."

Each panel member gave a short presentation and participated in a question and answer session with all students. Aside from an overview of ARISS, panelists spoke about unusual ARISS events that have happened in their countries, space exploration and what ham radio activities are popular in their countries. According to White, they also interjected a little of the cultural flavor from their parts of the globe.

Students from the three schools and their lead teachers will not forget their IEW 2008 experiences. Mark Curran, head of Poolesville High School's Science, Math and Computer Program, said his computer students are developing skills for programming a rover to investigate an imaginary planet (Planet Falconia, named for the school mascot). The Research and Engineering Class designed and constructed the rover to successfully navigate hazards, sense differences in surface temperature and recognize boundaries. The Earth Systems Science Class studied planetary geology and remote sensing applications for Planet Falconia. "Through ARISS," Curran said, "students gained insight into daily challenges faced by current astronauts and the importance of the communication efforts including ham radio. Students realized the need to be able to communicate well in both written and spoken languages, addressing the English and foreign language aspects of the curriculum."

Enloe Magnet High School teacher Samuel Wheeler developed special lessons for 11th and 12th grade students in his AP Physics, Honors Physics and Physical Science classes. Enloe is currently ranked 73rd in Newsweek's list of the top 100 United States high schools. Enloe students have exchanged communications with high schools in China, Germany and Turkey through videoconferencing.

Kathy Beahn at the Academia Cotopaxi in Quito, Ecuador, led the effort for pre-kindergarten through 12th grades. Recommended by the US Embassy in Quito for the ARISS QSO, the school teaches an American curriculum. According to White, space-related and ARISS studies were integrated into the Conceptual Physics Course for 11th and 12th grade students, and students in grades 2, 7 and 8 also took part in the ARISS radio contact. "We began the year learning about waves in general, including basics about the electromagnetic spectrum," Beahn said. "This helped students understand ham radio technology. We studied planetary motion and astrophysics topics including special relativity and black holes." Alfredo Caviedes, HC1HC, helped out with the QSO and Rick Dorsch, NE8Z -- a Michigan ham who has been to Quito many times and is friends with Caviedes -- provided translating assistance.

White said that the Department of Education was so impressed with ARISS and with what students learned before, during and after the contacts that ARISS has been invited to participate in next year's International Education Week. IEW 2009 is scheduled for November 16-20.

==> ARRL HQ WELCOMES NEW MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

The ARRL is pleased to welcome Membership Manager Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF, to the Headquarters staff in Newington. Petrilli's key areas of responsibility include programs and activities that directly affect

membership growth, engagement and retention. Petrilli is taking over the position from Katie Breen, W1KRB. Breen left in October.

Petrilli, who earned her Amateur Radio license on her fourth day at ARRL HQ, comes to the League with more than 15 years of experience in marketing and membership management, including nine years with the Connecticut Bar Association. "In my years with the Bar Association, I started out recruiting attorneys to do pro bono work and had the chance to design membership mailings, as well as write for our quarterly publication," she said. "I also designed and managed numerous databases and eventually stepped up to become their Marketing and Electronic Communications Manager." While in that position, Petrilli directed advertising, sales promotions, public relations and electronic media campaigns.

Petrilli said she is excited to be working at ARRL Headquarters: "I am happy to be here and have been made to feel very welcome. I am looking forward to being part of the ARRL family and getting to know our members. While I have quite a bit of experience working in an association setting, I am new to the field of Amateur Radio and so I may be reaching out to many of you in the upcoming weeks. I will be graciously asking for your help -- to share your knowledge, your ideas and passion for the Service. I look forward to meeting you all. As ARRL Membership Manager, I will draw on my experiences in marketing, membership recruitment and retention to build a stronger ARRL."

According to ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, Petrilli has an extensive background working with association members. "She also has a great deal of relevant experience in recruiting, working with volunteers and developing member benefits," Inderbitzen said. "Diane will join our efforts to serve and grow our vibrant national association. And, there's no better time! Amateur Radio continues to enjoy a resurgence of interest from among prospective and new licensees since license restructuring in 2007. There's a tremendous amount of opportunity for all of us that support ARRL and the Amateur Radio Service."

Inderbitzen said that the ARRL Membership Manager supports regular contact with members, and is also responsible for attracting new members. "All of us here at ARRL Headquarters have a responsibility to get to know our members, to listen to them and to effect positive change," he said.

ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, concurred: "We are pleased to welcome Diane to our staff. With her extensive background in membership organizations, I am sure that she will make a major contribution in providing excellent service to our members. Diane has many years experience in membership organizations. I am confident that she will continue to provide a high level of customer service to the ARRL membership."

Petrilli holds a BS in business administration from Alfred University and an MBA from the University of Connecticut with a concentration in marketing. Calling herself a "fanatical" water skier, Petrilli and husband Christian enjoy swimming, reading (she rates John Steinbeck as her favorite author), gardening, snow skiing and attending concerts.

Petrilli can be reached via e-mail <dpetrilli@arrl.org>.

==> THE JANUARY ISSUE OF QST IS ON ITS WAY!

The January issue of QST -- our annual vintage issue -- is jam-packed with everything today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments to contesting, the January issue of QST has something for just about everyone

Our annual vintage issue features an article by Bob Shrader, W6BNB, "When Radio Transmitters Were Machines." Go back to the day when some of the most powerful radio transmitters were RF alternators. If you've ever wanted to build your own vintage radio, be sure to check out "Building a 1927 Regenerative Receiver" by Brian Mattson, K8BHZ. Before the advent of the superheterodyne receiver, the regenerative receiver was all the rage.

Have you ever had an urge to explore Antarctica? If so, be sure to check out the article by Adam Brown, K2ARB. His "Antarctic Experience" as a communications officer at one of the coldest regions on the globe will be sure to warm you up. If Antarctica is a little too close to home, how about Mars? In her article "DXpedition to Planet Mars," former ARRL Youth Editor Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, and fellow hams from Georgia Tech experienced a simulated Martian encounter in the Utah desert. While it won't qualify for the Elser-Mathes Cup (given to the hams who complete the first two-way Amateur Radio contact between Earth and Mars), journey with Hartlage as she undergoes life on the red planet.

If you're in the market for a new rig, you don't want to miss January's Product Review of the Elecraft K3/100 HF and 6 meter transceiver. Reviewed by ARRL Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, the K3 in any of its available configurations, Hallas says, "provides a high performance, modular and expandable transceiver that can fill the needs of almost anyone looking for an HF and 6 meter transceiver for home or portable use."

If you've been hankering for a new award to proudly display in your shack, look no further than the ARRL's Triple Play Worked All States Award. You will receive this award when you have confirmed contacts (via Logbook of the World) with all 50 states in each of three modes: CW, voice and digital. Look for more information on this new award in this edition of The ARRL Letter.

Of course, there are the usual columns you look forward to in the January QST: Hints & Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, How's DX, Old Radio, Hamspeak and more. Look for your January issue of QST to arrive in your mailbox soon. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of

ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> GET READY FOR THE ARRL TRIPLE PLAY WAS AWARD

As of January 1, 2009, the ARRL will offer another award: The Triple Play Worked All States Award <http://www.arrl.org/awards/#tripleplay>. This new, exciting award is available to all amateurs who confirm contacts with each of the 50 states using three modes for each state: CW, phone and RTTY/digital. All 150 contacts must be made on or after the starting date and must be confirmed via Logbook of the World (LoTW) <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>. All bands -- with the exception of 60 meters -- may be used in pursuit of the Triple Play Award.

In their July 2008 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors decided to implement this new award. Based on a suggestion by former ARRL Dakota Division Vice Director Hans Brakob, K0HB, the League's Programs and Services Committee referred the award's parameters to the Board where it received enthusiastic approval.

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, the Triple Play Award is a one-time award -- once you have made the required 150 confirmed contacts via LoTW, you're done. "Even so," Sumner writes in "It Seems to Us" in the January issue of QST, "there are many possible variations on the theme. You can try to be the first (or at least the first on your block) or you can set your own pace. Think it's too easy? Limit yourself to QRP while operating your favorite mode (or all three). Maybe you prefer to be the quarry; it will quickly emerge which states are the most difficult to find, offering opportunities to earn the gratitude of your mates by activating the ones you can get to with your portable or mobile rig."

The Triple Play Award is not a contest, but Sumner points out that the ARRL RTTY Roundup <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/rtty.html> takes place the first weekend in 2009, with the North American QSO Party (CW and Phone) <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php> following soon after. "Contesters are among the most loyal devotees of LoTW," Sumner writes, "so participating in these three events should take care of all of the easy states, as well as some of the more difficult ones." He warns that it can be addictive once you begin making your contacts for the Triple Play Award!
The rules for the Triple Play Award state that two-way communication must be established on the amateur bands with each state on each mode (the District of Columbia may be counted for Maryland). There is no minimum signal report required. Contacts must be made from the same location, or from locations no two of which are more than 50 miles apart. Club station applicants must include their club name and call sign of the club station or trustee on their application. The Triple Play Award will be issued on sequentially numbered certificates, starting with #1, as determined by the time stamp of the electronic application as submitted via LoTW. There are no endorsements for this award.

Contacts made through repeater devices or any other power relay method may not be used for WAS confirmation (a separate WAS award is available for satellite contacts). All stations contacted must be land stations; contacts with ships, anchored or otherwise, and aircraft, cannot be counted. The only exception to this rule is permanently docked exhibition ships (such as the Queen Mary) and other historic ships will be considered land based.

Triple Play Award applicants who reside in the US must be ARRL members to be eligible to receive the award. DX stations do not need to be ARRL members.

==> ARISS TO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE WITH SPECIAL EVENTS

Twenty-five years ago this week, Owen Garriott, W5LFL, made history by being the first Amateur Radio operator to talk to hams from space. His historic flight on STS-9 on board the space shuttle Columbia was launched on November 28 and landed on December 8, 1983. Garriott's ham radio adventure on that mission ushered in a host of what Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, called "outstanding outreach activities that continue today with the ARISS program."

Bauer said that many hams still remember that first set of contacts and downlinks with Garriott: "Those first contacts allowed each of us to share the excitement of space exploration through Owen's first-hand eyewitness accounts. Owen's ham radio legacy enabled space travelers that have flown on the space shuttle, the space station Mir and now the International Space Station (ISS) to share their journey of exploration."

Just last month, Garriott's son Richard, W5KWQ, became the first second generation Amateur Radio operator to travel in space and speak with hams <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/10/17/10392/>. "What other hobby, except Amateur Radio," Bauer wondered, "could or would open the communications lines of space travelers beyond that of the space agencies or international heads of state?"

To celebrate 25 years of Amateur Radio operations from space, ARISS has planned a set of special event opportunities for December and part of January. According to Bauer, a special certificate will be available for those who communicate with the ISS, either two-way direct (with the ISS crew, the digipeater or cross-band repeater) or one-way reception of SSTV or voice downlink. "Several 'surprises' are planned over the month-long celebration," he said, and will be announced soon.

Bauer said that in addition to school contacts and APRS digi-operations, ARISS will configure the radio system for cross-band repeater operations to utilize the standard U/V operations in low power mode during the first week of December. According to Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK, "U" refers to the 70 cm band used for the uplink to the cross-band repeater, specifically the 437.800 MHz FM frequency (+/- for Doppler), while "V"

refers to the 2 meter VHF band used for the downlink, specifically the 145.800 MHz FM frequency.

Starting December 7, ARISS will then run a test of 9600 baud packet operations on 145.825 MHz."Given that PCsat should be in full sun starting December 9," Bauer explained, "we will switch to 1200 baud packet on 145.825 on December 14-19 to support double hop opportunities. At times, especially during the weekends, you might see some SSTV operations if the crew is available."

Bauer reminded hams that due to ISS flight requirements related to spacewalks and vehicle activity, the radio onboard the ISS may be off for some portion of this schedule. School contacts and general QSO opportunities by the crew will also preempt this schedule for short periods of time. "But remember that if you hear these," Bauer said, "you still qualify for a commemorative certificate!"

==> NOMINATION DEADLINE FOR ARRL INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD FAST APPROACHING

Nominations are open for the 2008 ARRL International Humanitarian Award. The award is conferred upon an amateur or amateurs who demonstrate devotion to human welfare, peace and international understanding through Amateur Radio. The League established the annual prize to recognize Amateur Radio operators who have used ham radio to provide extraordinary service to others in times of crisis or disaster <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/humanitarian.html>.

A committee appointed by the League's President recommends the award recipient(s) to the ARRL Board, which makes the final decision. The committee is now accepting nominations from Amateur Radio, governmental or other organizations that have benefited from extraordinary service rendered by an Amateur Radio operator or group. Amateur Radio is one of the few telecommunication services that allow people throughout the world from all walks of life to meet and talk with each other, thereby spreading goodwill across political boundaries. The ARRL International Humanitarian Award recognizes Amateur Radio's unique role in international communication and the assistance amateurs regularly provide to people in need.

Nominations should include a summary of the nominee's actions that qualify the individual (or individuals) for this award, plus verifying statements from at least two people having first-hand knowledge of the events warranting the nomination. These statements may be from an official of a group (for example, the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army or a local or state emergency management official) that benefited from the nominee's particular Amateur Radio contribution. Nominations should include the names and addresses of all references.

All nominations and supporting materials for the 2008 ARRL International Humanitarian Award must be submitted in writing in English to ARRL International Humanitarian Award, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 USA.

Nomination submissions are due by December 31, 2008. In the event that no nominations are received, the committee itself may determine a recipient or decide to make no award. The winner of the ARRL International Humanitarian Award receives an engraved plaque and a profile in QST and other ARRL venues.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Autumn's Sun so warmly gleams" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: This was another quiet week; the geomagnetic indicators hovered around zero and there were no sunspots. There was another unusually quiet period this week on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday (, similar to November 11, November 14, and November 18-24. Sunspot numbers for November 27-December 3 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.2, 67, 68.2, 68.4, 68.1, 68.9 and 69.2 with a mean of 68.3. The estimated planetary A indices were 7, 4, 2, 1, 0, 0 and 4 with a mean of 2.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 5, 3, 2, 1, 0, 0 and 4 with a mean of 2.1. Right now on Friday morning, there are one or two sunspots trying to break through. The magnetic activity at our Sun's surface in this area is not quite at a level to indicate a visible spot. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Clare's "Autumn" <http://poetry.about.com/od/poems/l/blclareautumn.htm>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the ARRL 160-Meter Contest on December 5-7. The TARA RTTY Melee and the Wake-Up! QRP Sprint are December 6. The TOPS Activity Contest is December 6-7 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is December 10. Next week is the ARRL 10 Meter Contest on December 13-14. The NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally is December 11-15. The MDXA PSK DeathMatch is December 13-14 and the SKCC Weekend Sprintathon is December 14. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, December 21, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, January 2, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1, Radio Frequency Interference, Antenna Design and Construction, Technician License Course, Analog Electronics and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments --

learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

* Larry Coyle, K1QW, Wins November QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for November is Larry Coyle, K1QW, for his article "A Modular Receiver for Exploring the LF/VLF Bands." Congratulations, Larry! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the December issue by Wednesday, December 31.

* ARRL DXCC Desk Approves Three Operations: ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the following operations have been approved for DXCC credit: Wake Island -- WA2YUN/KH9 (for operations commencing 2007); Willis Island -- VK9DWX (2008), and Andaman and Nicobar Island -- VU4RG (2008). "If you had cards rejected for the Wake Island operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk and you will be placed on the list for update," Moore said.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call
860-594-0384

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from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for
e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site
<http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during
registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW
bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including
delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the
"Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify
membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change
your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all
automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You
must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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1105. Re: The future of TVI

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-05 22:10:48 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <D7d_k.20$c35.3@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2276

W0AIH's location, while not completely in the middle of nowhere, isn't exactly under the towers either. Especially for channels 8 and 13.

I wonder if the typical viewer will ever figure out that the intermittent

disappearance of signal is due to the nearby ham?

There is liable to be an uproar. I run 4-811As on 40 and 80 from time to time. There was very little interference at all. Likely broadband noise. Now on DTV it doesn't do anything at all. VHF/UHF is another story. I must have a desense problem. The beam is stacked over the TV antenna with 4 ' vertical seperation.. Now the TV locks up. I don't know what the neighbors are dealing with here. My system is in good condition. Most of the stuff around is Sat or Cable but most of the rest is rust and tangled mass of garbage and I expect they can barely get a picture as it is and will be lashing out in pain when the switch catches them by surprise. Some people are so ignorant about these things. I get a call from a lady every 2 or 3 months asking if she should go out and buy a new TV because her signal went out. She is convinced the DTV switch has already happened. She thinks I'm lying when I tell her DTV and Analog are both being transmitted until Feb so if she has no signal now, a new TV won't fix her problem. People like that you can't even talk to or they will hold you responsible for their problems.

I used to do TV repair, but there is just no money in it. People stand in line at the check-out counter to spend thousands of dollars for a big screen, Blu-ray, Sat system and expect a free hook-up. But when something goes wrong, they are afraid to get burned over $50 so they go out and buy a whole new system. Of course this really means that the people who have money are looking for any excuse to go out and buy new stuff. The rest are waiting for a free toy transistor radio to fall out of the cereal box.

1106. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 48 (Friday, December 5, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-05 22:12:01 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20081205221134.86865310B3@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2277
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, <k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> ARISS CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

With all the educational opportunities the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program (ARISS) provides <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm>, it's no wonder that the organization has captured the attention of the US Department of Education (ED). According to ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, the ED has been tracking ARISS's activities for a long time: "The Department of Education invited ARISS to help celebrate the ninth annual International Education Week (IEW) by coordinating three contacts with the International Space Station (ISS) during IEW, November 17-21 <http://www.iew.state.gov/>. How could we say no?" International

Education Week is a joint initiative of the US Department of Education and US Department of State.

To go along with the theme of this year's IEW -- International Education: Fostering Global Responsibility and Leadership -- White explained that the Department of Education requested ARISS's participation through NASA. "Late last spring, JoAnne Livingston from the Department of Education asked NASA if the ARISS Team could support an ARISS radio contact in conjunction with IEW. The trick for the ARISS Team was to have a successful QSO that tied together three school communities from spots all over the globe into one 10 minute radio contact."

The ED took the initiative of selecting three schools to participate in the contact. Eventually, Enloe Magnet High School in Raleigh, North Carolina, Poolesville High School in Poolesville, Maryland and Academia Cotopaxi, an all-grade school in Quito, Ecuador, were chosen as the three participating schools. "Because of orbital mechanics," White said, "the radio contact was slated for Friday, November 14 at 15:02 UTC as the 'curtain opener' for IEW."

To get these schools ready for their QSO, White looked over the ARRL Affiliated Club roster, searching for clubs to help out the selected schools. "I invited the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society to help support the Enloe Magnet High School. The Goddard Amateur Radio Club, which has many ARISS volunteers, agreed to assist the Poolesville High School." With the help of ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, White searched for active Ecuadorian hams to assist with the contact with the school there.

"The ARISS QSO is always the headliner for all ARISS activities," White said. "The QSO, via WH6PN, the ARISS telebridge station in Hawaii, allowed students to interview astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, the current ISS commander. As community leaders and school administrators watched, the radio contact occurred without a hitch, with students walking on air as the day ended. In addition to attracting the eyes and ears of educational organizations, three TV stations were on hand at the Poolesville school to tell their ARISS/IEW story." A video, produced by Gary Pearce KN4AQ, of Amateur Radio//Video News, is also available <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6d3D66DbBEo>.

White said that due to the IEW, the three school communities got an education treat: "On November 18, students from all three schools tied in to a videoconference activity held at the US Department of Education auditorium. Students asked questions round-robin style to a panel of experts from around the world. The panel was made up of astronaut Don Thomas, KC5FVF; ARISS Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, and other ARISS worldwide volunteers and science leaders. Top-level staff from the Departments of Education and State, as well as representatives from educational associations such as the Sally Ride Science Club and the head of NASA Education watched the proceedings."

Each panel member gave a short presentation and participated in a question and answer session with all students. Aside from an overview of ARISS, panelists spoke about unusual ARISS events that have happened in their countries, space exploration and what ham radio activities are popular in their countries. According to White, they also interjected a little of the cultural flavor from their parts of the globe.

Students from the three schools and their lead teachers will not forget their IEW 2008 experiences. Mark Curran, head of Poolesville High School's Science, Math and Computer Program, said his computer students are developing skills for programming a rover to investigate an imaginary planet (Planet Falconia, named for the school mascot). The Research and Engineering Class designed and constructed the rover to successfully navigate hazards, sense differences in surface temperature and recognize boundaries. The Earth Systems Science Class studied planetary geology and remote sensing applications for Planet Falconia. "Through ARISS," Curran said, "students gained insight into daily challenges faced by current astronauts and the importance of the communication efforts including ham radio. Students realized the need to be able to communicate well in both written and spoken languages, addressing the English and foreign language aspects of the curriculum."

Enloe Magnet High School teacher Samuel Wheeler developed special lessons for 11th and 12th grade students in his AP Physics, Honors Physics and Physical Science classes. Enloe is currently ranked 73rd in Newsweek's list of the top 100 United States high schools. Enloe students have exchanged communications with high schools in China, Germany and Turkey through videoconferencing.

Kathy Beahn at the Academia Cotopaxi in Quito, Ecuador, led the effort for pre-kindergarten through 12th grades. Recommended by the US Embassy in Quito for the ARISS QSO, the school teaches an American curriculum. According to White, space-related and ARISS studies were integrated into the Conceptual Physics Course for 11th and 12th grade students, and students in grades 2, 7 and 8 also took part in the ARISS radio contact. "We began the year learning about waves in general, including basics about the electromagnetic spectrum," Beahn said. "This helped students understand ham radio technology. We studied planetary motion and astrophysics topics including special relativity and black holes." Alfredo Caviedes, HC1HC, helped out with the QSO and Rick Dorsch, NE8Z -- a Michigan ham who has been to Quito many times and is friends with Caviedes -- provided translating assistance.

White said that the Department of Education was so impressed with ARISS and with what students learned before, during and after the contacts that ARISS has been invited to participate in next year's International Education Week. IEW 2009 is scheduled for November 16-20.

==> ARRL HQ WELCOMES NEW MEMBERSHIP MANAGER

The ARRL is pleased to welcome Membership Manager Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF, to the Headquarters staff in Newington. Petrilli's key areas of responsibility include programs and activities that directly affect

membership growth, engagement and retention. Petrilli is taking over the position from Katie Breen, W1KRB. Breen left in October.

Petrilli, who earned her Amateur Radio license on her fourth day at ARRL HQ, comes to the League with more than 15 years of experience in marketing and membership management, including nine years with the Connecticut Bar Association. "In my years with the Bar Association, I started out recruiting attorneys to do pro bono work and had the chance to design membership mailings, as well as write for our quarterly publication," she said. "I also designed and managed numerous databases and eventually stepped up to become their Marketing and Electronic Communications Manager." While in that position, Petrilli directed advertising, sales promotions, public relations and electronic media campaigns.

Petrilli said she is excited to be working at ARRL Headquarters: "I am happy to be here and have been made to feel very welcome. I am looking forward to being part of the ARRL family and getting to know our members. While I have quite a bit of experience working in an association setting, I am new to the field of Amateur Radio and so I may be reaching out to many of you in the upcoming weeks. I will be graciously asking for your help -- to share your knowledge, your ideas and passion for the Service. I look forward to meeting you all. As ARRL Membership Manager, I will draw on my experiences in marketing, membership recruitment and retention to build a stronger ARRL."

According to ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, Petrilli has an extensive background working with association members. "She also has a great deal of relevant experience in recruiting, working with volunteers and developing member benefits," Inderbitzen said. "Diane will join our efforts to serve and grow our vibrant national association. And, there's no better time! Amateur Radio continues to enjoy a resurgence of interest from among prospective and new licensees since license restructuring in 2007. There's a tremendous amount of opportunity for all of us that support ARRL and the Amateur Radio Service."

Inderbitzen said that the ARRL Membership Manager supports regular contact with members, and is also responsible for attracting new members. "All of us here at ARRL Headquarters have a responsibility to get to know our members, to listen to them and to effect positive change," he said.

ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, concurred: "We are pleased to welcome Diane to our staff. With her extensive background in membership organizations, I am sure that she will make a major contribution in providing excellent service to our members. Diane has many years experience in membership organizations. I am confident that she will continue to provide a high level of customer service to the ARRL membership."

Petrilli holds a BS in business administration from Alfred University and an MBA from the University of Connecticut with a concentration in marketing. Calling herself a "fanatical" water skier, Petrilli and husband Christian enjoy swimming, reading (she rates John Steinbeck as her favorite author), gardening, snow skiing and attending concerts.

Petrilli can be reached via e-mail <dpetrilli@arrl.org>.

==> THE JANUARY ISSUE OF QST IS ON ITS WAY!

The January issue of QST -- our annual vintage issue -- is jam-packed with everything today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments to contesting, the January issue of QST has something for just about everyone

Our annual vintage issue features an article by Bob Shrader, W6BNB, "When Radio Transmitters Were Machines." Go back to the day when some of the most powerful radio transmitters were RF alternators. If you've ever wanted to build your own vintage radio, be sure to check out "Building a 1927 Regenerative Receiver" by Brian Mattson, K8BHZ. Before the advent of the superheterodyne receiver, the regenerative receiver was all the rage.

Have you ever had an urge to explore Antarctica? If so, be sure to check out the article by Adam Brown, K2ARB. His "Antarctic Experience" as a communications officer at one of the coldest regions on the globe will be sure to warm you up. If Antarctica is a little too close to home, how about Mars? In her article "DXpedition to Planet Mars," former ARRL Youth Editor Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, and fellow hams from Georgia Tech experienced a simulated Martian encounter in the Utah desert. While it won't qualify for the Elser-Mathes Cup (given to the hams who complete the first two-way Amateur Radio contact between Earth and Mars), journey with Hartlage as she undergoes life on the red planet.

If you're in the market for a new rig, you don't want to miss January's Product Review of the Elecraft K3/100 HF and 6 meter transceiver. Reviewed by ARRL Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, the K3 in any of its available configurations, Hallas says, "provides a high performance, modular and expandable transceiver that can fill the needs of almost anyone looking for an HF and 6 meter transceiver for home or portable use."

If you've been hankering for a new award to proudly display in your shack, look no further than the ARRL's Triple Play Worked All States Award. You will receive this award when you have confirmed contacts (via Logbook of the World) with all 50 states in each of three modes: CW, voice and digital. Look for more information on this new award in this edition of The ARRL Letter.

Of course, there are the usual columns you look forward to in the January QST: Hints & Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, How's DX, Old Radio, Hamspeak and more. Look for your January issue of QST to arrive in your mailbox soon. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of

ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> GET READY FOR THE ARRL TRIPLE PLAY WAS AWARD

As of January 1, 2009, the ARRL will offer another award: The Triple Play Worked All States Award <http://www.arrl.org/awards/#tripleplay>. This new, exciting award is available to all amateurs who confirm contacts with each of the 50 states using three modes for each state: CW, phone and RTTY/digital. All 150 contacts must be made on or after the starting date and must be confirmed via Logbook of the World (LoTW) <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>. All bands -- with the exception of 60 meters -- may be used in pursuit of the Triple Play Award.

In their July 2008 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors decided to implement this new award. Based on a suggestion by former ARRL Dakota Division Vice Director Hans Brakob, K0HB, the League's Programs and Services Committee referred the award's parameters to the Board where it received enthusiastic approval.

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, the Triple Play Award is a one-time award -- once you have made the required 150 confirmed contacts via LoTW, you're done. "Even so," Sumner writes in "It Seems to Us" in the January issue of QST, "there are many possible variations on the theme. You can try to be the first (or at least the first on your block) or you can set your own pace. Think it's too easy? Limit yourself to QRP while operating your favorite mode (or all three). Maybe you prefer to be the quarry; it will quickly emerge which states are the most difficult to find, offering opportunities to earn the gratitude of your mates by activating the ones you can get to with your portable or mobile rig."

The Triple Play Award is not a contest, but Sumner points out that the ARRL RTTY Roundup <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/rtty.html> takes place the first weekend in 2009, with the North American QSO Party (CW and Phone) <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php> following soon after. "Contesters are among the most loyal devotees of LoTW," Sumner writes, "so participating in these three events should take care of all of the easy states, as well as some of the more difficult ones." He warns that it can be addictive once you begin making your contacts for the Triple Play Award!
The rules for the Triple Play Award state that two-way communication must be established on the amateur bands with each state on each mode (the District of Columbia may be counted for Maryland). There is no minimum signal report required. Contacts must be made from the same location, or from locations no two of which are more than 50 miles apart. Club station applicants must include their club name and call sign of the club station or trustee on their application. The Triple Play Award will be issued on sequentially numbered certificates, starting with #1, as determined by the time stamp of the electronic application as submitted via LoTW. There are no endorsements for this award.

Contacts made through repeater devices or any other power relay method may not be used for WAS confirmation (a separate WAS award is available for satellite contacts). All stations contacted must be land stations; contacts with ships, anchored or otherwise, and aircraft, cannot be counted. The only exception to this rule is permanently docked exhibition ships (such as the Queen Mary) and other historic ships will be considered land based.

Triple Play Award applicants who reside in the US must be ARRL members to be eligible to receive the award. DX stations do not need to be ARRL members.

==> ARISS TO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE WITH SPECIAL EVENTS

Twenty-five years ago this week, Owen Garriott, W5LFL, made history by being the first Amateur Radio operator to talk to hams from space. His historic flight on STS-9 on board the space shuttle Columbia was launched on November 28 and landed on December 8, 1983. Garriott's ham radio adventure on that mission ushered in a host of what Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, called "outstanding outreach activities that continue today with the ARISS program."

Bauer said that many hams still remember that first set of contacts and downlinks with Garriott: "Those first contacts allowed each of us to share the excitement of space exploration through Owen's first-hand eyewitness accounts. Owen's ham radio legacy enabled space travelers that have flown on the space shuttle, the space station Mir and now the International Space Station (ISS) to share their journey of exploration."

Just last month, Garriott's son Richard, W5KWQ, became the first second generation Amateur Radio operator to travel in space and speak with hams <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/10/17/10392/>. "What other hobby, except Amateur Radio," Bauer wondered, "could or would open the communications lines of space travelers beyond that of the space agencies or international heads of state?"

To celebrate 25 years of Amateur Radio operations from space, ARISS has planned a set of special event opportunities for December and part of January. According to Bauer, a special certificate will be available for those who communicate with the ISS, either two-way direct (with the ISS crew, the digipeater or cross-band repeater) or one-way reception of SSTV or voice downlink. "Several 'surprises' are planned over the month-long celebration," he said, and will be announced soon.

Bauer said that in addition to school contacts and APRS digi-operations, ARISS will configure the radio system for cross-band repeater operations to utilize the standard U/V operations in low power mode during the first week of December. According to Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK, "U" refers to the 70 cm band used for the uplink to the cross-band repeater, specifically the 437.800 MHz FM frequency (+/- for Doppler), while "V"

refers to the 2 meter VHF band used for the downlink, specifically the 145.800 MHz FM frequency.

Starting December 7, ARISS will then run a test of 9600 baud packet operations on 145.825 MHz."Given that PCsat should be in full sun starting December 9," Bauer explained, "we will switch to 1200 baud packet on 145.825 on December 14-19 to support double hop opportunities. At times, especially during the weekends, you might see some SSTV operations if the crew is available."

Bauer reminded hams that due to ISS flight requirements related to spacewalks and vehicle activity, the radio onboard the ISS may be off for some portion of this schedule. School contacts and general QSO opportunities by the crew will also preempt this schedule for short periods of time. "But remember that if you hear these," Bauer said, "you still qualify for a commemorative certificate!"

==> NOMINATION DEADLINE FOR ARRL INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD FAST APPROACHING

Nominations are open for the 2008 ARRL International Humanitarian Award. The award is conferred upon an amateur or amateurs who demonstrate devotion to human welfare, peace and international understanding through Amateur Radio. The League established the annual prize to recognize Amateur Radio operators who have used ham radio to provide extraordinary service to others in times of crisis or disaster <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/humanitarian.html>.

A committee appointed by the League's President recommends the award recipient(s) to the ARRL Board, which makes the final decision. The committee is now accepting nominations from Amateur Radio, governmental or other organizations that have benefited from extraordinary service rendered by an Amateur Radio operator or group. Amateur Radio is one of the few telecommunication services that allow people throughout the world from all walks of life to meet and talk with each other, thereby spreading goodwill across political boundaries. The ARRL International Humanitarian Award recognizes Amateur Radio's unique role in international communication and the assistance amateurs regularly provide to people in need.

Nominations should include a summary of the nominee's actions that qualify the individual (or individuals) for this award, plus verifying statements from at least two people having first-hand knowledge of the events warranting the nomination. These statements may be from an official of a group (for example, the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army or a local or state emergency management official) that benefited from the nominee's particular Amateur Radio contribution. Nominations should include the names and addresses of all references.

All nominations and supporting materials for the 2008 ARRL International Humanitarian Award must be submitted in writing in English to ARRL International Humanitarian Award, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 USA.

Nomination submissions are due by December 31, 2008. In the event that no nominations are received, the committee itself may determine a recipient or decide to make no award. The winner of the ARRL International Humanitarian Award receives an engraved plaque and a profile in QST and other ARRL venues.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Autumn's Sun so warmly gleams" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: This was another quiet week; the geomagnetic indicators hovered around zero and there were no sunspots. There was another unusually quiet period this week on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday (, similar to November 11, November 14, and November 18-24. Sunspot numbers for November 27-December 3 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.2, 67, 68.2, 68.4, 68.1, 68.9 and 69.2 with a mean of 68.3. The estimated planetary A indices were 7, 4, 2, 1, 0, 0 and 4 with a mean of 2.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 5, 3, 2, 1, 0, 0 and 4 with a mean of 2.1. Right now on Friday morning, there are one or two sunspots trying to break through. The magnetic activity at our Sun's surface in this area is not quite at a level to indicate a visible spot. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Clare's "Autumn" <http://poetry.about.com/od/poems/l/blclareautumn.htm>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the ARRL 160-Meter Contest on December 5-7. The TARA RTTY Melee and the Wake-Up! QRP Sprint are December 6. The TOPS Activity Contest is December 6-7 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is December 10. Next week is the ARRL 10 Meter Contest on December 13-14. The NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally is December 11-15. The MDXA PSK DeathMatch is December 13-14 and the SKCC Weekend Sprintathon is December 14. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, December 21, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, January 2, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1, Radio Frequency Interference, Antenna Design and Construction, Technician License Course, Analog Electronics and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments --

learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

* Larry Coyle, K1QW, Wins November QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for November is Larry Coyle, K1QW, for his article "A Modular Receiver for Exploring the LF/VLF Bands." Congratulations, Larry! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the December issue by Wednesday, December 31.

* ARRL DXCC Desk Approves Three Operations: ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the following operations have been approved for DXCC credit: Wake Island -- WA2YUN/KH9 (for operations commencing 2007); Willis Island -- VK9DWX (2008), and Andaman and Nicobar Island -- VU4RG (2008). "If you had cards rejected for the Wake Island operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk and you will be placed on the list for update," Moore said.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including
delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the
"Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify
membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change
your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all
automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You
must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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1107. CB to ham band conversions

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-07 02:54:45 UTC
From: vk2cjc@gmail.com
Message-ID: <c938ac4b-06e2-4161-b068-487a0ecc7070@r36g2000prf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2278

I am looking for a website which has collected together info on converting cb radios to the amateur bands. Not just 11m to 10m conversions, but also more ambitious projects.
If anyone knows af any good sites, let me know. Feel free to contact me direct, details at qrz.com.

Thanks
Jack VK2CJC / MM0AXL

1108. Triple Play Award

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-12 01:56:38 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <ghsfnt$bk7$1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2279

See "It Seems to Us" in the January issue of QST.

Who will win award number 0001? How long will it take?

I'm betting it will be a contester, and #0001 will be awarded by March 1st
or earlier.

73, de Hans, K0HB

1109. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1635 - December 12, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-12 13:28:47 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20081212024224.01723578@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2280
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1635 - December 12, 2008

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1635 with a release date of Friday, December 12th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. Region One of the International Amateur Radio Union suggests contest free operating spectrum, the FCC asks hams to help in the digital United States television conversion, two industry giants say that they will build a national rescue radio system, two friends unite for a space to classroom contact and the tale of ham radio's patron saint. Hear his amazing story on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1635 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO REGULATION: THE IARU SUGGESTS SOME WELCOME CHANGES

No-contesting zones and improved QSL procedures are just two of the items discussed at the recent International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Conference held in Croatia. Jim Linton, VK3PC, has the details:

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The five-day IARU Region 1 Conference attended by 50 delegates had a packed agenda related to various amateur radio activities - contesting, beacons, QRP, intruder watch and specialized emission modes.

Among other topics were operating procedure, emergency communications, BPL and the promotion of amateur radio.

One conference initiative may see the IARU proposing to the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO, that it acknowledges the Amateur Radio Service as an activity to be protected.

The QSL'ing practices of some DX stations were discussed. The conference resolved to encourage QSL managers of DXpedition, DXCC, IOTA or other stations to accept both direct and Bureau QSL cards.

It was also recommended that contest-free band segments be included in rules of contests organized by national societies, and where possible, contests include a category for youngsters and newcomers.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton, VK3PC.

--

Meantime the conference also reported that all is now in place for the expansion of the 40 meter band. This very useful HF spectrum will double in size in many parts of the world on the 29th of March. (WIA News)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: FCC ASKS HAMS TO ASSIST IN FEBRUARY 2009 DTV CONVERSION

Hams across the United States are being asked by the FCC to assist in the upcoming conversion of all television broadcasting to digital operation. This, as the ARRL reports that it has received a request from the regulatory agency asking its members to provide technical educational assistance to their communities concerning the FCC-mandated digital television conversion scheduled for February 17, 2009.

According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Amateur Radio clubs across the country are being asked to develop and implement plans to provide information throughout January and February about the Digital Television conversion in their geographic areas. The FCC is leaving it up to the clubs to decide how to do this because they believe that local groups understand the communities in ways that the FCC does not.

Pitts said that in early January the FCC will ask ARRL Section Managers for the names and contact information of the volunteering groups. The FCC staff will then make contact with the groups, learn their plans and provide them with the media, brochures or other materials that groups and clubs may need in this effort. FCC regional staff members may even visit with larger organizations to aid in implementation of the group's plans.

Pitts stressed that hams should not make "house calls," sell any equipment
or do actual installations. The request is only to distribute technical information and FCC materials only. In other words you are not to do anything other than hand out literature and answer questions. Nor can you charge anyone for your time or effort as this is a volunteer undertaking.

Interested groups should contact their ARRL Section Manager. More information on this request from the FCC is on line on the ARRL newspages at www.arrl.org. (ARRL)

**

RESCUE RADIO: GSS AND NORTHROP GRUMMAN TO BUILD NATIONAL EMCOMM ALERT SYSTEM

Global Security Systems and Northrop Grumman say that they are working together to offer an integrated emergency alert system. One that they hope will be deployed all across the United States by homeland security officials. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, is here with the details:

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According to a news release the system is designed to cover any emergency situation at any level. It says that in the event of a war, natural disaster, national, regional or local emergency the combined systems will allow the president, state and local officials, critical infrastructure and emergency management agencies to seamlessly and immediately communicate with first responders as well as citizens. This using any and all forms of personal communications devices such as cellular phones, wireless Personal Digital Assistants and permanently installed two-way enabled entertainment systems.

Northrop Grumman will build a national, state and local alert and warning system that uses wireless communications infrastructure and consumer devices. Global Security Systems will contribute expertise in local collection and delivery of emergency messages and its experience in deploying its Alert FM system.

The two companies believe they can offer an all encompassing national alerting framework that spans agencies and levels of government at all levels while benefiting from an installed base at emergency operations centers. They also contend that this system will provide an access point to involve mobile service providers and device integration labs.

According to the announcement, the Alert FM technology allows warnings to be sent to geographically specific areas and the control processor chip can be designed into common devices such as cell phones, pagers and even smoke detectors. It will be interesting to see if any ham radio manufacturer decides to integrate Alert FM into the next generation of ham radio gear or if they will be licensed by the technology's patent holder to do so.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles

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The bottom line: While the FCC tries to find a way to make money selling off spectrum to companies to use to build a non money making national emergency alert and communications network, two corporations have decided to take the initiative on their own. (RW)

**

COMMUNICATIONS LAW: FCC CHAIRMAN MARTIN UNDER CONGRESSIONAL FIRE

A year-long Congressional investigation of Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin J. Martin is alleging egregious abuses of power. However it was unclear whether the nation's top telecommunications regulator broke any rules or laws during his leadership.

The report released on Wednesday, December 10th is titled "Deception and Distrust." It was led by Representatives. John D. Dingell who is Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Bart Stupak the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. The report alleges that the FCC's Martin suppressed information and manipulated data to serve his agenda.

For some time, Chairman Martin has been criticized by his own FCC staff members for pushing his proposals to free up media ownership rules and pushing requirements for a la carte pricing of cable television. This, through such tactics as suppressing agency studies that do not support his plans.

FCC spokesman Robert Kenny said that the agency's review of the report indicated the it did not violate any rules, laws or procedures, but Congress will ultimately have the final say in this matter. (W8HDU, others)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KA9KBU Net serving Hickory Hills, Illinois.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: A DECISION IN THE MILLS TOWER CASE

A zoning board in a Pennsylvania suburb has rendered its decision on the fate of a tower owned by Chuck Mills, W3YNI. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has been following the matter and has the latest:

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By a vote of 5-0, the Penn Township Zoning Hearing Board in southwestern Pennsylvania voted to uphold the permit issued to W3YNI for a 53-foot-tower on his property.

"I'm very eager to continue my hobby and continue to serve the community when I'm called upon to do so."

That's Chuck Mills in a telephone interview with Amateur Radio Newsline immediately following the board's decision.

Mills has been battling neighbor John Ducar who simply didn't want a ham radio tower erected next to his property.

Mills says he did everything the township asked him to do, including provide proper screening. But it was PRB-1 and Pennsylvania's recently enacted tower law called Act 88 which bolstered his case.

While Ducar has the right to appeal, Mills says he's hopeful this battle has come to an end.

"I've learned to never say never, but I'm optimistic at this point that this will be the end of it," Mills says.

Michael Lazaroff, K3AIR, a volunteer American Radio Relay League legal counsel, has been with Mills throughout the process. He says Pennsylvania's new, ham-friendly tower law, went into effect Dec. 8, just three days before the board's decision was issued.

"To the best of my knowledge, this is the first case that's been considered under Act 88 of 2008 and if so, it's very good news," Lazaroff says.

As for Mills' neighbor, Lazaroff says, he, too, is confident the dispute has come to a legal end.

"He appears to be rather upset that the zoning hearing board ruled against him," Lazaroff says. "He does have the right to file an appeal with the county common pleas court. He has 30 days to do so. However, the standard of review is pretty strict.

"If he appeals, in order to prevail, he will have to prove that the township zoning hearing board either abused their discretion or made an error of law in denying his appeal. I don't believe he can prove either point."

Lazaroff says it's time to move on.

"I'm hoping that this neighbor will finally realize that it's over and he needs to move on with his life and get over it," Lazaroff says.

The attorney says the decision actually has much broader implications.

"This is an important decision, an important victory for private property rights and for PRB-1 and Act 88," Lazaroff says. "We've seen in this country a very steady erosion of private property rights in the last few years. And, I'm glad to see that at least in this case that that erosion has come to a stop."

For his part, Mills says he has been very appreciative of the backing received from hams in his area and throughout the country.

"Support from the ham community was tremendous both in terms of moral support, financial support, and just a collective 'Thank you' to all of them," Mills says.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia

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This is not the only tower and antenna issue being faced by hams. We will have more for you on them in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (ARNewsline(tm), NT3V)

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ENFORCEMENT: THE $51,500 FAX FINE

Another heavy fine for sending out unsolicited fax's. This, as the FCC notifies Hot Lead LLC of Addison and Plano Texas and Las Vegas, Nevada of its Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $51,500 for delivering at least nine unsolicited advertisements to the telephone facsimile machines of at least nine consumers. That works out to be a fine of $5722 per unsolicited fax. The company was given the customary 30 days to pay or to file an appeal. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: YOU HAVE TO PUT IT IN PRINT

The FCC has also notified Multi-Tech Systems, Inc. of its Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $4,000. This, for marketing a radio frequency device without including the required consumer disclosure in the user manual.

Multi-Tech is a manufacturer of communications and device networking products that provide voice and data services over internet protocol networks. One of its products, the CallFinder Global System for Mobile Communications is a cellular gateway that enables users to connect to a private branch exchange trunk line, PBX extension line, or a single public switched telephone network line and route incoming and outgoing calls through a GSM wireless network.

Because the CallFinder is a Class A digital device, Multi-Tech must verify that it complies with the requirements contained in Part 15 of the Rules and must distribute it with a customer notice informing users of the potential for harmful interference. It failed to do the latter and that's the reason for the proposed $4000 fine. (FCC)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS IN SCOTLAND PROIVIDE EMCOM AT CAR CRASH

A family in Scotland left stranded with at least one person injured when their car skidded off a rural country road has been rescued. This thanks to the quick thinking of two United Kingdom amateur radio operators.

The drama unfolded Friday morning, December 5th. That's when Barry Horning, GM4TOE, came across the couple and their three children ina wreck on the Dufftown-Tomintoul road. Unable to get a cellular telephone phone signal near the accident scene, GM4TOE took to ham radio for medical assistance for the injured female driver.

Using the services of a local repeater, Horning's plea was picked up 20 miles away in the town of Longmorn by Jon Coulter. Coulter, who was not identified by call sign notified police and gave them the information needed for an emergency medical response. A short time later an ambulance arrived at the accident scene to provide on site treatment and then transported the victim to a local medical facility.

According to Horning the ambulance crew was impressed by the way he and Coulter were able to provide them exact coordinates for the accident site. They told him that it saved them a lot of time in responding to the scene.

Coulter says that he's not heard from Horning since the QSO to report the accident so he has no word on the current condition of those who were injured in the mishap. (Northern Scot)

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RESCUE RADIO: WICHITA KS. NEWSPAPER HONORS SKYWARN

The Wichita, Kansas Eagle newspaper has recognized the key role that ham radio operators play in providing an early warning of approaching severe weather. In its December 7th story titled Skywarn volunteers see what radar can't the paper notes that when severe weather threatens the region, dozens of volunteer amateur radio operators and weather spotters work together to provide information to the Weather Service. Writer Tim Potter calls the Skywarn hams the eyes on the ground for the National Weather Service in Wichita. In the Wichita region, Skywarn covers 26 counties. The article is on-line at http://www.kansas.com/news/state/v-print/story/623024.html (Kansas.com)

**

RESCUE RADIO: RENO TV STATION HONORS HAM RADIO EMCOMM

Ham radio operators providing emergency communications was also the theme of a 2 minute news report over NBC television affiliate KRNV in Reno Nevada. One of those featured was Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM., who explained to reporter Lemor Shlomof the way in which hams helped loved ones learn about the health and welfare in a disaster area. The story also featured Jack Goetz, WA2FDK, who has been a ham since 1934 reminiscing about the old days of the hobby. This was a very positive story about ham radio at a truly fun time of year. Our thanks to KRVN for permission to use the audio clips heard in this report. (KRNV)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: GET WELL WISHES TO WA6MHZ

Get well wishes to past ARRL San Diego Section Manager Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ, who is and is recovering from heart surgery. Pat was operated on last Thursday at haro Grossmont Hospital in La Mesa California. Hes now at home and those that know Pat are well aware that he particularly enjoys discussing vintage radio and even runs a ham radio museum at his QTH. Get well wishes can go to WA6MHZ at his Callbook address or e-mail listed on QRZ dot com. (CGC Communicator)

**

HAM AWARDS: THE LEWIS AND CLARK AWARD PROGRAM

The Pacific Northwest V H F Society has announced the creation of its new Lewis and Clark awards program. The goal is that of promoting V H F and U H F activity throughout the Pacific Northwest. The awards and certificates of this program are specific to the culture and pioneering spirit of rams residing in the North-Western states. However, the sponsors say that with modern communications technology it should also be obtainable by radio amateurs outside of that local geographic region. More information is on the society's webpage at www.pnwvhfs.org (VHF Reflector)

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HOLIDAY RADIO: OPERATION SANTA CLAUSE IN SOCAL

Operation Santa Clause has begun. This as members of California's Moreno Valley Amateur Radio Association, provided an opportunity for children to ï¿½Talk to Santa' via amateur radio at the 10th annual Lake Perris State Recreation Areaï¿½s, ï¿½Lights on the Lake' holiday season celebration, held on
Saturday, December 6th.

Some 15 members of the Moreno Valley club participated along with members of the City of Moreno Valley RACES organization. Each child received a name tag identifying their radio contact and entitling them the opportunity to personally meet Santa following the evening finale of the parade of boats.

Alan Pearson, KB6DMZ, is a spokesperson for the club. He says that the overall success of the event was gauged by the long lines of children making their Christmas wishes known to Santa at the groups lakeside amateur radio station. (AF6HR)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM RDIO IN SPACE: AN ARISS CONTACT BETWEEN FRIENDS

Its not often when two friends hold a space to ground Q-S-O so that the one on-orbit can talk top kids in a classroom. But that's what happened so that students at a southern Illinois grade school could get their chance to vicariously go into space. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with the details:

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Monday, December 8th was just another day at the Ellis Elementary School in Belleville, Illinois. The students came to class. They got their daily education. And oh yes, they also got to talk to Astronaut and Flight Engineer Sandra Magnus, KE5FYE, on board the International Space Station. Take a listen:

--

Student: "My name is Austin. What was the first thing you did when you got into space?"

KF5FYE: "You know Austin, the first thing I did was also the most fun. I actually opened up my seatbelt and let myself float out of my seat and that's how I knew I was back on orbit. Over."

--

The QSO between Ellis Elementary and Sandra Mangus was a direct contact. It was made possible by ARISS -- amateur Radio on the International Space Station in conjunction with the Saint Clair Amateur Radio Club of nearby Saint Louis, Missouri. Its callsign K9GXU was used to establish contact with KE5FYE who was operating from the space station as NA1SS:

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Control Station: "NA1S, NA1SS, this is K9GXU, over."

KF5FYE: "K9GXU, this is NA1SS. How do you copy?"

Control Station: "We've got you perfect."

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Once the two way circuit was established the real fun began. This, as student after student quizzed KF5FYE on what it was like to ride to orbit and live on board the I-S-S:

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Student: "Hi, my name is Ashley. How long does it take to get from Earth to the ISS?"

KF5FYE: "Ashley, the ISS is only up about 200 to 250 miles but we use about three days to get here because of the way that the shuttle flies to the station. So I'm really not that far away. Over."

Student: My name is Allison. "How funny do you think a bird would look if it was flying inside the
ISS-would it fly like a bird on Earth?"

KF5FYE: "Well Allison, that's a good question because I don't know what kind of sensors that birds have that sense gravity. In the environment (here) there is air it can fly in but I don't know how it would feel without gravity. Over.

Student: "My name is Felix. What are some of the fun experiments you are doing?"

KF5FYE: "Well Felix, my most fun one I am watching. We have a couple of spiders up here and they are learning how to build webs in zero gravity. As a matter of fact, you guys sent us the names for the spiders -- Elmo and Spiderman. And thank you for that., over."

--

On hand to record the event was ham radio's own Mr. Audio, Bob Heil, K9EID. After the contacts were concluded Bob got a chance to chat with the third grade teacher spearheading the project. She is Jennifer May who just happened to be a longtime friend of Flight Engineer Sandy Magnus, KE5FYE:

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K9EID: "How great was this for you today"

May: "Oh this was wonderful. The children have been working on this for the past couple of weeks. They formed their questions. They had everything prepared. They decorated the room and they really enjoyed themselves and especially hearing Sandy on the radio.

K9EID: "You and Sandy have been friends for a couple of years, as I understand."

May: "Yes, we have."

K9EID: "How long have you been working together on this project?"

May: "Its not just this project. We've been pen-pals and friends for about 13 years.

K9EID: "It has to have been real exciting?"

May: "Yes. Especially to see all of the and the (antennas) go on top of the roof and everybody working together. We could not have pulled this off without everyone."

--

Bob also got a chance to speak with the ham radio operator who made the technical end of the contact happen. Chris Pixson, KC9EIZ:

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K9EID: "Chris, what did you thing of this operation?"

KC9EIZ: "Well, the fact that it was successful was the most important thing and not for the amateur radio side. Rather for the 26 third graders at the Ellis Elementary School who had a once in a lifetime experience of talking to the International Space Station.

"The amateur radio gear that we had worked flawlessly and the hundreds and hundreds of man hours that were put in by amateurs to make this happen is the key to the success of this whole endeavor."

--

Not only was this contact between the Ellis Elementary School an overwhelming success, the kids even learned how Santa Clause gets to space. Well at least how Christmas presents get there:

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Student: "My name is Tim. Since you are going to be on the ISS for Christmas, how are you going
to get your presents?"

KF5FYE: "Tim, actually, our presents arrived on the last Progress vehicle last Sunday, but I haven't opened them.. I'm going to wait until Christmas to open them so it will be a surprise. Over."

--

And on that happy holiday note we say well done to all who made this ARISS contact both a fun and educational time for the students at the Ellis Elementary School, in Brellville, Illinois.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF.

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Our sincere thanks to Bob Heil, K9EID, of Heil Sound Limited for recording the event and making the sound available to us for this story. (ARNewline(tm) with audio provided by K9EID)

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WORLDBEAT: NEW EUROPEAN DRM SERVICE LAUNCHES IN 2009

Early 2009 is the target for a new joint radio service that will serve European audiences on shortwave using Digital Radio Mondiale technology. That's when the BBC World Service and the English-language division of Deutsche Welle will begin targeting Western and Central Europe, with digital content that will include global news and current affairs, analysis, documentaries and cultural programs.

BBC World Service is a U.K.based international radio and online broadcaster; Deutsche Welle is Germany's international broadcaster. Digital Radio Mondiale was developed in Eueope as the digital broadcasting system for bands below 30 MHz. With the exception of North America where In Band On Challel or IBOC is trying to gain a foothold, Digital Radio Mondiale has been almost universally embraced worldwide as the preferred medium for broadcast services to use on these bands. (RW)

**

DX

In DX, WJ2O, will once again be active from VP5JM's location on Providenciales Island during the ARRL DX CW Contest on February 21st and 22nd. His call will be VP5DF and he will operate as a single-operator all-band entry. QSL via his home callsign

And Japanese special event station 8J1UEC90 is on the air until 12th January. This, in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the University of Electro-Communications. QSL only via the bureau.

The 4M5DX Group will activate Toas Island from December 9th to the 12th using CW, SSB and RTTY on 160 through 6 meters. QSL via IT9DAA, either direct or via the bureau.

Lastly, listen out for G7OCD operating from the Maldives as 8Q7AK from January 11th to the 27th. This will be his fifth time on from that location and he plans to operate 40 through 10 meters on SSB and CW every day. Times are approximately 0730 to 0830, 0900 to 1030, 1300 to1500 and 1730 to 1800 hours UTC. For QSL information please check 8Q7AK- on QRZ dot com.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE SAINT OF AMATEUR RADIO

And finally this week, the story of a ham radio operator who was killed by the Nazi's during World War 2. Graham Kemp VK4BB, is here with the story of SP3RN:

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GI70MY writing in the 30 meter psk yahoo group says that during the WW2 German occupation of Poland, a Ham radio Priest, Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, SP3RN was arrested by the Germans. The Germans believed his amateur radio activities were somehow involved inespionage and he was transferred to Auschwitz on May 28, 1941.

After some prisoners escaped in 1941, the Germans ordered that 10 prisoners be killed in retribution.. Fr. Kolbe was martyred when he volunteered to take the place of one of the condemned men.

On October 10, 1982 he was canonized by Pope John Paul II as Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Apostle of Consecration to Mary and declared a Martyr of charity. He is now considered the Patron saint of Amateur Radio Operators.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Graham Kemp, VK4BB, of the WIA News in Australia.

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A bit of history about a ham who truly cared about his fellow man. One who cared enough to forfeit his own life to save another. (WIA News)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV,, saying 73 from and we thank you for listening.

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1110. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 48 (Friday, December 12, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-12 21:15:06 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20081212205923.4A1FC30BC8@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2281
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 49
December 12, 2008
****

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Congressional Committee Members Release Report Lambasting FCC Chairman Kevin Martin
* + ARRL 10 Meter Contest Means HF Fun for Technicians, Too!
* + "The Doctor Is IN" the ARRL Letter
* + FCC Calls on Amateur Radio Service for Assistance with Digital TV Conversion
* + FlexRadio Donates Software Defined Radio to W1AW
+ ARRL Thanks Donors with Publication Gift Certificates
* + ARRL Membership Newsletters, Bulletins and Notifications
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ ARRL Headquarters Closed for Christmas, New Year's Holidays
Former Wisconsin Section Manager Roy Pedersen, K9FHI (SK)
Former Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager Allen Breiner Sr, W3TI (SK)

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, <k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========

==> CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS RELEASE REPORT LAMBASTING FCC CHAIRMAN KEVIN MARTIN

On Tuesday, December 9, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce -- the congressional committee that oversees the Federal Communications Commission -- released its majority staff report "on the bipartisan investigation of the FCC's regulatory processes and management practices." The report -- "Deception and Distrust: The Federal Communications Commission under Chairman Kevin J. Martin" -- stated that

the investigation was prompted "by allegations to the effect that [FCC] Chairman Kevin J. Martin has abused FCC procedures by manipulating or suppressing reports, data and information" <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/FCC_Report120908.pdf>.

"Our investigation confirmed a number of troubling allegations raised by individuals in and outside the FCC," said Representative Bart Stupak (D-MI), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. "The Committee staff report details some of the most egregious abuses of power, suppression of information and manipulation of data under Chairman Martin's leadership. It is my hope that this report will serve as a roadmap for a fair, open and efficient FCC under new leadership in the next administration."

Representative John D. Dingell (D-MI), Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce echoed Stupak's concerns: "Any of these findings, individually, are cause for concern. Together, the findings suggest that, in recent years, the FCC has operated in a dysfunctional manner and Commission business has suffered as a result. It is my hope that the new FCC Chairman will find this report instructive and that it will prove useful in helping the Commission avoid making the same mistakes."

The report said that "in an investigation of this nature," the Committee would usually hold hearings "to receive testimony from witnesses and to further examine the issues." But due to what the Committee called "the climate of fear that currently pervades the FCC," the report said the Committee found that key witnesses "were unwilling to testify or even have their names become known." For that reason, they issued a report in place of a hearing "to protect the many honest people who came forward under a promise of protection or anonymity." Chairman Martin was invited to meet with the Committee to discuss matters addressed by the investigation, but the report said he "ignored [the Committee's] invitation," as did his Chief of Staff Daniel Gonzalez and Chief of Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Derek Poarch.

In its 110-page report, the Committee described 12 allegations, ranging from retaliation against FCC employees who differed with the Chairman's policies to enhanced 911 wireless services to broadband over power lines (BPL). To go along with the 12 allegations, 22 exhibits were attached to the report, such as internal e-mails, e-mails from FCC commissioners to their staff, statements made by FCC commissioners and letters to and from commissioners (including Chairman Martin). Not all 12 allegations were substantiated by the Committee.

* Broadband over Power Lines

Concerning BPL, the report alleges that FCC officials "ignored complaints of radio frequency interference caused by BPL high-speed Internet technology, delayed an enforcement investigation for two years and improperly withheld engineering data regarding BPL from the public."

The report found that in October 2004, as then-Chairman Michael Powell issued his final rule "defining BPL access and setting technical and administrative requirements to protect licensed radio operators from harmful interference," the FCC "withheld from the public certain engineering reports on which it relied in promulgating the rule" from the final rule and order.

Even though the BPL rules were adopted during Powell's tenure, the report found that "it was under Chairman Martin that the Enforcement Bureau and the General Counsel continued to withhold the redacted engineering reports and insisted on doing so in the course of the ensuing litigation [with the ARRL]" <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/>.

The report goes on to say that on April 25, 2008, the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit found that the FCC, in the case filed by the ARRL, "violated the Administrative Procedure Act when it played 'hide and seek' with engineering data used in its support of the order and 'cherry-picked' a study on which it had relied" <http://pacer.cadc.uscourts.gov/common/opinions/200804/06-1343-1112979.pdf>.

"The fact that the FCC withheld the required engineering reports in this matter," the report concluded, "indicates poor judgment and an attempt to hide critical weaknesses in its decision. Ironically, the FCC's attempts to hide this information only served to provoke suspicion and its handmaiden, litigation. This case [filed by the ARRL] illustrates the extent to which a culture of secrecy has developed at the FCC that is as counterproductive as it is unnecessary." The report states that this "particular situation" has been corrected by the courts and technological issues arising from BPL have been "rendered largely moot over time due to improvements" in BPL technology.

"It is distressing, but unfortunately not surprising," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, "to read that the FCC's mishandling of the BPL issue was simply a part of a broad pattern of dysfunction at the Commission. This is a relatively recent development and is unprecedented in the ARRL's long experience with the FCC -- an association that dates back to the very creation of the agency, 20 years after the founding of the ARRL. While the marketplace failure of BPL and the steps taken voluntarily by the few companies that have deployed BPL systems have combined to minimize interference, the regulatory issue is by no means moot. The rules remain inadequate."

Sumner continued: "More than seven months after the Court remand, the FCC has done nothing to correct its errors, nor has it complied with the very specific instructions from the United States Court of Appeals. These instructions included the disclosure of the studies that it intentionally withheld from the public, but upon which it relied in adopting its rules. Indeed, the only step the Commission has taken since the Court's remand order is to mount an unsuccessful effort to oppose our claim for reimbursement of the printing costs for the briefs in the case -- a small fraction of the expenses incurred by the ARRL in our

appeal -- expenses that would not have been necessary had the Commission followed the law in the first place" <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=8338>.

* Other Findings by the Committee

The report also showed instances of where Chairman Martin "manipulated, withheld or suppressed data, reports and information," and said Martin's "manipulation [of another report] may have damaged the credibility of the Commission, and certainly undermined the integrity of the staff. Moreover, it was done with the purpose of affecting the congressional decision-making, in that it was issued as a report to Congress."

Saying that FCC matters have not been handled in an "open or transparent manner," the report said the FCC "rais[ed] suspicions both inside and outside the Commission that some parties and issues are not being treated fairly." The report stated that the Committee's impressions were "confirmed" when it discovered that Chairman Martin made a "preemptory reversal" of [a report's] conclusions and that Martin did not seek "further public comment or conduct further studies" thus giving the impression "that the issue was not handled fairly or openly."

The report also found that Chairman Martin's "heavy-handed, opaque and non-collegial management style has created distrust, suspicion and turmoil among the five current Commissioners." The report states that Martin does not afford his fellow Commissioners "direct and unfettered access to the Commission staff and their expert advice, thereby hindering the ability of other Commissioners to carry out the duties of their offices and the work of the Commission."

The report also found that Commission staff have not been "effectively managed." When Martin first became Chairman, he "imposed a major reshuffling of FCC staff throughout the agency." While the report said that a "certain amount of reorganization is not unprecedented" when a new Chairman begins his term, the reorganization "was highly unusual in both its breadth (nearly every senior position at the agency changed hands) and its depth (even a number on non-management line staffers found themselves inexplicably reassigned)." Calling it a "waste of resources, the report pointed out that senior employees with "extensive experience and expertise" were reassigned to junior-level positions; as a result, "it appears that some important Commission proceedings were delayed."

* Committee Methodology

Over the course of its investigation, the Committee staff reviewed "several hundred thousand documents, including 95 boxes of paper documents; conducted 73 interviews of current and former FCC employees and individuals associated with the telecommunications industry; solicited and received e-mails from FCC employees and contractors at a secure e-mail address established for this purpose, and reviewed dozens of allegations." The report pointed out that since the investigation, Chairman Martin has taken "some small steps" to address some of the

problems outlined in the report.

The Committee also emphasized that not everything they found is included in its report: "A few allegations were received so recently that they have not been investigated and are not included [in the report]. We have also excluded matters that seemed trivial per se. Still, other allegations have not been adequately investigated because the FCC has not yet produced all of the records requested by the Committee."

==> ARRL 10 METER CONTEST MEANS HF FUN FOR TECHNICIANS, TOO!

This weekend brings an opportunity for Technician licensees to exercise their HF privileges and have fun at the same time. The ARRL 10 Meter Contest is set to begin at 0000 UTC on Saturday December 13 (this is Friday evening in the US) and runs through 2359 UTC on Sunday, December 14 <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/10-meters.html>.

"Anyone having tuned across 10 meters lately might think the band is uninhabited," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, "but on Friday afternoon, activity will increase dramatically. We're at the bottom of the solar sunspot cycle, so the worldwide band openings of a few years ago won't be happening, but the 10 Meter Contest brings hundreds -- or more! -- of stations to the band."

Kutzko said that the contest "concentrates the activity, so all sorts of interesting contacts take place via local line-of-sight, sporadic-E and all kinds of scatter modes -- even meteor scatter!"

If you would like to try your hand at HF operating, Kutzko recommends a radio that can operate SSB (and CW, if you know Morse code) from 28.000 to about 28.500 MHz, as that's where most of the contest activity takes place; SSB activity will be between 28.300-28.500 MHz (listen to beacon stations located between 28.200-28.300 MHz to check for band openings).

If you need an antenna for 10 meters, ARRL Contributing Editor H. Ward Silver, N0AX, suggests using a full-size CB mobile whip trimmed to about 98 inches in length, but a dipole is also easy to make, he explains: "Cut two pieces of wire (any size from #12 to #20) to a length of 98 inches and strip the end of a piece of RG-8X or RG-213 coax. Solder the shield braid to one length of wire and the center conductor to the other. Stretch out the wires and attach each free end to an insulator, such as a piece of PVC pipe or Plexiglass. You've just made a dipole!" You should then attach some thin cord or rope to the opposite side of each insulator and then hoist the dipole up in the air between a couple of trees or whatever supports you have -- it doesn't have to be very high. Check out this article on how to make dipoles on the ARRL Web site.

Once you tune into the contest, Kutzko said, you'll hear stations calling "CQ Contest" and giving their call sign. Another station will call them and they'll transmit a short message called the exchange. US and Canadian amateurs give a signal report (just "59" will do fine) and their state. If you hear a DX station, likely to be from South America

or the Pacific -- they'll give the signal report and the sequential serial number (starting with 001) of the QSO in this contest (if you are their 187th QSO, you will receive "187" as part of their exchange to you). For example, if K7CEX hears W5KFT, the sequence might go like this:

CQ Contest from W5KFT
W5KFT from K7CEX
K7CEX you are 59 in Texas
W5KFT from K7CEX you are 59 in Washington
Thanks, CQ Contest from W5KFT

"Your best chances of making a contact are during the middle daylight hours of Saturday and Sunday, due to propagation considerations," Kutzko advises. "But I do have to warn you -- this simple contest can keep you busy for hours as you chase new states and even different countries!There is no need to sit on the sidelines for this fun event -- get on the air and enjoy your Technician license to the fullest!"

==> "THE DOCTOR IS IN" THE ARRL LETTER

This week, ARRL Letter readers are in luck! The ARRL's very own Doctor, author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is IN," answers a question from his mailbag:

Dave Wright, KB9MNM, of Montgomery, Illinois, asks: I would like to try CW using my PC. I have an all mode 2 meter radio with VOX (voice operated transmit switching) How would I wire this up to the sound card of a computer? Can I use the same configuration for low power radio projects, such as the Tuna-Tin 2 transmitter or the SoftRock receiver, or will I need a special interface device?

The Doctor Answers -- The radio-to-sound card interconnect requires two audio connections: A pair out of the radio (speaker or line out) to the sound card mic (or line in), and a pair from the sound card speaker or line out to the radio mic in, (or line in if it has one).

In both cases, the line level connections are preferred (if they are available) because they don't change in level every time you adjust your volume control. If you get tired of listening to the data tones, you can turn down your speaker volume and still have enough signal from your line out to drive the sound card.

In addition, you need to have a way of switching the radio from receive to transmit. That can be using the VOX (but be careful of strange computer voices (You've Got Mail!) that can also go out over the air. In the absence of VOX, you could even use a manual switch on your push to talk (PTT) line, but that would get cumbersome.

A sound card interface provides transformer isolation on the mic line, to help avoid hum pickup. Most importantly, it picks up the transmit command from the PC serial port and switches the radio PTT line for you, so you don't need to use the radio VOX function. Some allow you to

switch between mic and sound card, and also provide a separate gain control, so you don't have to change everything every time you go back to voice mode.

So you can start out with the simple connections, but if you use it a lot, you will likely want an interface eventually. All of the above applies to your 2 meter set, as well as most HF radios.

The tuna tin I'm thinking of is just a CW transmitter and thus doesn't do sounds at all, so you're kind of stuck. The soft rock is a receiver, so you can use a single cable from the receiver audio output to your sound card input and monitor what's going on while you have a chance to get used to the software choices. I recommend starting there, in any case.

Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via e-mail <doctor@arrl.org> or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST, the official journal of the ARRL.

==> FCC CALLS ON AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE FOR ASSISTANCE WITH DIGITAL TV CONVERSION

Earlier this month, the ARRL received a request from the FCC asking that ARRL members provide technical educational assistance to their communities concerning the FCC-mandated digital television (DTV) conversion scheduled for February 17, 2009 <http://www.dtv.gov/>.

According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Amateur Radio clubs across the country are being asked to develop and implement plans to provide information throughout January and February about the DTV conversion in their areas. The FCC is leaving it up to the clubs to decide how to do this, as local groups understand the communities in ways that the FCC does not. Each community is a little different, Pitts said, so plans carried out by the clubs will vary from community to community. Interested groups should contact their ARRL Section Manager.

Pitts stressed that hams should not make "house calls," sell any equipment or do actual installations; the request is only to distribute technical information and FCC materials. He commented: "As we all know, some folks just never get the message until too late. Materials for presentations, education and many other activities are available online <http://www.dtv.gov/outreach.html>. Beginning early January, FCC staff will contact Section Managers and leaders of interested clubs and, where possible, arrange to meet to share even more information, audio, visual and printed materials, as well as training aids, with the clubs involved this effort. We know the time is short, but your aid in this now will be appreciated."

In early January, Pitts said that the FCC will ask Section Managers for the names and contact information of the volunteering groups. The FCC staff will then make contact with the groups, learn their plans and

provide them with the media, brochures or other materials groups may need in this effort. FCC regional staff members may even come and visit with larger groups to aid in implementation of the group's plans.

"I really appreciate the willingness of the ARRL to actively participate in helping Americans with the transition to DTV and your helpful suggestions," said George Dillon, FCC Deputy Bureau Chief for Field Operations. "The DTV transition will be an historic moment in the evolution of TV. Broadcast television stations can offer viewers improved picture and sound quality and new programming choices. All-digital broadcasting also will allow us to significantly improve public safety communications and will usher in a new era of advanced wireless services such as the widespread deployment of wireless broadband. Our goal is to engage the amateur community on a cooperative basis to help with the DTV outreach and to educate consumers."

Dillon continued that local Amateur Radio clubs might consider offering technical advice to consumers via telephone to those consumers who may encounter difficulty with the installation and setting up of their converter box. "Any assistance...will greatly help in the efforts of the FCC to ensure a smooth transition to DTV on February 17, 2009."

Pitts advises interested groups to keep in mind that they are to provide technical educational help only: "At no time should the hams enter someone else's home or install equipment. They should not broker or sell conversion boxes in any way. Clubs can provide such things as a call-in telephone number for technical help, make presentations at meetings, do demonstrations at malls or give talks to other groups -- whatever works in their community."

==> FLEXRADIO DONATES SOFTWARE DEFINED RADIO TO W1AW

Thanks to the generosity of the crew at FlexRadio Systems <http://www.flex-radio.com/>, W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, now boasts a software-defined radio (SDR) -- a FLEX 5000A <http://www.flex-radio.com/Products.aspx?topic=F5Ka_details>. FlexRadio Vice President John Basilotto, W5GI, visited ARRL Headquarters on December 8 to present the radio.

"We are delighted that FlexRadio's generosity makes it possible for visitors to W1AW to experience the exciting direction in which SDR technology is taking radio communication," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. The radio, located in one of the three W1AW operating suites, will be available for guests to use when they visit W1AW.

According to Basilotto, the 5000A at W1AW is the first prototype (or beta unit) of the radio. Although the hardware in current production units is nearly the same as the first unit, Basilotto said that the beta 5000 is "a much better performer because of a continued stream of software updates."

W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, said he is excited to receive this new piece of equipment: "I really want to thank John and all the folks at FlexRadio for donating this nifty rig to W1AW. I know those hams who make the trek here to Newington will be lining up to use this new radio, especially when they can see what it is capable of doing. It will definitely be used a lot and I know our visitors will enjoy using the latest in ham radio technology."

Basilotto said that in recognition of what he called the ARRL's "considerable influence on Amateur Radio," FlexRadio Systems felt that W1AW should be equipped with the latest in software defined radio technology. "We believe that the FLEX 5000A will provide an enjoyable experience for the ARRL staff and guest operators for many years to come," he said.

==> ARRL THANKS DONORS WITH PUBLICATION GIFT CERTIFICATES

It's that time of year when we remember those people and organizations that are important to us all year long. "The generosity of members who support the ARRL with contributions to fund programs not covered by member dues are vital to the financial strength of the ARRL," said ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. "Thank you if you've made a recent contribution. If you've already made a contribution in 2008, I hope you'll consider making an additional gift before December 31."

"When you make a contribution of $25 or more to any ARRL fund before December 31, we will express our thanks and appreciation with a $10 ARRL Gift Certificate* that you can apply toward your next publication sales purchase," Hobart said. She noted that in these final weeks of 2008, a contribution of $25, $50, $100 or more will have a significant impact on the ARRL.

Place your contribution on our secure Web site <http://www.arrl.org/donation>, by mail or phone at 860-594-0397, and we'll send your $10 ARRL Gift Certificate right away; you can also click on the "Donate Today" button, located on the ARRL home page <http://www.arrl.org/>. However you choose to make your donation, you can designate your contribution to be allocated to any of the following ARRL funds:
* The ARRL Diamond Club <http://www.arrl.org/diamondclub>
* The Spectrum Defense Fund
* The Education and Technology Fund
* The Lab Fund
* The Historic Preservation Fund
* The ARRL General Fund

If you have any questions or require more information, please contact Hobart via e-mail <k1mmh@arrl.org> or by phone at 860-594-0397.

* About ARRL Gift Certificates: After making your contribution of $25 or more, your $10 ARRL Gift Certificate will be promptly mailed to you. Certificates must be redeemed by April 30, 2009. It is easy to redeem your certificate online, by mail or phone! This offer is valid on all

sale and regular-priced ARRL publications.

==> ARRL MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTERS, BULLETINS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than just The ARRL Letter? One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the ARRL Contest Update (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the ARES E-Letter (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News, the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter and the VE Newsletter, just to name a few.

You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplerian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service to members, letting them know when their membership and license are due to expire.

Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The Sun to me is dark and silent as the moon" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Finally! A sunspot group appeared this week, about three weeks since the last group disappeared. The first spotless day after sunspot group 1008's last appearance was Tuesday, November 18; the last spotless day before group 1009 emerged was Tuesday, December 9. As expected, this was another Solar Cycle 24 group, emerging far south of our Sun's equator. Sunspot numbers for December 4-10 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 13 with a mean of 1.9. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.6, 68.8, 69.1, 69, 68.5, 68.7 and 70.8 with a mean of 69.2. The estimated planetary A indices were 6, 10, 7, 6, 5, 0 and 2 with a mean of 5.1. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 7, 14, 6, 1, 1 and 2 with a mean of 5. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Milton's "Samson Agonistes" <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/samson/drama/index.shtml> .

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the ARRL 10 Meter Contest on December 13-14. The NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally is December 11-15. The MDXA PSK DeathMatch is December 13-14 and the SKCC Weekend Sprintathon is December 14. Next week, the AGB-Party Contest and the Russian 160 Meter Contest are on December 19. The OK DX RTTY Contest

and the Feld Hell Sprint are December 20. On December 20-21, look for the International Naval Contest and the Croatian CW Contest to be on the air. The Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party starts December 20 and goes through January 4. The ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint is December 21, the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is December 22 and the SKCC Sprint is December 24. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, December 21, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, January 2, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1, Radio Frequency Interference, Antenna Design and Construction, Technician License Course, Analog Electronics and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

* ARRL Headquarters Closed for Christmas, New Year's Holidays: ARRL Headquarters will be closed Thursday, December 25 and Thursday, January 1 in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day. There will be no W1AW bulletins or code practice transmissions those days. There will be no ARRL Letter or ARRL Audio News on Friday, December 26 or January 2. Headquarters will be open during regular business hours on Friday, December 26 and Friday, January 2. We wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season and a prosperous 2009.

* Former Wisconsin Section Manager Roy Pedersen, K9FHI (SK): Former Wisconsin Section Manager Roy A. Pedersen, K9FHI, passed away on December 3 from lung cancer. He was 84. Pedersen served as Section Manager from 1973-1984 and from 1996-1999. First licensed as KN9FHI in 1961, he loved camping and visiting hamfests and swapmeets around Wisconsin and going to meetings of the Wisconsin Nets Association to promote Amateur Radio and the ARRL. A QCWA member, Pedersen was active on many Wisconsin phone nets and served as a Net Control and traffic

handler. He also served as Assistant Emergency Coordinator for the ARES group in Dodge County, as well as an Official Relay Station, Official Emergency Station and ARRL Volunteer Examiner. Pedersen is survived by his wife Beryl, KA9BAC, and sons Gary, KA9BAE, and Michael, N9QMV. -- Information provided by former Wisconsin Section Manager Richard Regent, K9GDF

* Former Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager Allen Breiner Sr, W3TI (SK): Former Section Manager in the ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Allen R. Breiner Sr, W3TI, passed away on November 19, 2008. He was 88. Breiner was first elected as Section Communications Manager -- as the SM job used to be known -- in 1959 and held that post for 12 years. He was elected as SM in 1995 and re-elected in 1998 and 2000, but stepped down in December 2000. Breiner also served as EPA Public Information Officer from 1999-2000, Official Observer from 2001-2002 and Official Emergency Station from 1996-2000. "Allen was very active in Amateur Radio," said current EPA Section Manager Eric Olena, WB3FPL. "His presence will be missed by many." Breiner is survived by son Allen R Breiner Jr, W3ZRQ, daughters, Sylvia Seely and Linda Kunkel, and brother Eugene.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:

ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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1111. Re: The future of TVI

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-13 21:30:33 UTC
From: rick frazier <rickf@rickfrazier.com>
Message-ID: <49440806$0$867$9a6e19ea@unlimited.newshosting.com>
Source record: 2282

Doug Smith wrote:
> On Mon, 01 Dec 2008 19:53:07 -0500, Bill Beeman wrote:
>> I'm not sure it's going to work that way....
>>
>> If you are in a really strong signal area for the DTV, the problem
>> should be significantly less.
>>
>> However, as you approach weaker DTV signals the problem of the 'digital
>> cliff' appears. What seems to be a perfect signal to the neighbor's
>> signal may just vanish when the interfering signal is added, and I'd
>> expect the TV viewer to be much more offended by that than by a little
>> herringbone. This is based on putting in the first digital transmitter
>> in the SF Bay area in the late '90s.
>
> W0AIH's location, while not completely in the middle of nowhere, isn't
> exactly under the towers either. Especially for channels 8 and 13.
>
> I wonder if the typical viewer will ever figure out that the intermittent
>
> disappearance of signal is due to the nearby ham?
>

I know from direct experience that some people will try to blame you for anything they can if they know you're there. (Of course for every one of these there are probably more long suffering nice people).

I once had a "neighbor" about a half mile away that called FCC enough times to report me and result in a nice little letter from them. It seems that the neighbor was upset that I was disrupting his television service every morning around 0600 when he parked his kids in front of the one eyed babysitter. Needless to say, I was somewhat puzzled because I'm almost never on at that hour because I just don't get up that early and when I do it's to get ready for an early work schedule or go somewhere else for a Field Day...

After responding to the not-so-local office, I paid the neighbor a visit. Right away, I noticed his greenhouses had a lot of odd looking lights, and some of them were cycling on and off even at 0630 when I showed up. The AC wiring to them looked like it was cobbled together with whatever was left over from construction sites, and there wasn't even any visible ground connection for his power panel... (inside or out). I tried to explain that improper power to the grow lights could cause him the sort of problem he complained about, but he was adamant that it had been a problem, particularly during a two week period when I was on vacation and not even home.

I called the local building inspector and the power company and gave them the address, indicating that the wiring didn't appear to be to code and was likely causing conducted interference to others... Within a few weeks somebody had evidently been out to look, as the greenhouses were dark, and when they were lit again, the lights were all working and the cabling between the house and the greenhouses looked like it had been changed. I called him up and told him I sold the radio (about the time the greenhouses went dark) and he said the interference went away. Funny but it never came back when I transmitted, and I still have that radio I "sold"...

Of course, whether someone connects amateur operation to momentary outages of digital TV is another question, but I've had more than one person that claimed they had problems because an amateur antenna went up in the neighborhood...

--Rick AH7H

1112. Re: The future of TVI

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-14 01:12:32 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <78OdnSP8d8iDwdnUnZ2dnUVZ_vKdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2283

rick frazier wrote:
>
> Of course, whether someone connects amateur operation to momentary
> outages of digital TV is another question, but I've had more than one
> person that claimed they had problems because an amateur antenna went up
> in the neighborhood...

The common wisdom when I was using six meters in the Sixties was that
you had to wait two weeks after putting up a new skyhook, so that you
could shame anyone who complained by proving it wasn't connected yet.

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

1113. Re: The future of TVI

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-14 06:05:17 UTC
From: Doug Smith <joe@somewhere.invalid>
Message-ID: <ooidnT0AgdWQBdnUnZ2dnUVZ_jadnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2284

On Fri, 05 Dec 2008 11:24:50 -0500, Steve Bonine wrote:
> I don't have any objective technical data either, but I also believe
> that TVI in the digital TV world will be much less of a problem. I
> don't know how susceptible the converter boxes are to front-end
> overload, but at least the frequency difference is greater than it is
> between the 6-meter ham band and TV channel 2.

I don't really have a handle on this either.

Do note that the "low-band" channels 54-88MHz are NOT going away with digital -- there will still be digital TV stations on RF channel 2. Not nearly as many as there are analog stations today, but there *will* be some.

(and we really don't know what's going to happen in a year or two when the FCC lifts the freeze on applications for new TV stations. It will be

possible to allot a bunch of new stations in this 54-88MHz band -- will anyone think they can make any money that way?)

--
/home/w9wi/.sig

1114. Re: The future of TVI

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-14 16:12:13 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <Su6dnf8SBKgQi9jUnZ2dnUVZ_rHinZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2285

Doug Smith wrote:

> Do note that the "low-band" channels 54-88MHz are NOT going away with
> digital -- there will still be digital TV stations on RF channel 2. Not
> nearly as many as there are analog stations today, but there *will* be
> some.

Thank you for sharing that nugget of information <sigh>. I didn't look; silly me, I thought that someone had learned from problems caused by the proximity of channel 2 and the 6-meter amateur band.

> (and we really don't know what's going to happen in a year or two when
> the FCC lifts the freeze on applications for new TV stations. It will be
> possible to allot a bunch of new stations in this 54-88MHz band -- will
> anyone think they can make any money that way?)

I'm inclined to think that all the new digital programming streams have taken care of any demand for new channels for a good long time. One of our local public TV stations is maintaining four separate digital channels. I'm not complaining, but I am a bit surprised that they expanded as much as they did.

Then there's the pressure from cable. If someone thinks that they can make money by attracting humans to their programming, it's more likely that they'll start a new cable station with a huge potential viewing audience than start a new traditional TV station with only a limited potential audience. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised to see local stations folding over the next few years just as we are seeing local newspapers in trouble.

73, Steve KB9X

1115. Re: The future of TVI

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-14 20:11:20 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <gi3o0r023u2@news6.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2286

rick frazier wrote:
> Of course, whether someone connects amateur operation to momentary
> outages of digital TV is another question, but I've had more than one
> person that claimed they had problems because an amateur antenna went up
> in the neighborhood...

Does anyone have a scan or a copy of the original "Hatlow's They'll do
it every time." comic where someone is complaining about the local ham
messing up the doctor's diathermy machine?

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

1116. Re: The future of TVI

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-15 03:18:37 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <6qlf47Fd505mU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2287

In news:49440806$0$867$9a6e19ea@unlimited.newshosting.com,
rick frazier <rickf@rickfrazier.com> typed, for some strange, unexplained
reason:

[snip]

: I know from direct experience that some people will try to blame you
: for anything they can if they know you're there. (Of course for
: every one of these there are probably more long suffering nice
: people).
:
: I once had a "neighbor" about a half mile away that called FCC enough
: times to report me and result in a nice little letter from them. It
: seems that the neighbor was upset that I was disrupting his television
: service every morning around 0600 when he parked his kids in front of
: the one eyed babysitter. Needless to say, I was somewhat puzzled
: because I'm almost never on at that hour because I just don't get up
: that early and when I do it's to get ready for an early work schedule
: or go somewhere else for a Field Day...

When I was studying for my licence in 1982 there was a guy who had more
money than sense in our class. Long before he even took the exam never
mind passed it he put up a 3 element HF tribander on a 60ft tower in his
garden.

Lo and behold no sooner had he done this than several of his neighbours
complained to him about TVI. The funny thing was, as he explained, was
that he hadn't even connected any feeder to it, never mind transmitted ;-)

73 Ivor G6URP

1117. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-15 07:00:04 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1229324402@panix.com>
Source record: 2288
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.8 2008/11/27 18:50:32
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
```

promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. Crossposts of regular discussion articles between rec.radio.amateur.moderated and other discussion newsgroups are not permitted.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/ announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers, and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header, containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the moderators if one is not already provided.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely advertisements or other public relations | campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or | reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be | permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked | to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such | products or services. |

Mentions of small amounts of free items for giveaway will be permitted on an occasional basis from casual, non-commercial owners, and at the discretion of the moderators. The items should be free except for reasonable direct costs such as shipping, must be directly amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable condition, and be practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is intended as a common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, provided that it doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion newsgroup with classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in salvage condition.

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2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly advertisements or other public relations campaigns are not permitted. | However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information | is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing | thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no | information about what a user should expect to find there will be | rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for | rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which | itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as | a URL containing embedded name-calling). |

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar

government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Due to Usenet newgroup access being eliminated at many ISP's, including MSN, AOL, RoadRunner, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast, we are starting to receive many article submissions asking about free or low-cost alternatives for accessing Usenet newsgroups such as ours. We initially permitted this topic in light of the significant impact to many of our readers due to this loss of access through their ISP's. However, this subject is arguably off-topic for our newsgroup, is better answered by other sources, and better discussed in other venues. Because of this, we will no longer approve submissions that request or suggest where to obtain access to Usenet newsgroups. For more information about this topic, please consult the following:

- The last approved thread of discussion about this topic on our newsgroup from October 2008:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/19770b88ec527aff/8dcee92de293f615?hl=en#8dcee92de293f615

- A list of Public News Servers at the Open Directory Project:

http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Usenet/Public_News_Servers/

- An article with links and reader suggestions at Broadband Reports:

http://www.broadbandreports.com/shownews/96318

- Google Groups:

http://groups.google.com

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team does not endorse or recommend any particular News Service Provider (NSP). We encourage our readers to choose the free or subscription service that best meets their own personal needs based on their own evaluation of the available alternatives.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

1118. An interesting RF environment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-17 07:21:07 UTC
From: David Lesher <wb8foz@panix.com>
Message-ID: <gia98sfsg1@reader1.panix.com>
Source record: 2289

You might have heard; there's a small party scheduled on the National Mall
on 20 January. Depending on who you ask, 2 to 5 million people are expected.
[DC is frantically looking for parking for 10,000 tour buses, is borrowing
four thousand cops, etc.]

Now consider that some significant percentage of them will be carrying cell
phones; and likely calling each other or home... not to mention trying
to send pictures...

While the cell carriers are running PR about how they'll bring in mobile
cellsites on wheels, etc; I suspect that the systems will fall over just
trying to poll all those units and carry the registrations, much less
carrying any traffic.

"May you live in interesting [RF] times.." seems applicable.

Bring your 2-mtr handheld. I bet it will work better...

--
A host is a host from coast to coast.................wb8foz@nrk.com
& no one will talk to a host that's close........[v].(301) 56-LINUX
Unless the host (that isn't close).........................pob 1433
is busy, hung or dead....................................20915-1433

1119. Re: An interesting RF environment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-17 15:39:28 UTC
From: Patty Winter <patty1@wintertime.com>
Message-ID: <49491d28$0$1634$742ec2ed@news.sonic.net>
Source record: 2290

In article <gia98sfsg1@reader1.panix.com>,
David Lesher <wb8foz@panix.com> wrote:
>
>You might have heard; there's a small party scheduled on the National Mall
>on 20 January. Depending on who you ask, 2 to 5 million people are expected.
>four thousand cops, etc.]

Oh yeah, that little upcoming party. :-)

>Now consider that some significant percentage of them will be carrying cell
>phones; and likely calling each other or home... not to mention trying
>to send pictures...

Anyone here know offhand what the bandwidth is (on average; I imagine
that resolution varies from phone to phone) for photos vs. voice on a
cell phone?

>While the cell carriers are running PR about how they'll bring in mobile
>cellsites on wheels, etc; I suspect that the systems will fall over just
>trying to poll all those units and carry the registrations, much less
>carrying any traffic.

Perhaps you've already answered this question with your comments about
polling and registration, David (I'm not up on all the cell phone
terminology), but does it exacerbate the problem for the carriers if
most of the phones are roaming rather than in their home areas? Does
it take more time for the cell software to figure out who's making
a connection and what to do with it if it's not a local phone?

>"May you live in interesting [RF] times.." seems applicable.
>
>Bring your 2-mtr handheld. I bet it will work better...

I hope that anyone from this group who attends the inauguration
(or gets within a couple miles of it!) will post reports on how
their HTs did vs. their cell phones. That would be interesting!

Patty N6BIS

1120. Re: An interesting RF environment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-17 17:02:29 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <8dadndx8-ckBrdTUnZ2dnUVZ_sudnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2291

Patty Winter wrote:

> I hope that anyone from this group who attends the inauguration
> (or gets within a couple miles of it!) will post reports on how
> their HTs did vs. their cell phones. That would be interesting!

Or if they get them through security checkpoints.

73, Steve KB9X

1121. Re: An interesting RF environment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-17 21:57:10 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <6qt0cfFekhphU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2292

In news:gia98sfsg1@reader1.panix.com,
David Lesher <wb8foz@panix.com> typed, for some strange, unexplained
reason:

[snip]

: While the cell carriers are running PR about how they'll bring in
: mobile cellsites on wheels, etc; I suspect that the systems will fall
: over just trying to poll all those units and carry the registrations,
: much less carrying any traffic.

Not to mention the dozens if not hundreds of channels used by the security
services, mostly I expect on VHF and UHF frequencies.

: "May you live in interesting [RF] times.." seems applicable.
:
: Bring your 2-mtr handheld. I bet it will work better...

If you're not arrested for behaving suspiciously ;-) Although as I
refrained from telling one police officer who stopped me while I was
walking down the street using my 2m handheld, if I was planning to blow
something up, wouldn't I be using a phone and trying to blend in, rather
than standing out like the proverbial sore thumb on a VHF handheld..?!

73 Ivor G6URP

1122. Re: An interesting RF environment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-17 23:23:40 UTC
From: Patty Winter <patty1@wintertime.com>
Message-ID: <4949785b$0$1615$742ec2ed@news.sonic.net>
Source record: 2293

In article <6qt0cfFekhphU1@mid.individual.net>,
Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote:
>
>Although as I
>refrained from telling one police officer who stopped me while I was
>walking down the street using my 2m handheld, if I was planning to blow
>something up, wouldn't I be using a phone and trying to blend in, rather
>than standing out like the proverbial sore thumb on a VHF handheld..?!

A few months ago, I was going through security at Parliament in
Ottawa, and after my purse went through the X-ray machine, a guard
pulled out my eight-year-old cellphone and asked whether it was a
radio. ;-) Not a dumb question, considering that it had a stub
antenna sticking out of it, which none of the current models do.
I finally broked down and bought a new phone a few weeks ago. :-)

Patty

1123. Re: An interesting RF environment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-17 23:24:08 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <bb8bdded-e819-486c-955e-e8239af6d98a@u18g2000pro.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2294

On Dec 17, 9:39 am, Patty Winter <pat...@wintertime.com> wrote:
> In article <gia98s$fs...@reader1.panix.com>,
> David Lesher <wb8...@panix.com> wrote:
>
>
>
> >You might have heard; there's a small party scheduled on the National Ma
ll
> >on 20 January. Depending on who you ask, 2 to 5 million people are expec
ted.
> >four thousand cops, etc.]
>
> Oh yeah, that little upcoming party. :-)
>
> >Now consider that some significant percentage of them will be carrying c
ell
> >phones; and likely calling each other or home... not to mention trying
> >to send pictures...
>
> Anyone here know offhand what the bandwidth is (on average; I imagine
> that resolution varies from phone to phone) for photos vs. voice on a
> cell phone?

There are multiple protocols and bandwidths in use, so this is a
difficult thing to answer. Needless to say, the spectrum space is a
limited resource and usually the "digital" or data modes run in much
lower priority than your avarage voice circuit. SMS and MMS messages
get stored and sent when possible. That's not to say a voice circuit
would be more reliable. When conditions are such that there is more
demmand than call slots, voice calls will be routinely dumped (i.e.
disconnected).

>
> >While the cell carriers are running PR about how they'll bring in mobile
> >cellsites on wheels, etc; I suspect that the systems will fall over just
> >trying to poll all those units and carry the registrations, much less
> >carrying any traffic.
>
> Perhaps you've already answered this question with your comments about
> polling and registration, David (I'm not up on all the cell phone
> terminology), but does it exacerbate the problem for the carriers if
> most of the phones are roaming rather than in their home areas? Does
> it take more time for the cell software to figure out who's making
> a connection and what to do with it if it's not a local phone?
>

All this happens at the MSC that is responsible for the cell tower your phone happens to be using and it is generally done once when the phone shows up in the MSC's area. What happens is the MSC sends out a query to the your carrier asking for your billing information. This information is maintained in your HLR (Home Location Register) who's address can be determined by the information contained in your phone's ID. Once your billing information is located (and validated), the MSC puts it in a VLR (Visitor Location Register) that it maintains of any handsets it is currently servicing. The HLR keeps a record of where your handset is so any incoming calls can be routed to you.

All this VLR/HLR stuff happens before you ever see any signal show up on your phone display, so when you start making a call, there is not much to do but assign your call a slot, connect the voice path, time the call and then cut the billing record when you are done.

I'm just guessing, but I'll bet that voice cell service will be very spotty at best for a number of reasons. First, the system will be overloaded as you expect. But second I'd be suprised if the service isn't jamed for security reasons along with most of the spectrum space. Yes, the secret service can do that you know.

Third, I'll bet that SMS (AKA Text) and MMS messages will be more reliable means of communicating. These things get stored and forwarded as traffic permits, so they won't be cut off when you walk 10 feet and move to a cell that doesn't have any call slots left and get cut off. The message will be stored until the MSC can find a time to get it to your handset.

I'll bet that if you have an HT, it will be far more ueseful on voice than the cell phone in your pocket. If they don't jam those frequencies too. :)

-= bob =-

1124. Re: An interesting RF environment

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-18 07:02:56 UTC
From: Tom Horne <hornetd@verizon.net>
Message-ID: <Rzk2l.386$P5.265@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2295

I would wager a lot that no intentional government jamming will take
place because a whole lot of Government people will be using the system
including some that have been provided with priority access codes by the
Department of Homeland Security. There calls will go through because
the system will dump any regular cell phone call that it needs to in
order to give a priority coded call access to the system. Priority
access codes have to be invoked call by call so having a code does not
give you priority access unless you invoke the codes transmission
manually by using a memory recall function on your handset. Fire
Chiefs, Police Chiefs, and local government Chief Executives are
examples of persons who are eligible to have a priority code issued to
them. Misuse can cause your code to be disabled.

I have personal friends and colleagues that are uniformed Secret Service
and US Park Police officers and they say they have never heard of the
secret service jamming anything. These are guys I have carried patients
out of three floor walk ups with because they were members of my
volunteer fire department or worked for the same private ambulance
company as I did low these many years ago. If they were forbidden to
talk about it they wouldn't lie to me they would just say "I'm not
allowed to talk about that."

I do expect that we will be running a directed net on the KV3B,
146.955-, no CTCSS required, repeater that has a slave receiver site
just south of the national mall. When all of our equipment is working,
as it is right now, we have HT coverage of the entire mall and downtown
Washington, DC area at street level. Repeater description is available
at <www.marcclub.org>.
--
Tom Horne, W3TDH

"This alternating current stuff is just a fad. It is much too dangerous
for general use." Thomas Alva Edison

C4UAI wrote:
> On Dec 17, 9:39 am, Patty Winter <pat...@wintertime.com> wrote:
>> In article <gia98s$fs...@reader1.panix.com>,
>> David Lesher <wb8...@panix.com> wrote:
>>
>>
>>
>>> You might have heard; there's a small party scheduled on the National Mall
>>> on 20 January. Depending on who you ask, 2 to 5 million people are expected.
>>> four thousand cops, etc.]
>> Oh yeah, that little upcoming party. :-)

>>
>>> Now consider that some significant percentage of them will be carrying cell
>>> phones; and likely calling each other or home... not to mention trying
>>> to send pictures...
>> Anyone here know offhand what the bandwidth is (on average; I imagine
>> that resolution varies from phone to phone) for photos vs. voice on a
>> cell phone?
>
> There are multiple protocols and bandwidths in use, so this is a
> difficult thing to answer. Needless to say, the spectrum space is a
> limited resource and usually the "digital" or data modes run in much
> lower priority than your avarage voice circuit. SMS and MMS messages
> get stored and sent when possible. That's not to say a voice circuit
> would be more reliable. When conditions are such that there is more
> demmand than call slots, voice calls will be routinely dumped (i.e.
> disconnected).
>
>>> While the cell carriers are running PR about how they'll bring in mobile
>>> cellsites on wheels, etc; I suspect that the systems will fall over just
>>> trying to poll all those units and carry the registrations, much less
>>> carrying any traffic.
>> Perhaps you've already answered this question with your comments about
>> polling and registration, David (I'm not up on all the cell phone
>> terminology), but does it exacerbate the problem for the carriers if
>> most of the phones are roaming rather than in their home areas? Does
>> it take more time for the cell software to figure out who's making
>> a connection and what to do with it if it's not a local phone?
>>
>
> All this happens at the MSC that is responsible for the cell tower
> your phone happens to be using and it is generally done once when the
> phone shows up in the MSC's area. What happens is the MSC sends out a
> query to the your carrier asking for your billing information. This
> information is maintained in your HLR (Home Location Register) who's
> address can be determined by the information contained in your phone's
> ID. Once your billing information is located (and validated), the MSC
> puts it in a VLR (Visitor Location Register) that it maintains of any
> handsets it is currently servicing. The HLR keeps a record of where
> your handset is so any incoming calls can be routed to you.
>
> All this VLR/HLR stuff happens before you ever see any signal show up
> on your phone display, so when you start making a call, there is not
> much to do but assign your call a slot, connect the voice path, time
> the call and then cut the billing record when you are done.
>
> I'm just guessing, but I'll bet that voice cell service will be very
> spotty at best for a number of reasons. First, the system will be
> overloaded as you expect. But second I'd be surprised if the service
> isn't jammed for security reasons along with most of the spectrum
> space. Yes, the secret service can do that you know.

>
> Third, I'll bet that SMS (AKA Text) and MMS messages will be more
> reliable means of communicating. These things get stored and
> forwarded as traffic permits, so they won't be cut off when you walk
> 10 feet and move to a cell that doesn't have any call slots left and
> get cut off. The message will be stored until the MSC can find a time
> to get it to your handset.
>
> I'll bet that if you have an HT, it will be far more ueseful on voice
> than the cell phone in your pocket. If they don't jam those
> frequencies too. :)
>
> -=ob =-
>

1125. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1636 - December 19, 2008

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-19 14:29:01 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20081219012646.017f2c88@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2296
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1636 - December 19, 2008

Ladies and gentlemen, with some thank-you's to our listeners, here's amateur Radio Newsline's Support Fund Administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

--

During the 3-month period of January through March of 2008 we heard from our regular contributors Benton Bonney, W4PE of Orlando, Florida; Joseph Bartzi, Jr., KC8DKF of Columbus, OH; Frank Hemko of Harrods Creek KY; William Walters, WA2IBM, and Scott Hensley of the Area Communications Team, both in San Jose, California; Stephen Perluss and the South Orange County Amateur Society in Mission Viejo, California.

We also heard fro the Greensboro, North Caolina ARS, W4GSO; the Tampa Florida ARC; t he Reading, PA ARC, W3BN; K6OX, the Antelope Valley ARC in Lancaster and the Conejo Valley ARC based in Thousand Oaks, California who passed the hat on our behalf at their holiday party.

During this season of giving and thanks we at Newsline are thankful of our listeners who give. Give to keep these up-to-the minute newscasts on the air. We've made it easy for you to do so through PayPal at our website arnewsline.org. Or you can help directly at our address which will be given at the end of this newscast. Either way, you will help continue a 31 year tradition of getting you the news of Amateur Radio first.

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, and the very best of holidays to you.

--

Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1636 with a release date of Friday, December 19th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The ARRL Antenna Defense Fund donates $5000 to help a California ham in his suit against a the city of Palmdale, Switzerland gives it hams access to 6 meters, South Africa to host 2011 I-A-R-U Region One conference, go Q-R-P with a tree -- and -- a musical trip to a rare DXpedition spot highlight Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1636 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO LAW: ARRL ANTENNA DEFENE FUND MAKES $5000 DONATION TO WB6X LAWSUIT

The ARRL's Amateur Radio Legal Defense and Assistance Committee has voted to contribute $5,000 toward the costs of a lawsuit against the City of Palmdale California. This, after the city forces a ham to take down his antenna after issuing a permit for him to put it up. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has been following this case and has the latest:

--

The suit against the city of Palmdale was filed by ARRL Volunteer Counsel Len Shaffer, WA6QHD, on behalf of Alec Zubarau, WB6X. Zubaru, who lives in the city located about 55 miles north-east of Los Angeles was forced by to remove an antenna tower erected under a previously issued and valid building permit. The permit revocation followed complaints of radio frequency interference by some of Alec's neighbors. Those complaints were never substantiated and, in any case, are a matter of federal preemption and not within the jurisdiction of the city.

Over $1,500 had already been contributed by clubs and their members from throughout the ARRL's Southwestern Division. This contribution from the League-managed Antenna Defense Fund is meant to further help defray the expenses of preparing for the February, 2009 court date. Even with attorney Len Shaffer performing the legal work free of charge, just compiling the record to present in court can be costly.

The Chairman of the ARRL Defense Committee is Jay Bellows, Kï¿½QB. Bellows noted that, although the case has not yet reached the appellate level, the egregious nature of Palmdale's actions, including ordering removal of a previously approved antenna tower, the potential impact on a large number of amateurs and the existence of substantial local financial support from the ham community were significant factors in the Committee's decision to provide support for this case.

Meantime it appears as if Palmdale is trying to play a political get even game with its local ham radio community over the Zubaru matter. Shortly after issuing the WB6X permit revocation order, the City of Palmdale began drafting an amended antenna ordinance. One that places severe restrictions on all Amateur Radio antennas. This includes a height limit of only one inch above a buildings roof.

The draft was released just before Thanksgiving, and a hearing was scheduled for December 4th. At the request of ARRL Vice-Director Marty Woll, N6VI, who attended the Palmdale Planning Commission meeting along with about a dozen local hams and supporters, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, wrote a lengthy letter to the City Attorney pointing out numerous flaws in the proposed ordinance. Imlay's letter also explained why many of its provisions are unenforceable due to federal and state preemption. Thanks to help from Keith Hoyt K6GXO, Eugene Humphreys KG6SLC and others in the Antelope Valley Amateur Radio Club, Woll has an opportunity to meet with management of the Palmdale Public Safety Department, which is supportive of hams. He and Hoyt are also scheduled to meet with the Planning Department and Assistant City Attorney in early January.

Unfortunately, the restrictive nature of the proposed ordinance has made it a hot topic on ham radio Internet chat sites. Much of the information appears to be hearsay. Some of it is simply opinions that others consider to be fact even though many of the posters live thousands of miles away and really have no idea of what the situation is.

Obviously they can have no idea of the organized effort that local hams in concert with ARRL officials are working on to bring the matter to a positive conclusion for the hams of Palmdale. As such far better way for those outside of the region to show support for the Palmdale ham radio community is to make a donation to the W6BX Defense Support Fund. Checks should be made payable to Leonard J. Shaffer, Esq. P.O. Box 570936, Tarzana, CA 91357. Make certain to include the words "WB6X Defense Fund" on the memo line.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

If we at Newsline may be permitted to express an editorial comment. With local hams along with ARRL division and national representatives devoting considerable time and resources toward resolving the issue, any direct intervention by outsiders can only put Palmdale into a position where, politically, it cannot back away from its hard line stand. If that happens it could very easily force the Palmdale ham radio community to spend thousands if not tens of thousands of dollars in litigation fees fighting the matter in the federal courts. And that's the last thing the hams of Palmdale want to have happen. Please respect their wishes as you would want them to respect your. End of editorial. (ARNewsline(tm) from information supplied by ARRL Southwestern Division)

**

RADIO LAW: SAN DIEGO TOWER HEIGHT ISSUE

Still in California, the City of San Diego has also proposed a modification of its antenna zoning rules. Up to now, ham antennas have not been subject to the height restrictions applicable to buildings and other structures. Under the modification, however, those restrictions will apply unless the amateur obtains a time-consuming and cost-prohibitive Process Three Site Development Permit.

A Three Site Development Permit requires very specific site plans, engineering studies, public hearings, and perhaps hiring a land use attorney. And after all of this an applicant may be denied the request for a height increase.

Attorney Larry Serra, N6NC, San Diego DX Club President Glenn Rattmann, K6NA, Section Manager Steve Early, AD6VI, and others are staying on top of this proposal, which has a short comment deadline of January 2, 2009. The San Diego ham community has also engaged the services of a prominent local land-use attorney to prepare and file a comment on their behalf. Also, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, is preparing a formal League response to the City.

More on both of these issues in future, Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (ARNewsline(tm) from information supplied by ARRL Southwestern Division)

**

RESTRUCTURING: SWITZERLAND ALLOCATES 6 METERS TO HAM RADIO ON JANUARY 1

Some good news for hams in Switzerland. Swiss telecommunications authorities will allocate the 50 MHz band to amateur radio on a secondary basis beginning January 1, 2009.

Swiss and foreign CEPT class licensees will be permitted to transmit with up to 100 watts PEP on 50 to 52 MHz without any antenna restrictions. The one caveat is that primary users may not be disturbed. This includes some TV stations active on the VHF band I in Northern Italy. (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT: SOUTH AFRICA TO HOST 2011 IARU REGION 1 CONFERENCE
Sun City in South Africa will host the next IARU Region 1 Conference in 2011. The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club website reports that the IARU Region 1 Conference meeting in Cavtat, Croatia held a ballot to choose the venue for 2011. Of the 47 votes cast, there were 22 to Sun City, 15 to Malaga and 10 votes to Hatfield.
According to the DARC's website. newly elected secretary Dennis Green, ZS4BS was visibly surprised. He's quoted as saying that the delegates would be welcome in South Africa. (IARU, Southgate)

**

BREAK 1

Wishing you a most joyous holiday season, from Auckland New Zealand and Los Angeles California, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Peace River Repeater Association system serving Punta Gorda Florida.

(5 sec pause here)

**

KIDS IN THE NEWS: YACHT RECRUITS ITS FIRST INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

A contest club for youngsters has its first members overseas. Rebecca Bruce has the details:

--

The Young Amateur Contest Ham Team, better known by the acronym yacht has invited to young South African amateurs to join their group. 11 year old Mitchell Mynhard, ZU6M, and his 9 year old sister Melinda, ZU6MM will be the groups first international members.

The Young Amateur Contest Ham Team was founded by Ed Engleman, KG8CX, of Memoniee, Michigan. Its purpose is to generate interest in contesting

among younger hams and to foster a greater appreciation of the role that younger license holders play in the overall hobby of amateur radio.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Rebecca Bruce, in Los Angeles.

--

More information on The Young Amateur Contest Ham Team is at the groups website. Its on-line at www.wd8dx.com /yacht.htm (YACHT)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: ARMAD RECEIVES SPECIAL FLAG

The sponsor of Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day -- better known as ARMAD -- has received a flag that flew over Camp Fallujah, Iraq by U.S. Marines, and other United States service members.

The December 14th delivery of the flag to ARMAD though its founder Emory McClendon, KB9IBW, was made possible by Mary Ellen Wooten of the organization "From Us To You." This is a military support group that sends packages to our Troops that are deployed.

ARMAD has worked with "From Us To You" and the Albamarle Amateur Radio Club over the past few years on several projects. Among its involvement it has set up a live station at one of their events using amateur radio. This, so that U.S. troops could hear the voices of Americans expressing support for them.

You can learn more about "From Us To You" on the Web at www dot fromustoyou dot us. More information regarding ARMAD at www.armad.net. (ARMAD)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS ASSIST DURING NORTHEAST ICE STORM

Ham radio was called out the evening of Thursday, December 11th into Friday December 12th. This as a major ice storm accompanied by freezing rains hit the New England states. Called into action were ARES, RACES, SKYWARN and MARS. All four groups responded to calls for assistance from served agencies and then participated in the recovery phase of the storm. Hardest hit were Western, Central and Northeast Massachusetts, as well as parts of New Hampshire and Maine. A full report on what hams did is on line at the ARRL website at www.arrl.org. (ARRL)

**

RESCUE RADIO: NEW RAC ARES OPERATIONS TRAINING MANUAL

The recently introduced Radio Amateurs of Canada A-R-E-S Operations Training Manual has met with widespread approval from the amateur radio community and is even being requested by Emcomm groups in other countries. Because of this plans are that it will be printed in a handy and portable hard copy form early in 2009. Once published, the new training resource will be offered for sale on the Radio Amateurs of Canada on-line

store. It will continue to be available for downloading, free of charge, at www.rac.ca/fieldorg/RACARESTrainingManual.htm. (RAC)

**

RESCUE RADIO: RAC ANNOUNCES EMCOMM E-MAIL ALERT SYSTEM

The Radio Amateurs of Canada Field Services Organization has also created an ARES-Alert system for Radio Amateurs who are part of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service or other Canadian Emcomm unit. The e mail based system is being provided as a means to alert Canadian radio amateurs of emergencies or disasters, or threat of same, where ham radio emergency services are or may be required. It will also serve to advise stations of the need to avoid or monitor frequencies that are being used in an emergency event anywhere in the world. (RAC)

**

HOLIDAY HAM RADIO: OPERATION SANTA CLAUS IN FLORIDA

Operation Santa Claus continues as Christmas Approaches and it was recognized this week by a Florida news service. The Tampa Bay 10 Connection says that the Bay Care Emergency Amateur Radio group in Tampa recently used amateur radio to connect kids at St Joseph's Children's Hospital with Saint Nick so that they could put in their special gift requests.

Len Calahan who is the Senior Maintenance Mechanic for the hospital and a member of the radio club. He told Tampa Bay 10 that the north pole's a long way away and cell phones up there. So he and other club members use ham radio as substitute.

Another club member is Bob McElroy, who goes room to room letting kids make Christmas requests through a two way hand held. He says that whether they understand the technology or not, they are hearing Santa Claus and that's making a little bit of a difference in their lives.

This is the first year the St. Joseph's Children's Hospital has had ham radio connect kids to Santa. The call signs of the hams involved were not included in the Tampa Bay 10 Connection report. (eHam, TampaBay 10 Connection)

**

D-STAR NEWS: SUPPORT NET EXCEEDS 600 AND GROWING

There are now more than 600 radio amateurs world-wide posting to the D-Star on-line forum and the number seems to increase every day.

Since the introduction of www.dstarforum.com earlier this year, membership and site usage has been increasing drastically. D-Star usage has also shown a marked increase since the introduction of the DV Dongle giving hams a relatively inexpensive and easy way to gain the benefits of D-Star from home.

www.dstarforum.com holds a weekly D-Star net on reflector 5A on Saturdays at 19.00 UTC. This net, chaired by G0KSC and all D-Star enthusiasts are invited to join in. (News release)

**

WORLDBEAT: CHU CANADA TO CHANGE FREQUENCY TO 7850 KHZ

After seventy years of broadcasting Canada's official time, shortwave station CHU will move the transmission frequency for the 7335 kHz transmitter to 7850 kHz. This, to avoid interference to its operations as the result of band allocation changes approved by the International Telecommunications Union back in April 2007.

CHU is a part of Canada's National Research Council's system for disseminating official time throughout that nation. It broadcasts 24 hours a day from a location approximately 20 kilometers south-west of Ottawa. Transmissions include tones to mark the seconds, voice to announce the time in French and English, and digital data to interface with computers.

The frequency change to CHU change will occur on January 1st, 2009 at 0000 UTC. More is on-line at www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca (W8HDU)

**

WORLDBEAT: UK TIME STATION CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE

The UK based M-S-F 60 kHz time and frequency signal broadcast was to be shut down from 1000 UTC to 1400 UTC on December 11th. The interruption to the transmission was required to allow scheduled maintenance work to be carried out. Additional information is on their website at www.npl.co.uk/time. (RSGB, Southgate)

**

ON THE AIR: NORTH AMERICAN TRAFFIC AND AWARDS NET RETURNS

After an absence of more than three decades the North American Traffic and Awards Net is returning to the ham bands. The net resumes operation on New Years Day, January 1, 2009 at 11 p.m. Eastern Standard Ttime.

In addition to its normal operations, the net will also be handling formal message traffic at the outset of each session and welcome all stations with messages to be passed to join it nightly on 3 point 905 MHz. The net has also created an award to recognize stations for bringing and passing message traffic.

The North American Traffic and Awards Net was founded back in 1976 to assist hams trying to earn the ARRL Bicentennial Worked All States Award. Its new goal is to assist in the ARRL's new Triple Play Award announced by the League a few weeks ago. (Press release)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. This week, from beneath the Southern Cross, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO SAFETY: EMI MAY HAVE CAUSED AIRPLANE TO DIVE

Electromagnetic interference can make it impossible for hams to communicate, but aviation authorities want to know if it almost caused a Quantas airline flight almost falling out of the sky. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, reports:

--

WORLDBEAT - AUSTRALIA: EMI MAY HAVE CAUSED AIRPLANE TO DIVE

This the incident occurred last month as a Qantas Airbus A330 flew off West Australians coast en route from Singapore to Perth. A preliminary report into the incident, by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, says that there is a possibility that transmissions from the Harold E Holt Naval Communications Station interfered with aircraft onboard electronic systems.

The review board is also investigating the possibility that passenger electronic devices aboard the aircraft caused the problem but admits that both are unlikely. That said, it cannot rule either out at this stage.

--

Experts in the field of electromagnetic interference are deeply divided on whether or not random EMI could cause an incident such as this. (Science On_line)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: NEW NAND FLASH MEMORY SYSTEM FROM MICRON

Micron Technology has introduced a new serial NAND flash memory technology. One that the company said will enable easier and more cost- effective expansion of storage capacity for embedded applications in products like television set-top boxes, DVRs, printers and even automobile navigation systems.

The technology, with a chip density starting at 1 gigabit, improves on traditional NOR flash, which typically tops out at a density of 128 megabytes. Company officials said that as many embedded applications transition from merely decoding information to more sophisticated operations like managing multimedia, photos and other data-intensive content, the need for cheap and easy storage expansion is increasingly important. (Press Release)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: THEY CALL IT TREE POWER

Imagine being able to run a QRP station by powering it from a near-by tree. Sound strange? Well that's one of the possible uses for an emerging
technology called tree power. Jim Linton, VK3PC of the WIA News explains:

--

A voltage difference exits between a tree and the ground. Researchers have found that the metabolism of a tree works to maintain the voltage difference, whether it's day or night, rain or shine all year round.

Up to two volts is available, enough to trickle-charge a battery or power a wireless transmitter.

Tree-power will be helping to collect improved local climate data that is essential for computerized fire modeling.

The United States Forest Service is about to field test a tree-powered wireless network. It looks like being an alternative to installing intrusive solar panels in a forest.

The bio-energy source may have other applications too, such as border security and managing agriculture.

Could this lead to self-illuminated Christmas trees or even radio amateurs tapping in it for QRP operation.

Anyone pine for the day that this kind of energy becomes poplar?

For the Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Jim Linton VK3PC.

--

A rather cute play on words from our friend in Australia, VK3PC. (WIA News)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: L-BAND EXPERIMENT ON THE ISS

Another experiment using the ham station on board the International Space Station. From December 28th through January 3rd ARISS plans to reconfigure the on-orbit crossband repeater for test of its L-Band uplink capability, which, to date, has not been proven out.

Plans call for an for an uplink of 1269.65 MHz and downlink on the standard frequency 145.80 MHz. The system will be in low power transmit. Given the substantial cable losses of the L-band system, ARISS hopes that some big gun stations on the ground will be able to penetrate through, keep up with Doppler, and make a contact. (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT TO OFFER DXPEDITION LOANER GEAR

The AMSAT North America Operations Team is in the process of acquiring a few sets of basic loaner gear that will be available to DXpeditions and other groups. This, as a way to promote activity on the satellites from rare locations around the globe..

Initially these loaner packs will consist of simple FM portable stations including a full duplex dual band HT and an Arrow or other suitable antenna. Depending on the success of the program, AMSAT says that it will likely expand it to include the all-mode transponder and digital satellites as well. They also expect to be able to integrate AO-51 into this program at a future date. (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: W5KWQ SPACE MOBILE QSL CARD UPDATE

Those of you lucky enough to hold a QSO with Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, when he was on-board the International Space Station can receive an ARISS QSL card using the normal process as outlined at www.ariss.org. But that's not
al. W5KWQ is also planning a personal card which is in development. Once it is ready, it will be shipped to the ARISS international QSL volunteers for distribution.

Those that have already sent in for an ARISS QSL card will also get a Richard Garriott personal card once it is available. If you made a contact with W5KWQ but have not sent in your QSL, and would like Richard's personal card, please stand by until the that card is ready. The distribution of this special QSL will parallel how we are distributing the 25th anniversary certificate. (ANS)

**

RADIOSPORTS: THE 2009 CQ DX MARATHON.

The fourth running of the CQ DX Marathon begins at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2009, and runs through 2359 UTC on December 31, 2009. The goal, as always, is to work as many countries and CQ zones as possible at least once during the calendar year.

The only change from the 2008 rules is that the prohibition on assistance, such as lists and passes, for the Unlimited Class is deleted however this limitation remains in effect for the Formula Class.

Once again they will use a downloadable Microsoft Excel template which may be filled in and e-mailed to a special address as your log entry. For complete details, please visit the website at:
http://cq-amateur-radio.com/DX%20Marathon%20Rules%20Dec08.pdf (CQ, OPDX)

**

DX

In DX, G3SWH and G3RWL will be active from Mayotte here between February 26th and March 5th. Both operators will use the single callsign of G3SWH

portable FH. Their activity will be mainly on CW on 80 through 10 meters with a possibility of CW on 160 as well. . QSL via G3SWH, either direct with a self addressed stamped envelope and adequate return postage.

Lastly, HA9RE, and a team of operators will be active from Wallis Island as FW0RE early in 2009. The group is expected to arrive on the island January 26th and may begin operation as early as the 28th. Activity will be on 160 through 10 meters, including 30, 17 and 12 meters, using CW, SSB and RTTY.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: CHRISTMAS ISLAND - THE SONG

And finally this week, its not likely that Broadway, television and motion picture entertainer Kristin Chenoweth ever dreamed that she would be mentioned in a ham radio newscast. But guess what. This week she is and Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is here to tell us why:

--.

No, Kristin Chenoweth is not a radio amateur. But her new holiday CD titled "A Lovely Way To Spend Christmas" contains a song that radio amateurs in general and DX'ers in particular will likely want to embrace.

The tune, written by Lyle Moraine, is titled "Christmas Island." It musically tells of the fun one can have spending the upcoming holiday on that Indian Ocean rock located some 1600 miles northwest of the Western Australian city of Perth. And while it may not make you want to immediately pack your bags and head out to operate, anyone who is knowledgeable about Christmas Island will be left smiling.

Because its music, we cant play it for you here. However you can get to hear it and the rest of Kristin Chenoweth's new holiday CD on her own website at www.kristin-chenoweth.com. Just click on the words "Launch Player" next to the advertisement for the album right at the top of the page. Then sit back and enjoy the magic of the season as songstress Kristin Chenoweth vicariously transports you across the oceans for a true DX holiday treat.

Enjoying the holiday season, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the studio in Los Angeles.

--

For those not aware, Christmas Island ranked as number 66 on the 2007 DX News most wanted countries list. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the

RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Meachen,
ZL2BHF, saying 73 from Auckland, New Zealand saying the best of seasons greetings to all, and we thank you for listening.

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1126. Awards: Group or Individual effort?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-19 15:40:02 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <gigeuv$a8j$1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2297

>From "Newsline":

>
> The North American Traffic and Awards Net was founded back in 1976 to
> assist hams trying to earn the ARRL Bicentennial Worked All States Award.
> Its new goal is to assist in the ARRL's new Triple Play Award announced by
> the League a few weeks ago. (Press release)
>

Rather than individually track down "in the wild" the contacts needed for an award, how do you feel about using organized nets to collectively round up the contacts needed?

73, de Hans, K0HB

1127. The ARRL Letter, Vol 27, No 50 (Friday, December 19, 2008)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-19 16:55:11 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20081219164541.0478330D11@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2298
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

****
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 50
December 19, 2008
****

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Restrictive Local Zoning Ordinance Proposed as Court Date in California Antenna Case Nears
* + Hams Stand By to Help as New England Recovers from Ice Storm and Prepares for More
* + 75th Sweepstakes Mug, Pin Orders Accepted Through January 31, 2009
* + ARISS Finalizes Plans for Silver Anniversary of Amateur Radio from Space
* + Frequency Change for Canadian Time Transmission Station CHU
* + New Section Manager Appointed in Arkansas
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ ARRL Headquarters Closed for Christmas, New Year's Holidays
+ The January/February NCJ Hits the Streets

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

REMINDER: There will be no ARRL Letter or ARRL Audio News on Friday December 26, 2008 or January 2, 2009. Both the Letter and the Audio News will return on Friday, January 9, 2009.

==========
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, <k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========

==> RESTRICTIVE LOCAL ZONING ORDINANCE PROPOSED AS COURT DATE IN CALIFORNIA ANTENNA CASE NEARS

As his February 2009 court date approaches, Alec Zubarau, WB6X, of Palmdale, California, gets ready to battle his town after being ordered to dismantle his previously approved antenna system. The City of Palmdale has widened its opposition to Amateur Radio antennas by

proposing an ordinance written to thwart the installation of antenna support structures throughout the city <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/Palmdale_Antenna_Ordinance_DRAFT.pdf>.

In 2005, Zubarau applied for a building permit to erect an antenna support structure on his property. The City approved his request, and building permit in hand, Zubarau installed a 22 foot tall crank-up tower (with an ultimate height of 55 feet), but did not place an antenna atop the structure. He also installed a 23 foot tall mast on his house, for a total mast height of 43 feet; he installed an inverted-V on the mast. In January 2007, he placed a 4 element 20 meter SteppIR antenna on the crank-up tower, and the neighbors started complaining to the City.

ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director Marty Woll, N6VI, said that the neighbors' assertions consisted of what he called "the typical complaints: Aesthetic impact, diminution of property values and RF interference. The RFI complaints were general in nature; no direct evidence was shown of actual RFI, but the City's Planning Commission staff took the position that based on anecdotal evidence presented by the homeowners, the transmissions occurring from the antenna are causing interference with electrical equipment in the surrounding neighborhood."

Woll said that after Zubarau installed the StepIR in 2007, the City of Palmdale, acting on a petition signed by almost 70 of Zubarau's neighbors, voted to revoke Zubarau's original building permit after he had relied on it in putting up his tower. "In order to gain a continuance, Zubarau told the Planning Commission he would remove the SteppIR, in essence, reverting his antenna configuration back to the way to it was before he installed the antenna" said Len Shaffer, WA6QHD, Zubarau's attorney. "At the next hearing, he was ordered to remove not only the antenna, but the support structure, as well."

The City's planning staff also pointed out that Zubarau's recently erected horizontal array extends three feet into the required 10 foot sideyard setback, and that the active array exceeds thirty feet in height beyond the limit in the ordinance.

"Because Zubarau's permit referred to the support structure as 'an antenna with cage (the base)' and the Planning Commission called it a tower antenna, everyone assumed it was indeed an antenna," Shaffer recalled. "When I pointed out to the Planning Commission that it was nothing more than a support structure and did not radiate, they were surprised. They asked if the support structure functioned as an antenna without the horizontal element. I told them it did not. Judy Skousen, Palmdale's Assistant City Attorney, told the Commission did not matter -- the permit and application was for a tower antenna and that is what it was. It did not matter if the nomenclature was added by city employees rather than Zubarau."

"After exhausting his administrative remedies, Zubarau challenged the action in the courts, aided by Shaffer," Woll said "The court date has been set for early February 2009." Woll continued, saying that the

planning staff is placing the burden on Zubarau, saying that he has not submitted a site-specific engineering study showing that the operation or transmission from his house is not interfering with residential uses. The staff also notes that the FCC has failed to resolve RFI complaints in this matter, inferring that the City must act to solve them.

* Palmdale Proposes Rewrite of Amateur Radio Antenna Ordinance

Shortly after issuing the permit revocation order, ARRL Southwestern Director Dick Norton, N6AA, said that the City of Palmdale began drafting an amended antenna ordinance that placed severe restrictions on all Amateur Radio antennas. "The draft was released just before Thanksgiving, and a hearing was scheduled for December 4," Norton said. "Prior to that hearing and at the request of Vice Director Marty Woll, N6VI -- who attended the Palmdale Planning Commission meeting along with about a dozen local hams and supporters -- ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, wrote a lengthy letter to the City Attorney pointing out numerous flaws in the proposed ordinance and explaining why many of its provisions are void or unenforceable, being pre-empted by federal or state law."

In his letter, Imlay explained to the City that it is without authority to resolve RFI complaints; the jurisdiction is solely that of the FCC, as stated in the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. "The Federal Communications Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over radio frequency interference (RFI) matters, and technical matters specifically," he said.

Imlay pointed out that the "first specific concern in the draft ordinance is the statement that 'an Amateur Radio antenna, the operation of which causes unreasonable interference with electrical equipment in the surrounding neighborhood, is not compatible with that neighborhood.'"

This is "patently false," Imlay said, stating "there is no correlation between the presence of an outdoor Amateur Radio antenna, its height, configuration or placement and radio frequency interference (RFI) to home electronic equipment. As a matter of technical fact, the higher an antenna, the lower the electrical field in the horizontal plane of the home electronic equipment, and the less the likelihood of RFI in that equipment. Furthermore, the 'cause' of RFI is not the power of an Amateur Radio station, or the presence of an antenna, but rather the inability of home electronic equipment to reject unwanted signals. FCC regulations clearly obligate most home electronic equipment to accept any interference from licensed radio services as a condition of the permitted marketing and operation of that equipment."

Furthermore, in a Conference Report from the 97th Congress in 1982, Imlay explained that Congressional report "...is further intended to clarify the reservation of exclusive jurisdiction to the Federal Communications Commission over matters involving RFI. Such matters shall not be regulated by local or state law, nor shall radio transmitting

apparatus be subject to local or state regulation as part of any effort to resolve an RFI complaint. The Conferees believe that radio transmitter operators should not be subject to fines, forfeitures or other liability imposed by any local or state authority as a result of interference appearing in home electronic equipment or systems. Rather, the Conferees intend that regulation of RFI phenomena shall be imposed only by the Commission."

Saying that the Conference Report went on to clarify "that the exclusive jurisdiction over RFI incidents (including preemption of state and local regulation of such phenomena) lies with the FCC," Imlay told the City of Palmdale that "Obviously, state or local regulations based on interference from one radio service to another would directly frustrate the intention and goals of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended."

Imlay said that in 1985, the FCC said that the "federal power in the area of radio frequency interference is exclusive; to the extent that any state or local government attempts to regulate in this area, [its] regulations are preempted." Imlay explained that the FCC concluded that the Federal regulatory scheme is so pervasive that it is reasonable to assume that Congress did not intend to permit states to supplement it.

According to Shaffer, the City of Palmdale does not think antenna support structures are "compatible" with the town's image: "The Mayor told the Council that while, if a house was built that was not compatible with the neighborhood, they would not bulldoze it to the ground, this is 'just an antenna,' and they can get rid of it if they want to," Shaffer said.

* Going to Court

Norton said that the ARRL's Amateur Radio Legal Defense and Assistance Committee has voted to contribute $5000 toward the cost of Zubarau's lawsuit against the City of Palmdale. "More than $1500 has already been contributed by clubs and their members from throughout the Southwestern Division, and this contribution from the League-managed Antenna Defense Fund will further help defray the expenses of preparing for the February 2009 court date," Norton said. "Len Shaffer is performing the legal work pro bono, but even just compiling the record to present in court can be costly."

ARRL Defense Committee Chair Jay Bellows, K0QB, said that although the case has not yet reached the appellate level, "The egregious nature of Palmdale's actions -- including ordering removal of a previously approved antenna tower -- the potential impact on a large number of amateurs and the existence of substantial local financial support from the ham community were significant factors in the Committee's decision to provide support for this case."

Bellows said he has participated in nearly 100 tower and antenna matters, from working with local hams and municipalities on tower ordinances to individual tower issues including litigation at the local

and appellate level over the past 20 years. "If I've learned anything," he said, "I learned that a simple, clear explanation of who we are, what we do and why the antenna is needed are essential. Even if those steps are perfectly executed, the local authority (in this case, the City of Palmdale) has to be convinced that: 1. Federal law trumps the local zoning interests either generally or in the particular case; 2. The amateur is going to be politely persistent despite opposition from the locality; 3. The cost to the locality in time and treasure will exceed any political benefit in 'protecting its citizens from the scourge and despoliation of ugly Amateur Radio antennas.' Still, the single most important factor is that the amateur should always be the guy in the 'white hat,' no matter how reprehensible or offensive the actions of the locality or the opposing neighbors."

Norton went on to say that Woll has met with Palmdale hams and the management of the Palmdale Public Safety Department, who he described as "supportive of hams." Woll and Keith Hoyt, K6GXO, will meet with Palmdale's Planning Department and Assistant City Attorney in early January. "The proposed ordinance has been the subject of considerable discussion in Amateur Radio circles," Norton said. "Local hams, [as well as] Division and National League representatives are devoting considerable time and effort toward resolving the issue."

==> HAMS STAND BY TO HELP AS NEW ENGLAND RECOVERS FROM ICE STORM AND PREPARES FOR MORE

The major ice storm that hit New England December 11 has pretty much gone away <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/15/10506/?nc=1>, but with forecasters calling for more winter weather in the next few days, hams are still on the job. During the storm, Amateur Radio operators from all over the area responded to calls for assistance from various served agencies, and local leadership does not expect the need for the hams to lessen anytime soon.

According to Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, almost 400,000 customers in Massachusetts lost power at the height of the storm. Phone service, particularly landline service, was disrupted in some areas. Crews have been working hard to restore power to residents, Macedo said: "As of late Sunday evening, almost 140,000 were without power in Massachusetts with over double that number in New Hampshire. On Wednesday, the number of homes without power had dropped to 45,000-50,000 in both states." Southern New England received 2-4 inches of rainfall; isolated higher amounts caused river, stream and urban flooding. Strong winds in the region resulted in tree and wire damage, as well as coastal flooding along the shoreline.

In Western Massachusetts, Section Emergency Coordinator John Ruggerio, N2YHK, reported that ARES units in his Section responded to calls for assistance from local EOCs. "EOC operations in Worcester were secured on Monday evening, as the shelters were closed and power was restored to most areas at that time," Ruggerio said.

"Amateur Radio operators from the North and South Shore of Eastern Massachusetts assisted with operations in Western Massachusetts, fulfilling needs from Saturday night into Monday morning," Ruggerio recounted. "ARES units in the Western Massachusetts Section provided support during the day on Monday for the town of Gardner in Franklin County. An additional team from Eastern Massachusetts -- including one ham from the Rhode Island/Massachusetts border -- came in on Monday evening. That team helped out in Gardner until 12:30 Tuesday afternoon when the shelters and communications for the local hospital were no longer required, as power was restored to much of the area."

Ruggerio said that the local hospital in Gardner lost phone service for much of the day starting Monday morning. "They got service back later that evening, but until then, Amateur Radio was the only means of two-way communications between the hospital and EOC." Message traffic on prescription fills and other priority, but non-emergency traffic, were fulfilled during that timeframe, he said.

"The Gardner operation was the largest Amateur Radio Emergency Services Mutual Aid Team (ARESMAT) that Eastern Massachusetts ARES has supplied since the September 11 terrorist attacks," Macedo said. "Including the one amateur provided for the Worcester EOC, a total of 16 hams assisted for all the ARESMAT needs in Western Massachusetts."

Macedo said the ARES unit in Franklin County completed its support in the town of Heath on early Monday Morning: "Many of the Franklin County ARES team also assisted with Gardner, providing an additional seven hams to the operation. More than 200 man-hours were logged just in the Gardner ARESMAT alone -- this does not include State Emergency Operations Center operations or the National Weather Service response phase operations."

Support for the Massachusetts State Emergency Operations Center also continues, Macedo said. "Massachusetts State RACES Radio Officer Tom Kinahan, N1CPE, told us that support was required at least through Wednesday evening for the aftermath of the storm. We will continue to provide support for as long as requested to support the State EOC." Eastern Massachusetts ARES supplied three Amateur Radio operators to support the state EOC during the storm.

Throughout the storm, Section leadership from across the region met in twice-daily conference calls with ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD. In a call on Tuesday, New Hampshire Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator David Colter, WA1ZCN, told Dura he had just got his power back early that morning. "I spoke to the ECs for Hillsborough and West Rockingham Counties last night," Colter said, "and they continue to staff two shelters and EOCs. Apparently, neither site has an available landline. There is cell service in the area, but it's spotty. The Milford animal shelter folks have been using ham radio for coordination in a limited way for several days as they retrieve chilly animals. The temporary animal shelter is co-located at the Milford people shelter."

According to American Red Cross Communications Volunteer Tom Carrigan, NE1R, the Disaster Operations Center (DOC) at the Central Massachusetts Chapter of the American Red Cross is a "beehive of activity trying to cover all the demands for services from the many towns still operating shelters and for mobile feeding operations throughout the affected area. We are still sending cots and blankets, as well as water, heater meals and snacks to New Braintree, and other towns. Nearly every Worcester County town north of Worcester and west of the Wachusett Reservoir has received services from the ARC. Mobile feeding has continued in Worcester, Paxton, Rutland, Gardner, Leominster and many other communities where utility workers and public safety workers have been working long hours outdoors. Several shelters have been supported by Red Cross volunteers during the over-nights, as well as days, and Red Cross volunteers from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and New Jersey have joined the effort."

Carrigan said that as "thousands of people remain without electric power as the weather turns colder and messier, we expect that some who have been toughing it out at home may give in and come to a shelter."

Macedo noted that the bad weather is just beginning for New England, as the active storm pattern shows no signs of abating: "Another major winter storm is expected on Friday that could dump a significant amount of snowfall on the region. Another major storm is also possible Sunday night into Monday. We have been advised that the State EOC could be back in operation on Friday and we are preparing staffing for those needs. We will leave ARES on standby status through Monday, pending the impact of these storms on our region, as well as the weakened infrastructure that remains from the impact of the ice storm."

==> 75TH SWEEPSTAKES MUG, PIN ORDERS ACCEPTED THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2009

The dust has settled from the 2008 ARRL November Sweepstakes and the log submission deadline has passed. How did you do? If you submitted a log with more than 100 QSOs, you qualify for a Sweepstakes Participation pin! If you submitted a log with a Clean Sweep -- working all 80 ARRL/RAC sections -- you qualify for a Clean Sweep coffee mug! According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, pins and mugs have a long-standing tradition as trophies in the November Sweepstakes. "This year's participation pin will feature the colorful 75th year logo," he said. "They are stamped with either CW or SSB, so be sure to tell us what mode you want in your order. The Clean Sweep mugs this year are quite special indeed; for the 75th running, this year's mugs are fine etched glass and will really stand out on your shelf or operating desk. We won't be offering etched glass mugs again anytime soon, so these are truly collector's items."

If you would like to order a Sweepstakes pin or mug, you can either send a copy of your Sweepstakes summary sheet (if you filed a paper log) or a copy of the first page of your Cabrillo file (if you submitted an electronic log via e-mail) with your check for the correct amount by January 31, 2009. You can also call Kutzko at 860-594-0232 and he can take your credit card information over the phone. Sweepstakes

Participation pins are $6; Clean Sweep mugs this year are $16. All costs include shipping charges.

Kutzko advises that these items are not in stock. "We will make our order to our supplier once we know how many requests we have," he explained. "Mugs and pins will likely be shipped in late March. The 75th running of the November Sweepstakes was a great event, with lots of participation and fun! Be sure to commemorate your effort with a pin or mug this year. All orders for Sweepstakes mugs and pins must be received by January 31, 2009."

==> ARISS FINALIZES PLANS FOR SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF AMATEUR RADIO FROM SPACE

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm> team is currently celebrating the silver anniversary -- 25 years -- of Amateur Radio operations from space. According to ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, the crew on the International Space Station (ISS) has configured the radio to support cross-band repeater operations. They have also supported some SSTV downlinks and participated in a special test of 9600 baud packet radio operations on the simplex frequency of 145.825 MHz. After December 19, Bauer said he expects the ISS ham radio system to be on the 145.825 MHz frequency supporting 1200 baud packet. If PCSAT is configured during the week, he said double hop APRS is possible.

"During the week of December 21-26, we plan to support the cross-band repeater mode with a twist," Bauer said. "Our intent is to configure the radio for 145.99 MHz uplink -- including CTCSS tone of 67.0 and 437.80 MHz down. This will be performed in low power mode. We should also note that an extra-vehicular activity (EVA) is planned for that week -- Expedition 18 Commander Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, and Flight Engineer Yury Lonchakov, RA3DT, plan to perform a spacewalk on December 22. As per standard procedure, the ISS ham radio system will be turned off for the EVA."

Bauer said that from December 28-January 3, the cross-band repeater will be reconfigured for what he called "a special experiment. This will be a test of our L-Band uplink capability, which, to date, has not been proven out. Plan for an uplink of 1269.65 MHz and a downlink on the standard frequency of 145.80 MHz, using low power," he said. "Given the substantial cable losses of the L-band system, we hope some 'big guns' are able to penetrate through, keep up with Doppler and make the connection."

A special certificate is being developed for those who communicate with the ISS from November 30, 2008 to January 15, 2009. This certificate will be awarded to those who have had two-way communications with the ISS on voice, packet (APRS) or through the voice repeater. Those who hear the ISS from space in any of the ARISS operations modes -- voice, SSTV, school contact, voice repeater or digital - will also be eligible to receive a certificate.

To receive the certificate, Bauer said to note the ARISS mode of operation (such as SSTV, voice or school) on your QSL and whether the contact was one-way (receive only) or two-way. "You should send your self-addressed, stamped envelope to the normal ARISS QSL volunteer distributor in your area of the world," he explained. "On the outside of the QSL envelope, please include the words '25th Anniversary Certificate.' Make sure your envelope is big enough to accept an 8.5 x 11 inch certificate and includes the proper postage." If you do not know where to send your QSL, check the ARISS Web site <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm#ARISS_Update--25th_Anniversary_of_Ham_Radio_in_Space> to find the one that serves your part of the world.

"We will be sending your certificate to the volunteer distributors in bulk after the event is over," Bauer said. "This saves workload and money. So do not expect to see it until 1-2 months after the event closes on January 15."

Bauer reminded hams that due to ISS flight requirements related to spacewalks and vehicle activity, the radio onboard the ISS may be off for some portion of this schedule. School contacts and general QSO opportunities by the crew will also preempt this schedule for short periods of time. "But remember that if you hear these," he said, "you still qualify for a commemorative certificate. Enjoy the ARISS ops on ISS!"

==> FREQUENCY CHANGE FOR CANADIAN TIME TRANSMISSION STATION CHU

After 70 years of broadcasting Canada's official time, the National Research Council's shortwave station CHU <http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/time_services/shortwave_broadcasts_e.html> will move the transmission frequency for the 7335 kHz transmitter to 7850 kHz. The change goes into effect at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2009.

Broadcasting 24 hours a day, CHU is a part of NRC's system for disseminating official time throughout Canada. Listeners hear tones to mark the seconds, a voice to announce the time in French and English and digital data to set computers. The atomic clocks at CHU are part of the ensemble of clocks in the time and frequency research laboratories at the National Research Council Canada in Ottawa. The NRC clocks are used in conjunction with clocks in the time laboratories of other countries to construct the internationally accepted scale of time, UTC (Coordinated Universal Time). Time transmissions on 3330 and 14670 kHz are not affected and will continue as before.

In April 2007, the ITU reallocated the 7300-7350 kHz band from the fixed service to the broadcasting service. Since then, the NRC said there has been a lot of interference on the 7335 kHz frequency from many information broadcasters around the world. "CHU listeners in Canada and around the world who have for so long considered the 7335 kHz frequency exclusively for time signals, are very vocal about this interference," said Raymond Pelletier, Technical Officer at the NRC-Institute for National Measurement Standards, who oversees the CHU facility. "We have heard from Amateur Radio operators, watchmakers, astronomers and

navigators who use the tones and voice signals. We also received comments from those who use the carrier as a calibration source at a distance for their equipment."

Pelletier noted that a leap second <http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/faq_time_e.html> will be added at the end of December 2008; this will be indicated in the digital code until the time of the leap second. DUT1 will go from -0.6 to +0.4 seconds and will be indicated by double tones near the start of the minute and in the broadcast code <http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/time_services/chu_e.html>.

==> NEW SECTION MANAGER APPOINTED IN ARKANSAS

J.M. Rowe, N5XFW, of Hot Springs, has been appointed as the new ARRL Arkansas Section Manager with a term to begin on December 22, 2008. Rowe is taking over the Section Manager reins from David Norris, K5UZ, who was elected Vice Director of the ARRL Delta Division in November; Norris assumes his office on January 1, 2009.

When Norris announced that he was stepping down from the Section Manager post he has held since April 2005, he recommended Arkansas Section Emergency Coordinator Rowe for the position. Rowe was already scheduled to become Arkansas Section Manager on April 1, 2009, since he was the only nominee for the next term of office when the petition deadline passed on December 5.

According to the Rules and Regulations of the Field Organization, when a vacancy in the office of Section Manager occurs between elections, the position is filled by appointment by the Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager, in consultation with the Director. MVP Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, consulted with outgoing Delta Division Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, and with Mickey Cox, K5MC, the incoming Delta Division Director; Cox, like Norris, will begin his term January 1, 2009.

Rowe has been Arkansas Section Emergency Coordinator for nearly four years. He was first appointed Emergency Coordinator in 2000 and was promoted to District Emergency Coordinator in 2001, a position he continues to hold. Rowe also served as an Assistant Section Manager from 2002-2005. Rowe's term of office as Section Manager continues through March 31, 2011.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "We twa hae paidl'd in the burn frae morning sun till dine" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Last week's sunspot group was only visible for three days, December 10-12. The average daily sunspot number for all of 2007 was 12.8; if we see no sunspots for the rest of 2008, the average for this year will be 4.7. By comparison, the yearly averages of daily sunspot numbers during the last solar minimum (1995-1997) were 28.7, 13.2 and 30.7. This solar minimum is much lower than the one about 12 years ago. Sunspot numbers for December 11-17 were 12, 14, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 3.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 70.2, 71, 69.7, 68.8,

68.9, 69.4 and 68.8 with a mean of 69.5. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 2, 1, 0, 1, 4 and 5 with a mean of 2.3. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 2, 1, 1, 1, 4 and 3 with a mean of 2.3. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Robert Burns' "Auld Lang Syne" <http://www.rabbie-burns.com/the_poems/auldlangsyne.cfm.html>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the AGB-Party Contest and the Russian 160 Meter Contest are on December 19. The OK DX RTTY Contest and the Feld Hell Sprint are December 20. On December 20-21, look for the International Naval Contest and the Croatian CW Contest to be on the air. The Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party starts December 20 and goes through January 4. The ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint is December 21, the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is December 22 and the SKCC Sprint is December 24. Next week, the DARC Christmas Contest is December 25 and the RAC Winter Contest are December 26. On December 27-28, look for the Stew Perry Topband Challenge and the Original QRP Contest to be on the air. The RAEM Contest is December 28. The SARTG New Year RTTY Contest and the AGCW Happy New Year Contest are both on January 1. Looking ahead, the ARRL RTTY Roundup and the EUCW 160 Meter Contest are on January 3-4. The Midwinter Contest (CW) is January 10 and the Hunting Lions in the Air Contest, the MI QRP January CW Contest and the North American QSO Party (CW) are all on January 10-11. The SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, the NRAU-Baltic Contest (CW), Midwinter Contest (Phone), the NRAU-Baltic Contest (SSB) and the DARC 10 Meter Contest are scheduled for January 11. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, December 21, 2008, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, January 2, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1, Radio Frequency Interference, Antenna Design and Construction, Technician License Course, Analog Electronics and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may

access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

* ARRL Headquarters Closed for Christmas, New Year's Holidays: ARRL Headquarters will be closed Thursday, December 25 and Thursday, January 1 in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day. There will be no W1AW bulletins or code practice transmissions those days. There will be no ARRL Letter or ARRL Audio News on Friday, December 26 or January 2. Headquarters will be open during regular business hours on Friday, December 26 and Friday, January 2. We wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season and a prosperous 2009.

* The January/February NCJ Hits the Streets: The current issue of NCJ is loaded with everything today's contester needs. After you check out a solution for a vertical array for your next DXpeditions, take a peek inside the files of the N3HBHX antenna case in Maryland. Discover why nylon rope can be a contester's best friend and how an inexpensive gain antenna can help. We're all getting older -- how is your age affecting your score? When will propagation allow US amateurs to get to Europe on 10 meters? All this and more in the January/February issue of NCJ. NCJ is published by the ARRL and is a bi-monthly publication; it is edited by Al Dewey, K0AD. Subscribe at <http://www.arrl.org/ncj/>.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org

==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
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bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including
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"Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify
membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change
your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all
automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
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The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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1128. Re: Awards: Group or Individual effort?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-19 17:59:23 UTC
From: Patty Winter <patty1@wintertime.com>
Message-ID: <494bcb63$0$1642$742ec2ed@news.sonic.net>
Source record: 2299

In article <gigeuv$a8j$1@news.motzarella.org>, K�HB <kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote:
>
>Rather than individually track down "in the wild" the contacts needed for an
>award, how do you feel about using organized nets to collectively round up
>the contacts needed?

My $0.02 worth is that in cases like the County Hunters' net, which is more of a social group than a real award-earning effort, I don't mind there being a centralized place for people to gather to pick up the QSOs they need. (It would probably be difficult to run across 3,000 counties without it!) But for the most part, I think nets are a cop-out. I don't know the details about the net you cited from the news story, but I got a Bicentennial WAS award with my porch awning antenna, so it wasn't very hard to do!

http://www.wintertime.com/OH/awntenna.txt

Patty

1129. SHE CUE, SHE CUE, SHEESH, OOPS! HIC!*&%

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-22 05:41:48 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <gin9af$a09$1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2300

Dear Friends,

It becomes my painful duty to write you a letter
of apology instead of sending you the Christmas remembrance
that I had intended for you.

Knowing so well the appetites, likes and dislikes
of my close friends, I made up a list of twelve of my best
friends and went down and bought twelve quarts of "Royal
Canadian" seven-year-old whiskey. Nothing but the very
finest for my friends. I took this home and put it in my
closet and intended to put it up in nice Christmas packages
and send it out to you just before Christmas.

My wife, K0CKB, got to fumbling around in the
closet and found the liquor and didn't understand just
what I intended to do with it. So she came up and told
me to empty the contents of every bottle down the sink,
or else. So I proceeded with the unpleasant task.

I withdrew the cork from the first bottle and poured
the contents down the sink, with the exception of one glass
which I drank. I extracted the cork of the second bottle
and likewise poured the contents down the sink, with the
exception of the glass which I drank. I pulled the sink from
the next bottle from the cork of the next and drank one sink
out of it and threw the rest down the glass. I pulled the
sink out of the next glass and poured the cork from the bottle.
Then I corked the sink with the glass, bottled the drink and
drank the pour.

When I had everything emptied, I steadied the house
with one hand and counted the bottles, corks, glasses, and
sinks with the other, which were twenty-nine. And, as the
houses came by, I counted them again and finally had all
the houses and bottles and corks and glasses and sinks counted,
except one house which I drank.

So this accounts, dear friends, for your not
receiving a more stimulating Christmas present than this
letter. I sincerely hope that from some other source you
get all the joys and happiness that come from Christmas
remembrances.

"May the Lord take care of you, but not too soon."

73, Hans, K0HB, & Colleen, K0CKB

1130. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-22 07:00:04 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1229929200@panix.com>
Source record: 2201
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

1131. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-22 07:05:01 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1229929500@panix.com>
Source record: 2202
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

1132. Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1637 - December 26, 2008 Prefeed

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-26 16:06:12 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20081226010030.03c41ad8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2203
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline" Report 1637 - December 26, 2008

Ladies and gentlemen, once again with thank-you's to those listeners who have supported these newscast in the past year, here is Amateur Radio Newsline's Support Fund Administrator, Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

--

In the month of April, besides some of our monthly contributors we heard from Dr. Eric Stoll, K2TO of Teaneck NJ, Frank Donough, W3PMV of Monroeville, PA, Lloyd Willever, K9LJW in Fishers, IN. Tom Hise, NC0O of Shellsburg, IA. And Steven Blaisdell, W0PER in Englewood, CO.

Moving to California, Steven Gibson, K6KGO in Lake Almanor, with a very pretty card, Ray Day, N6HE and Donna, W6DLD in Rancho Palos Verdes, Steven Rhodes, KF6JIN in Orange, The Western Amateur Radio Association in Fullerton and Alvin Borne, W6IVO in Hermosa Beach. Via PayPal there was. Adalberto Castelo.

It's appropriate that we heard from these people in April, as I'm sure some had just completed their taxes. No doubt a number of you thought that you'd better increase your deductions for 2008. Well, the end of the year is fast approaching, and you still have time to pen that check or get online to our website: arnewsline.org and do it through PayPal. Newsline is a 501(c)3 not-for profit organization, and your donations are tax-deductible.

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, sending you the best wishes for a new year.

--

Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1637 with a release date of Friday, December 26th, 2008 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. The future of a famed New York City ham radio exhibit is in doubt as the Hall of Science tells its radio club namesake to get ready to move out. Also, wireless headphones are confiscated after they are found to be jamming a repeater and the North Pole Network activates to help jolly old Saint Nick. Find out the details on this year end edition of the Amateur Radio Newsline" in report number 1637 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO IN THE PUBLIC EYE: NYC HALL OF SCIENCE TO OUST ITS NAMESAKE HAM RADIO STATION

The future of WB2JSM, the club station operated inside New York's Hall of Science museum is cloudy. This, after the group which operates it gets an order to begin dismantling it. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has the story:

--

Thomas Tumino, N2YTF, who is taking the reins as president of the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club in New York, doesn't want to have the distinction of being the last president of the organization.

Tumino been a member and officer for a number of years and has been serving as a volunteer at the WB2JSM operation inside a building in Flushing Meadows on the site where the World's Fair was held in the mid-1960s.

Tumino, who has been vice president of the group for the past year, got word from the president of the New York Hall of Science that repairs to the roof would require the temporary removal of the club's antennas.

Tumino says the the group moved antennas during the summer to the ground and continued operating. Then, the club received blueprints to mark out new locations on the roof for new antennas.

Tumino says all looked good until about two weeks ago when he was summoned to a meeting where the group was told because of renovations there was no room for amateur radio inside the museum.

To say he and the club were shocked by the news might be an understatement.

"We asked several times why there was no more space in the museum," says Tumino. "We were told there was a renovation going on and that because of the renovation there was limited space in the museum.

"And I asked if we could return once the renovation was complete and they said, no."

Tumino says he pressed further and was told there was an avenue of appeal.

"We were told we could appeal it to the museum president, the new museum president, and she has granted us a meeting for the first week in January," Tumino says.

She is Dr. Margaret Honey, the new president and chief executive officer of the New York Hall of Science.

Tumino says he plans to make a case to her that amateur radio - from CW to SSB, PSK-31 and EchoLink, IRLP and working through satellites - should be an important part of the museum's exhibits.

Tumino says the New York Hall of Science is missing a golden opportunity. He says science museums in the U.S. and Canada with amateur radio stations are promoting them and using them as part of their programs.

"Those museum stations are promoted by their museums and cherished by their museums in a way that the shows that their museum staffs have great vision and a great sense of marketing," Tumino says. "And, I think for the past

several years at the Hall of Science, I don't think management has really had that kind of vision.

"When the Hall of Science Radio Club runs a JOTA station - Jamboree on the Air station - it is just the radio club that publicizes the event. Same with our Field Day, same with Kids' Day. The museum does not publicize these events, we're not included on their website."

He's right. WB2JSM isn't even listed on the museum's website. It, ham radio or amateur radio, doesn't even come up on a keyword search on the site.

Tumino says the club has launched a petition campaign on the web and is asking for electronic signatures at www-dot-tinyurl-dot-com forward slash h-o-s-a-r-c. (www.tinyurl.com/hosarc).

If you didn't get that address, you can go to the text version of this week's show to find it.

There have been hundreds of signatures already posted and lots of comments as well.
Tumino says there's also a box on the site that asks for other contributions.

"I'm asking for thoughtful comments as to why we should involve our children in amateur radio to show how important amateur radio is in children's science education," Tumino says.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

--

We'll have a follow-up report on the future of the Hall of Science ham radio station in the coming weeks. (ARNewsline")

**

ENFORCEMENT: WIRELESS PC HEADPHONES INTERFERE WITH VK REPEATER

From down-under comes word that Australia's telecommunications regulator ACMA has confiscated a consumer device that was wreaking havoc on a 2 meter repeater. The unit turned out to be a pair of wireless headphones, with a talk back-channel, designed to be used with a PC online.

The headphones carried a brand label Omni model WEP-910D. It turned out that they use the 2 meter frequency of 147.000 MHz as to deliver audio to the headphones. This explains why hams in range of the repeater being jammed heard endless hours of whatever was being processed through the offending PC's sound card.

Now, here's the kicker. Not knowing that the unit was in a ham radio band the users of these headphones complained that on some occasions they heard "voices talking to them" on their personal computer system.

As there may be more of these units in use anywhere in the world, hams need to keep an ear out for them. Most appear to operate on 147.000 MHz +- about 15 kHz, so users listening to repeaters on or near 147.000 MHz are

more likely to be affected by these units. (WIA News)

**

DXCC NEWS: MOUNT ATHOS WANTS HELP KEEPING SY PREFIX

A decision by Greek telecommunications authorities may cause confusion in then DXCC program and the Monks at Mount Athos monastery are asking your help to sort it all out.

According to Monk Appolo, a recent change in regulations made by the Greek Ministry of Communications has re-designated the longtime Mount Athos SY prefix to special call status and has made it available to any Greek ham who wants it. Monk Appolo says that those at the Ministry do not understand the importance of Mount Athos as a separate DXCC entity to the world of amateur radio and to the DXCC program itself. .

To help reverse the decision, Monk Apollo is asking hams world-wide to send an email to the Greek telecommunications ministry at yme@otenet.gr. He says to request that they act to once again reserve the SY prefix solely for the use of Mount Athos. This, to eliminate any confusion to the DXCC

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RADIO IN SPACE: SATELLITE CONFIRMS CRACKS IN EARTS MAGNETIC SHIELD

Recent satellite observations have revealed the largest breach yet seen in the magnetic field receded to date.

Scientists have long known that the Earth's magnetic field is similar to a drafty old house that sometimes lets in charged particles from the sun. These breaches cause the brilliant auroras but can also disrupt satellite and ground communications.

The discovery was made last summer by a fleet of five small NASA satellites known as Themis. Their observations showed the Earth's magnetic field occasionally develops two cracks that allows a stream of charged particles spewing from the sun to penetrate the Earth's upper atmosphere.

Last summer, Themis calculated a layer of solar particles to be at least 4,000 miles thick in the outermost part of the Earth's magnetosphere. This is the largest tear of the planets protective shield found so far.

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: W5KWQ TALK ABOUT HIS ARISS EXPERIENCE

Space traveler Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, ha been interviewed by science fiction writer Tracy Hickman about Garriott's recent visit to the International Space Station. During the session, W5KWQ talked about his experience of operating amateur radio on orbit and conversing with the ham community worldwide.

The entire interview is 2 hours and 45 minutes in duration. Its available in 3 installments. You will find it at

http://feeds.feedburner.com/Dragonhearth (Southgate)

**

BREAK 1

With sleigh bells in the air and a hearty ho-how-ho, from the United States of America, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, and this is the holiday 2008 edition of the Amateur Radio Newsline. Its being heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W4BS repeater serving Memphis, Tennessee.

(5 sec pause here)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: THE WARNER ROBINS SANTA PATROL

Hams in Warner Robins, Georgia calling themselves the Santa Patrol have received praise from a local newspaper. This, for their work with police and 911 dispatchers to offer extra sets of eyes and ears to law enforcement during the holiday season. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the Newsroom with more:

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According to a Macon Sun News story, the 15 member radio equipped group calling itself the Santa Patrol spreads out mostly in store parking lots. There they monitor the surroundings looking for suspicious activity during the holiday season. They are especially on the lookout for people who appear to be following shoppers out to their cars or folks going through parking lots peering into car windows.

The majority of Santa Patrol members simply sit in their vehicles and watch. For the most part they look like a typical husband waiting on his wife to come out of the store.

But some members are more visible. These hams walk through the parking lots with his hand-held radio in plain sight. If they spot someone suspicious they radio back to a ham stationed at the Houston County 911 Center, where the sheriff's office has a desk set up for the Santa Patrol. The 911 operators and police then decide whether to send out a police officer.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, in the Newsroom in Los Angeles.

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The complete article on the Warner Robins ham radio Santa Patrol including quotes from some of the ham operators involved makes great reading. Its on-line at www.macon.com/197/story/563630.html (Macon On Line)

**

RESCUE RADIO: FEMA ANNOUNCES IPAWS CONTRACTOR HUNT

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is looking for vendors to help implement the future generation version of Emergency Activation System better known by the acronym EAS.

FEMA recently published a request for information on implementing the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System known by its own acronym of IPAWS. According to the news release IPAWS will use mobile media such as cell phones, pagers, laptop computers and other personal communications devices to warn people of dangerous situations. This through live or pre-recorded audio, video and text messages in multiple languages and with support for American Sign Language and Braille.

Responses to the government solicitation are due by January 30, 2009. A fascinating article about the IPAWS system and its role in future rescue radio operations is on-line at www.fema.gov/emergency/ipaws/#0 (FEMA, RW)

**

TELECOM LAW: DEMOCRATS MAY SEEK EXPANDED FAIRNESS DOCTRINE

According to news reports Republican Minority Leader John Boehner is concerned about Democratic Representative Anne Eshoo's statements to the Palo Alto Daily Post. This, where Eshoo says that she will push Congress to reinstate and expand the so-called Fairness Doctrine to other FCC regulated services. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has more:

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The Fairness Doctrine was a policy of the Federal Communications Commission that for many year s. It required the holders of broadcast licenses both to present controversial issues of public importance and to do so in a manner that was in the Commission's view honest, equitable, and balanced. It was scrapped by the FCC as unconstitutional in 1987. Congress tried to revive it, but President Ronald Reagan vetoed it once and pledged at the time that he would block it again if congress tried to re-impose it.

The doctrine's demise is credited with the rise in conservative talk radio. Hosts including Rush Limbaugh and Mark Levin have expressed concerns that the new Democratic controlled Congress will try to reinstate the doctrine as a way to silence its critics.. The office of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has also raised the idea of its return.

President-elect Barack Obama has twice told Broadcasting and Cable Magazine that he is opposed to its return. Boehner has now called on him to speak out against any congressional effort to limit free speech.. Regardless, Eshoo says that he will work on bringing it back adding that she would want it to apply to other services rather than just radio and television.

For the amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

The Fairness Doctrine should not be confused with the Equal Time provision. The Equal Time rule only deals with giving the same access to the airwaves

to political candidates running for office. (Published news reports)

**

D-STAR NEWS: ANOTHER NEW MACHINE ON THE AIR IN THE UK

D-Star continues to grow in popularity as an alternative to analog F-M for ham radio utility communications. No where is more evident than in the United Kingdom where the start-up of yet another D-Star repeater has been announced with more than a bit of fanfare.

This one is in London and operates under the callsign GB7OK. The system is located in Bromley. It has an output on 145.7125 MHz and the input 600 kHz lower on 145.1125. The new machine serves both greater London and Kent and is being called by some as an early Christmas present to the hams of that region. (Southgate)

**
EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: THE FUTURE IS LED LIGHTING

Science OnLine says that innovations in photonics and solid state lighting will lead to trillions of dollars in cost savings, along with a massive reduction in the amount of energy required to light homes and businesses around the globe. This, according to a paper published by two professors at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

The paper suggests that a new generation of illuminating devices based on light-emitting diodes or LED's will supplant the common light bulb in coming years. In addition to the environmental and cost benefits of LEDs, the technology is expected to enable a wide range of advances in areas as diverse as healthcare, transportation systems, digital displays, and computer networking.

Researchers say that they are able to control every aspect of light generated by light-emitting diodes, allowing the light sources to be tweaked and optimized for nearly any situation. In general LED's will require 20 times less power than today's conventional light bulbs, and five times less power than compact fluorescent lamps. (ScienceOnLine)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: FOX TV TO GO ALL HD BY 2010

Fox's television network group plans to distribute all of its cable and networks exclusively in high-definition within two years. It will also eliminate standard-definition feeds with an infrastructure upgrade the company expects will double its satellite capacity.

As part of the project, Fox will convert its encoding and satellite transmission infrastructure to Motorola equipment, covering all cable networks and the national broadcast network. The change will require all cable, satellite and other distributors to install new satellite receiver and decoder units from Motorola, although Fox for the time being will continue to offer the high-definition feeds in the widely used MPEG-2

encoding format.

Fox will begin the switch to the Motorola-based high definition gear on March 1, 2009. Its aiming to migrate all networks by the end of 2010. (MultiChannel News)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: CTU 2009 DAYTON REGISTRATION.

Turning to the ham radio social scene, word that Contest University 2009 registration is now open.

The event is slated for on Thursday, May 14th, 2009 in Dayton, Ohio a day prior to the opening of the Dayton Hamvention. It features some of the best contest operators and station builders as teachers. They will present state of the art contesting in way to increase your knowledge and fun.

Again this year the events primary sponsor will be Icom America. Others supporters include CQ Magazine, DX Engineering, Comtek Systems, SuperBertha Antennas and W9ZRX.

This day long event is one that any ham into radio sporting won't want to miss. For Contest University 2009 registration please visit www.contestuniversity.com on the World Wide Web. (Press release)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT ON OSCAR 2009

Ray Soifer, W2RS extends an invitation to all radio amateurs worldwide to participate in AMSAT's Straight Key Night on OSCAR 2009.

The event takes place between 0000 and 2400 UTC on January 1st, 2009. Its C-W only and you must use a straight hand key.

Participating is easy. There really are no rules, no scoring and no need to send in a log. Just operate CW through any OSCAR satellite and have a good fun and safe New Years Eve. (ANS)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: N5XFW IS NAMED NEW ARKANSAS SM

J.M. Rowe, N5XFW, of Hot Springs, has been appointed as the new ARRL Arkansas Section Manager with a term that began on December 22nd. He takes over the Section Manager reins from David Norris, K5UZ, who was elected Vice Director of the ARRL Delta Division in November. Norris assumes his office on January 1st, 2009. (ARRL)

**

BREAK 2

Wishing you a joyous holiday season. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only

official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: HIGH POWER AUDIO TO THWART PIRATES AT SEA

A British firm is spearheading use of a high-tech "sonic laser" to beat bandits on the high seas. Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, has the details on this new media based unit:

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About the size of a domestic satellite dish, the long range acoustic device blasts the target with a precise beam of sound. This could include warning messages, noise or sirens that can be tuned to excruciatingly painful levels should an attacker get too close.

The sound source for the unit is any standard off the shelf MP3 player. The device has shown to be very effective at up to 1,000 meters and excruciating if you get within 100 or 200 meters. At full power it would result in permanent hearing damage.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, in Los Angeles.

--

According to reports, the device has been tested in an actual attack and the pirates were driven off. (WIA News)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: NEXT LUNAR LANDER MISSION DELAYED TWO YEARS

Another wait before there will be more pictures radioed back to Earth from Mars. This as NASA says that it will delay the launch of the next-generation Mars rover two years due to technical difficulties and cost overruns. Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, has the details:

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The mission, which was originally scheduled for late next year, is now slated for 2011. This next generation of automated explorer will be known as the Mars Science Laboratory. Its primary mission will be to try to determine habitability on Mars now and in the past.

According to a report in The Los Angeles Times, the new target date was the earliest available because missions to Mars can only be launched every 26 months when the Earth and Mars are properly aligned. In the interim, NASA says that it plans to try to contact the Phoenix lander in the Martian springtime.

The Phoenix, which landed on Mars last May, last communicated with the Mars Odyssey orbiter on November 2nd. That's when it lost power and shut down

due to sub-freezing temperatures on the red planets surface.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF

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If NASA can revive the Phoenix, it will have a continuing flow of Mars data until the next probe arrives. (NASA)

**

WORLDBEAT: SOUTH AFRICA ON TRACK FOR EXPANDED 40 METER BAND

The South African Radio League has received assurances from that nations telecommunications regulator that the issue of making 7 100 to 7 200 kHz available to radio amateurs as of March 8, 2009, should be finalized by the end of January.

The various changes have been included in the South African national table of frequency allocation. Its expected to be published for comments in the near future.

In the final process, the Minister of Communication will have to approve the table of frequency allocation before it is implementation. The new rules also will carry a correction of the Zed R allocation in the 20 meter band. (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT: 17TH IARU REGION 1 ARDF GAMES ANNOUNCED FOR BULGARIA

The Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs will host the 17th IARU Region 1 ARDF Championships to be held in Bulgaria September 16th to the 21st. The group is inviting Amateur Radio Direction Finding teams from IARU Region 1 and guests from around the world to participate in the event. The Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs also notes that this event also marks the anniversary of 50 years of Amateur Radio Direction Finding activity in Bulgaria. It began way back in 1959. More is on-line at www.ardf2009.eu (BAFA)

**

WORLDBEAT: MEXICO CONTEST AND DX CLUB 4TH ANNIVERSARY

Members of the Mexican Contest and DX group will celebrate their 4th anniversary by using the special callsign 4A1DXXE between December 25th and January 6th of the new year. Activity will be on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSOs with this station are good for the DXXE Award. QSL via N7RO and the Logbook to the World. For more information visit www.dxxe.org. (OPDX)

**

DX

In DX, word that a team of six Italian team have been grated a license to operate from the region called Palestine territory from January 1st to the -11th. They will use the callsign E44M and will be active on 160 through 2 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and all the digital modes with a maximum power of 1 kilowatt on each band. Operations will be focused on RTTY and the other digital modes, as well as the low bands and 30, 17 and 12 meters. The operators plan to pay special attention to stations outside Europe when the propagation will allow it. Pilot stations will be announced later. More is on line at www.dxcoffee.com/e44m

F4EGX, as FT5Y has been heard from the French scientific station "Dumont D' Urville." Nicolas doesn't know if he will spend Christmas at the station or on the boat headed home. He will be back in France around the New Year. If you worked him, QSL as directed on the air.

JA8BMK has gone QRT as T31DX from Central Kiribati and is now headed back to Christmas Island. He should be there around by the end of the week. Look for him to be active as T32YY again once he arrives. QSL direct to JA8BMK.

(Above from various DX sources)

**

HELPING HAMS: CHRISTMAS AND THE NORTH POLE NETWORK

And finally this week, it seems that radio propagation to the northern latitudes is always especially good near the end of December. That gives hams the chance to connect hospitalized children to a very special inhabitant of the frozen north. Newsline's Joe Moell K0OV has a report on this year's North Pole Network.

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K0OV: When you talk with a station 'way up north at this time of year, do you hear the cold wind and the sound of reindeer hoofbeats? Well, the kids at Childrens Hospital of Orange County do, and they have been hearing it for 33 years.

WA6OPS: North Pole station, are you still on the air, Santa? This is WA6OPS.

SANTA (with cold wind): Ho, ho, ho, Santa copies you loud and clear at the North Pole station.

K0OV: And what happens next is pure magic. Santa already knows who is in the hospital that day, thanks to hard work by his elves.

WA6OPS: Hey Santa, signals are holding up well today. We're in room 316, do you happen to know who's in here with me?

SANTA: Ho, ho, ho, Santa certainly does. And I'm very happy because I want to say a very Merry Christmas to Cody Waters. Santa knows that he's going home today and Merry Christmas to his Mom and Dad also.

WA6OPS: You're Cody? That's great, do you want to say hi to Santa?

CODY: Hi Santa Claus!

SANTA: Merry Christmas Cody, and you have a very nice voice.

CODY: Merry Christmas to you too Santa Claus.

WA6OPS: Hey as long as we've got Santa on the radio and he's got his computer up, here's your chance to get in your last minute wishes.

CODY: "Piranha Panic," a board game please.

WA6OPS: Santa do the elves work on that stuff?

SANTA: Ho, ho, ho, oh yes, and Santa wants to say hello to Stacy [the nurse] also.

NURSE: Santa, he's been good for me today.

WA6OPS: Just today?

NURSE: Well I've just had him today, but I've heard from the other nurses and he deserves his piranha game.

WA6OPS: OK, so Cody's on the good list, right Santa?

SANTA: Ho, ho, ho, oh yes definitely, and a Merry Christmas to the nurse and thank you for being so good and kind to all the boys and girls at the hospital.

K0OV: Note that Santa has involved more than just the child. He's also talking to the family members and caregivers. Then he has to deal with some very noisy elves.

WA6OPS: What do you think about those elves, they're noisy aren't they? But you know, you look like you could be a good elf. Would you like to work up there? Yeah, he'd be a good elf worker, wouldn't he?

SANTA (with noisy elves): Ho, ho, ho, yes, he certainly would, and the elves would love to have him up here to help test out the toys before I get to deliver them. Every once in a while Santa has to go out in the workshop and tell them to calm down.

WA6OPS: Yeah, they get a little carried away. Santa, thanks for talking to us and from Cody and all the friends in the room ...

ALL: Merry Christmas!

SANTA: Merry Christmas to the Waters family.

K0OV: North Pole Network at Childrens Hospital began back in 1976 and hasn't missed a year since. This year, there were dozens of kids and it took seven hours to go from room to room and see them all, including the ones in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. It's a project of the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System, an ARES group that serves all 35 hospitals in the county when communications fail. This is the same group that helped evacuate respiratory patients from a hospital in Brea during the recent southern California firestorm.

From southern California, this is Joe Moell, K-zero-Oscar-Victor, for Amateur Radio Newsline.

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You can read about the groups rescue radio work and the North Pole Network at the group's Web site, www.hdscs.org. That's short for Hospital Disaster Support Communications System, with a dot org. Click on North Pole to see photos from this year and all the way back to the beginning. (K0OV, ARNewsline")

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline". Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's" only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline", P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73, happy holidays, a joyous new year and as always, we thank you for listening.

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1133. Batteries !!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-29 23:56:50 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <gjbo3l$2nu$1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2204

Man I think I ought to buy stock in a battery company. Everything takes batteries and everyone is different (at least it seems that way).

Dee, N8UZE

1134. Re: Batteries !!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-30 05:11:24 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <MLydnSI9dJjXFsTUnZ2dnUVZ_oHinZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2205

Dee Flint wrote:
> Man I think I ought to buy stock in a battery company. Everything takes
> batteries and everyone is different (at least it seems that way).
>
> Dee, N8UZE

Dee,

You can avoid the problem: just take some sheet copper, some sheet zinc (preferably amalgamated), and an unglazed porcelain cup. Wind the zinc on the inside of the porcelain cup, and the copper on the outside. Immerse them both in sterile water, and then mix some copper sulphate in the water on the outside of the copper plate.

Short the zinc to the copper, wait an hour or three, and then you'll have a 1 volt primary cell that will outlast anything else you can buy.

HTH.

73, Bill W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

1135. How to mount a mobile?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-31 02:20:49 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <04gll4dtjj0hsv7urgauk5i18eo8jg89ce@4ax.com>
Source record: 2206

I want to mount a Yaesu FT-1500M 2-meter mobile
http://richbonnie.com/Radio.JPG (a photo I took)
http://tinyurl.com/9xyw5h (goes to yaesu's web site)
into my wife's 2004 Buick LeSabre. The dashboard is finished with
plastic panels everywhere, as you can see from these photos of the
interior:
http://richbonnie.com/Left.JPG
http://richbonnie.com/Right.JPG
There is no unfinished under-dash area as there used to be in older
cars.

I am looking for suggestions on how to mount the radio with minimum
damage to the vehicle, so that it is not in the way of people's legs,
but it is within easy reach to control the radio.

Maybe on the floor nearly vertical?

Dick, AC7EL

1136. Re: How to mount a mobile?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-31 14:56:11 UTC
From: Auspicious <dskolnick@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <8fd4c46f-f464-49f9-b977-126522329da9@s36g2000vbp.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2209

On Dec 30, 9:20 pm, Dick Grady AC7EL <r...@richbonnie.com> wrote:
> I want to mount a Yaesu FT-1500M 2-meter mobile
> into my wife's 2004 Buick LeSabre.

Can you do without the ash tray? Most of them slide out completely and leave a good-sized hole with reasonable access to something structural to mount to. I've had rather nice installations based on ash-tray openings in a couple of vehicles.

dave KO4MI

1137. Re: Batteries !!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-31 14:56:23 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <gjen8fspg1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2207

"Bill Horne" <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote in message
news:MLydnSI9dJjXFsTUnZ2dnUVZ_oHinZ2d@speakeasy.net...
> Dee Flint wrote:
>> Man I think I ought to buy stock in a battery company. Everything takes
>> batteries and everyone is different (at least it seems that way).
>>
>> Dee, N8UZE
>
> Dee,
>
> You can avoid the problem: just take some sheet copper, some sheet zinc
> (preferably amalgamated), and an unglazed porcelain cup. Wind the zinc on
> the inside of the porcelain cup, and the copper on the outside. Immerse
> them both in sterile water, and then mix some copper sulphate in the water
> on the outside of the copper plate.
>
> Short the zinc to the copper, wait an hour or three, and then you'll have
> a 1 volt primary cell that will outlast anything else you can buy.
>
> HTH.
>
> 73, Bill W1AC
>
> --
> Bill Horne
>
> (Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)
>

Don't think it will fit into my watches.

Dee, N8UZE

1138. Re: How to mount a mobile?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-31 14:56:37 UTC
From: Edward Feustel <efeustel@hughes.net>
Message-ID: <a2pml4djd22sm0d89nniaf2a29dfsdg9gv@4ax.com>
Source record: 2208

On Tue, 30 Dec 2008 21:20:49 EST, Dick Grady AC7EL
<rng@richbonnie.com> wrote:

>I want to mount a Yaesu FT-1500M 2-meter mobile
>http://richbonnie.com/Radio.JPG (a photo I took)
>http://tinyurl.com/9xyw5h (goes to yaesu's web site)
>into my wife's 2004 Buick LeSabre. The dashboard is finished with
>plastic panels everywhere, as you can see from these photos of the
>interior:
>http://richbonnie.com/Left.JPG
>http://richbonnie.com/Right.JPG
>There is no unfinished under-dash area as there used to be in older
>cars.
>
>I am looking for suggestions on how to mount the radio with minimum
>damage to the vehicle, so that it is not in the way of people's legs,
>but it is within easy reach to control the radio.
>
>Maybe on the floor nearly vertical?
>
>Dick, AC7EL
Dick,
I faced the same problem. In my Subaru Forester there
seemed to be no good place to put it in mounted fashion.

I solved the problem in an unusual way. I only have "passengers" in
about 10% of my driving and typically don't use the radio when I
have a passenger.

I made a "mounting platform" that would sit on the passenger seat
and that would allow me to see the front of the unit from the
seat of an old wood chair. It was heavy enough to prevent it
from sliding on an unexpected stop. Further, it with radio and
all cables can easily be put in the back seat without being
disconnected (and restored to its rightful place when no
passengers are present). Should I have passengers in
both front and back, I have only to disconnect antenna and power
cables and put it in the "way-back". Total cost: $0 for the
"platform".
Ed, N5EI

1139. Re: How to mount a mobile?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2008-12-31 15:56:15 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <AxM6l.2276$Es4.1916@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2210

Can you do without the ash tray? Most of them slide out completely and leave a good-sized hole with reasonable access to something structural to mount to. I've had rather nice installations based on ash-tray openings in a couple of vehicles.

dave KO4MI

Build a console in place of the Ash tray to the floor. You can use thin wood panels and metal angle stock and finish in grey naugahyde over foam padding. Beware of plastic air ducting under the carpet though and be shure to make it easily removable for upgrades and repair and allow for airflow and cooling to the rig. That way you can also move the power ports to the console and make cup holders.